

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

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE  
VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017  
TOWN HALL 6:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Council Members:                   Jorge Arce  
  Elizabeth Taylor Martinez  
  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 6:36 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 – January 19, 2017

A motion by Council Member Block to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 19, 2017 was seconded by Council Member Arce. The motion passed 4-0.

2. **BEAUTIFICATION**

Council President Conover reported that the minutes for February 2, 2017 have been submitted.

Mr. Martinez reported that he is working on the renewal for the Tree City and the Ordinance.

Mayor Deno passed out pictures regarding plants or bushes planted on the swale. Mayor Deno has requested notices be sent to the homeowners advising they have 30 days to remove the plants or bushes. Mr. Martinez reported that if they are not removed by the homeowners, the Village will have them removed. Village Attorney Herrera reported that the Village has not been enforcing the ordinances regarding the plant and bushes exceeding of the height of 4 inches in front of homeowner's

properties. Village Attorney Herrera reported that the bushes or plants cannot obstruct the line of sight.

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. Update on trip to Miami Dade County Days in Tallahassee

Mayor Deno reported that Miami Dade County Days have been scheduled for April 4-6, 2017 in Tallahassee.

Mayor Deno met with Bryan Avila regarding two of VG projects.

B. Presentation of Proclamation to Grace Loeb, Founder of Guardian Hands Foundation for "Rare Disease Day"

Mayor Deno read the Proclamation. Mayor Deno reported that that Ms. Loeb was not present.

C. Request Council Approval to award the bid for the Senior Shade Structure to Conbuild General Contractors for the amount of \$58,900.00

Mayor Deno requested council approval to award the bid of the senior shade structure to Conbuild General Contractors for the amount of \$58,900.00 Mayor Deno reported that this was a grant that was received from Commissioners Diaz office. The grant was in the amount of \$48,000.00 so the out of pocket for the Village is approximately \$10,000.00. A motion by Council Member Arce to award the bid to Conbuild General Contractors in the amount of \$58,900.00 was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion was approved 4-0.

Mayor Deno advised the Council that the allocation for the \$1,000,000.00 grant will not be available until July, 2021.

Mayor Deno reported that the Village website is up and running. Council Member Arce reported that he cannot locate his emails. Village Clerk Fernandez reported she has contacted Loxia to add the link to the website.

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Council President Conover reported there were no citizen comments.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Council President Conover reported that there was no old business.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recommendation for approval from Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust to administer said language to all Oaths of Office. "To my colleagues and to all of those I represent and serve, I pledge fairness, integrity and civility, in all actions taken and all communications made by me as a public servant."

Village Clerk Fernandez reported that the Miami Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust would like to add the above verbiage to the oaths.

7. **PLANNING & ZONING**

A. Council President Conover reported that the minutes for the February 9, 2017 meeting were submitted.

Ms. Howard reported that the variance request for 4001 NW 64 Avenue Virginia Gardens, FL 33166 by owner Terry Exley with respect to Chapter 16, Section 6 of the Village of Virginia Gardens code as to allow a fence in the front/side of their property was approved by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Ms. Howard reported that they would like to have the existing fence moved 10 feet out into the front yard. Village Attorney Herrera and Village Architect Perez were in agreement with this situation.

B. Request Council approval of variance to Mr. & Mrs. Exley with respect to Chapter 16, Section 6.8(D) of the Village of Virginia Gardens code so as to allow a fence in the front/side of their property located at 4001 NW 64 Avenue.

8. **ATTORNEYS REPORT**

A. RESOLUTION NO. 919

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, GRANTING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE 6, SECTION 6.8(D) TO TERRY & ROCIO EXLEY, SO AS TO PERMIT THE INSTALLATION OF A FENCE IN THE FRONT/SIDE OF THEIR PROPERTY PROVIDED IT IS NOT MORE THAN 10 FEET FROM THE SIDEWALK OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW:

LOT 22, BLOCK 1, OF GREEN HAVEN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 52, PAGE 13 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; A/KA/ 4001 NW 64 AVENUE, VIRGINIA GARDENS, FL 33166

A motion by Council Member Arce to approve Resolution 919 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion was approved 4-0.

9. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Council President Conover reported that the statistics for the month of January, 2017 have been submitted.

Lt. Sosa introduced newly hired police officer Michael Castro to the Council. Officer Castro stated he has been with the Miami Dade County Fire Rescue for 15 years. Officer Castro thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the Village.

10. **RECREATION**

Mayor Deno reported that we will be hosting the soccer awards banquet will be held this Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Deno stated that a celebration of life for Sal will be held tomorrow at the Poinciana Methodist Church in Miami Springs at 7:00 p.m.

11. **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Director Martin reported that the sidewalks, lights and landscaping will be finished within the next two months.

12. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Mayor Deno and the Council wished Council Member Arce and Council Member Petterson a speedy recovery.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion was approved 4-0.