

**VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS
6498 N.W. 38th TERRACE
VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA 33166
TELEPHONE: (305) 871-6104**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017
TOWN HALL 6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Council Members: Jorge Arce
Elizabeth Taylor Martinez
Steve Petterson
Debra Conover
Richard Block
Attorney: Jose Herrera, Esq.
Mayor: Fred Spencer Deno, IV

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Council President Conover at 6:40 p.m.

INVOCATION (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chaplain DaSilva

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Council Meeting – November 17, 2016

A motion by Council Member Block to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 17, 2016 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

2. **BEAUTIFICATION**

Council President Conover reported that the minutes for December, 1, 2016, December 19, 2016 and January 5, 2017 were provided.

Mr. Martinez reported that he will continue to be Chairman of the Beautification Committee. Mr. Martinez reported that the Holiday Yard Winners are as follows:

1st Place – Lilian Venegas of 6342 NW 38th Terrace

2nd Place – Kyle Snoke of 6331 NW 38th Terrace

3rd Place – Jose Hernandez of 6320 NW 40 Street

Mr. Martinez reported that Miami Dade County rejected our Tree Ordinance advising of 42 concerns. Mr. Martinez reported that his committee is working on making corrections but several concerns require legal advice. Mayor Deno stated that when the beautification committee finishes their concerns, they should turn the tree ordinance legal concerns over to Attorney Herrera.

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. Grant FDOT FY 2018

Mayor Deno reported that the Village of Virginia Gardens was awarded a \$1,000,000.00 Grant from FDOT for the fiscal year 2018. This grant will be for the 38th Street, Ludlum canal, 37th Street and ADA crosswalks throughout the Village.

B. Grant Ludlum FY 2018 for \$200,000

Mayor Deno also reported that the Village of Virginia Gardens was awarded a \$200,000.00 Grant for Ludlum improvements and that he had a 2-hour meeting with Village Architect Perez and Public Works Director Martin.

The Council thanked Mayor Deno for his efforts in the Village receiving all of the grants. Mayor Deno stated that he had help from the Village staff.

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Denise and Jorge from the National Federation of the Blind were in attendance. They thanked the Council for the Proclamation that was given to Denny's Restaurant in Virginia Gardens. The Federation has been meeting monthly at Denny's for 20 years. Council Member Block would like the Council to approve a donation of \$500.00 to the National Federation of the Blind. A motion by Council Member Block for his request was seconded by Council Member Petterson. The motion was approved 5-0.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Council President Conover reported that there was no old business.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Council President Conover reported that there is no new business.

7. **PLANNING & ZONING**

A. Council President Conover reported that the meeting for the month of January, 2017 had been cancelled.

8. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Council President Conover reported that the statistics for the month of November and December, 2016 have been submitted.

Lt. Sosa reported that the statistics have risen since the hiring of the two newly police officers.

B. Request Council approval of attached applicant.

Lt. Sosa stated that Mr. Castro is a Lt. for Miami Dade County Fire Rescue. He is a certified Paramedic, rescue diver and will be joining the SWAT training department. A motion by Council Member Arce to approve the application for Michael Castro was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion was approved 5-0.

Lt. Sosa reported that Officer Mario Nunes was involved in an accident last night. Officer Nunes was at a traffic stop when an incoming vehicle struck him and our police vehicle. Officer Nunes is fine but our vehicle was destroyed and will likely be totaled.

9. **RECREATION**

Mayor Deno reported that in house soccer ended last month. Mayor Deno reported that our LED lights are working and we are the only city that currently has LED lights.

10. **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Director Martin reported an update on the 40th Street project.

Mr. Martin reported that we are making good progress on the project. There is new curbing in front of Blessed Trinity and 650 electrical conduits have been installed.

Council Member Block reported that he loved the new light changes on the palm trees near the entrance sign on 40th Street.

11. **ATTORNEYS REPORT**

A. ORDINANCE NO. 357- SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A 10 YEAR WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES WORK PLAN AND AMENDING THE VILLAGE'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION BETWEEN WATER SUPPLY AND LOCAL LAND USE PLANNING AS REQUIRED BY FLORIDA LAW; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion by Council Member Arce to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 357 was seconded by Council Member Petterson. The motion was approved 5-0.

12. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Mayor Deno reported his condolences to the Ortiz family on the passing away of their 16-year-old grandson Sebastian from cancer.

Mayor Deno also stated that Sal had passed away during the Christmas holiday. Mayor Deno reported that Officer Nandy Hernandez's mother also passed away during the Christmas holiday.

Council Member Arce reported that Public Works part time employee Juan Delgado (Boo Boo) retired from the City of Hialeah.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Petterson to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion was approved 5-0.