

**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, MARCH 15, 2018
TOWN HALL 6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Council Members: Elizabeth Taylor Martinez
Gabriel Fernandez
Debbie Conover
Richard Block
Jorge Arce
Mayor: Fred Spencer Deno, IV
Attorney: Jose Herrera, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Council President Arce at 6:35 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 – February 15, 2018

A motion by Council Member Conover to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 15, 2018 was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion passed 5-0.

2. BEAUTIFICATION

Council President Arce reported that the minutes for March 1, 2018 have been submitted.

Mr. Martinez reported the Tree City application has been submitted.

Mr. Martinez reported that the Yard of the Month for March, 2018 has been awarded to Mr. & Mrs. William Espinosa of 6035 NW 39 Street.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Friday, March 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Deno reported that the annual Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Friday, March 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

B. 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mayor Deno submitted a 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan report for the Council to review. Mayor Deno reported that the report needs to be approved for current and upcoming grants. Council Member Conover regarding the safety of the crosswalks and Mayor Deno responded that the crosswalks are a requirement by FDOT.

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Council President Arce reported that there were no citizen comments.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Council President Arce reported that there was no old business.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Executive Director Aileen Boucle from the Miami Dade Transportation Planning Organization to present the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit "SMART" Plan.

Mayor Deno introduced Ms. Boucle from the Miami Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Ms. Boucle reported on the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan. The SMART Plan is an infrastructure program of projects that will significantly improve transportation mobility in Miami Dade County and the South Florida region. The SMART Plan will provide a world class transit system that will promote economic growth and job creation. Ms. Boucle reported that the SMART Plan will expand transit options in Miami Dade County along six (6) critical corridors that are linked to regional, state, national and global economic markets. The six (6) corridors are as follows: 1) Beach Corridor 2) East-West Corridor 3) Kendall Corridor 4) North Corridor 5) Northeast Corridor and 6) South Corridor. Ms. Boucle reported that Miami Dade County has 2.7 million residents of which 77% work commute is outside of their residential districts. Ms. Boucle reported that the TPO in coordination with Miami Dade County and FDOT, have fully funded all six Rapid Transit environmental studies. The TPO has allocated \$75 million to advance preliminary design and right of way acquisition, as well as \$30 million a year for a period of 30 years starting in Fiscal Year 2023. Ms. Boucle reported that the TPO will require a resolution from the Village endorsing the SMART Plan. A sample resolution was provided.

7. PLANNING & ZONING

A. Council President Arce reported that the meeting for the month of March, 2018 was cancelled.

8. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Council President Arce reported that the statistics for the month of March, 2018 have been submitted.

Interim Chief Hernandez reported that the Candlewood Suites Hotel has opened for business. Interim Chief Hernandez reported that an active shooter training was conducted at the Hotel. Mayor Deno reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for April 18, 2018.

Interim Chief Hernandez reported that the CPR training will be scheduled shortly.

9. **RECREATION**

Mayor Deno reported that the Soccer Banquet was a success. Mayor Deno reported that Musco Lighting will be tweaking the soccer field lights shortly.

10. **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Director Martin reported that the 40th street pedestrian crossing was Restriped last week. Public Works Director Martin also reported that the 40th street Project estimate will need to be reviewed before submission to the Council.

11. **ATTORNEYS REPORT**

Attorney Herrera stated that he had nothing to report.

12. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Mayor Deno and Council member wished Village Clerk Maritza Fernandez happy birthday wishes. Council Member Taylor Martinez would like to continue prayers for Melanie Martinez. Village Clerk Fernandez reported that Administrative Assistant Haydee Lopez's mother in law was at Jackson Memorial Hospital and needed a pacemaker. Get well wishes and prayers were requested.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion was approved 5-0.