

**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, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
TOWN HALL 6:30 P.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Council President Arce at 6:34 p.m.

INVOCATION (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Block.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Council Meeting – January 17, 2019 (To be tabled for next month)
- B. Special Council Meeting – February 5, 2019 (To be tabled for next month)

2. BEAUTIFICATION

A. Council President Arce reported that the minutes for February 7, 2019 were submitted.

Mr. Martinez advised that he spoke with Mr. Harris of Earth Advisors who stated that upon the Village approval of the tree ordinance, he will meet and review the tree ordinance with Miami Dade County.

Mr. Martinez reported that the Yard of the Month for February, 2019 was Ms. Danay Pelaez and Vanessa Molina of 5911 NW 40 Street.

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. Introduction of the Miami Springs Little League Committee

Mayor Deno introduced new board member for the Miami Springs Little League. Fred Gonzalez, Vice President thanked Virginia Gardens for their support for the website; Adam Toro, our VG Liaison who also thanked Virginia Gardens for our support; Nora Smith, who is the Secretary; Natalie O'Canto who does the marketing for the Committee; Mike Greco who is the Treasurer of the Committee.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that opening day is March 2, 2019 at Prince Field

Mayor Deno reported that the Village applied for Grants to update the baseball field and facility.

B. Miami Dade County Days 2019 will be held April 3rd and 4th, 2019

Mayor Deno reported that Dade Days will be held April 3rd and 4th, 2019. Council President Arce reported that he would not be able to make the trip this year due to a family commitment.

Mayor Deno reported on the two new TV monitors in the council chambers and the audience would be able to see the meeting.

C. Debris removal price comparison

Mayor Deno reported that the Village requested the price sheets from the top 3 companies as designated by the evaluation committee. Mayor Deno stated that one company decided that they were only going to partially bid on our debris removal services and they only supplied the cost for the actual hauling of materials.

Mayor Deno stated that the following two companies provided prices for all the debris removal: TFR Enterprises, Inc. and DRC Emergency Services, LLC

Mayor Deno stated that he would recommend the Village hire DRC Emergency Services, LLC. Mayor Deno reported that during Hurricane Irma, the Village lost a few trees but had far more Hangers and note that the price for Hanger removal is per tree. A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve DRC Emergency Services, LLC for our debris removal company was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion passed 5-0.

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Council President Arce reported that Mr. Steve Petterson of 6211 NW 40 Street was in attendance. Mr. Petterson is wondering about the lollipop situation on 37th street. Attorney Herrera reported that we had a special meeting on February 5th and it will be further discussed at this meeting.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Family Bingo Night will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Deno reported that Family Bingo Night has been scheduled has been scheduled for February 23, 2019.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Conover is inquiring if it is possible for the Village to get a scrolling marquee outside of Village hall.

Council Member Taylor Martinez reported that she went to the Miami Dade County State address.

7. **PLANNING & ZONING**

A. The meeting for the month of February, 2019 has been cancelled.

8. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Council President Arce reported that the statistics for the month of January, 2019 have been submitted. (To be tabled until next month)

Council Member Block is inquiring regarding the speed signs and Police Chief Hernandez reported that one speed sign is about \$8,000.00 with a one-year maintenance. Mayor Deno reported that we should be receiving monies from HIDTA and that this is not on the Village budget at the present time.

9. **RECREATION**

A. MSVG Soccer Awards ceremony to be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Recreation Director Deno reported that the soccer season is over and the soccer awards ceremony was scheduled for Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Deno reported that the baseball field looks great and the barbeque area also looks great.

10. **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Work Director Martin reported that the ADA crosswalk project started February 12, 2019. Ten spots were prepared and the other 5 spots were poured and the other 5 will be poured tomorrow.

11. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Herrera reported that the Fair Housing Act allows 2 family and 2 non family members for housing occupancy. Attorney Herrera stated that we cannot restrict housing occupancy.

Attorney Herrera advised that we can allow sector parking permits and limit overnight parking; however, but not to the resident's neighbor. Attorney Herrera stated that we can plant trees; however, the more we try to block the swale, they will just move to another swale.

Attorney Herrera brought up the subject of the NW 37 Street project and turning NW 62nd through 59st Avenue into a one way. Mayor Deno reported that this would bring create approximately 35-40 parking spaces but this project is not scheduled to possible begin until 2020-2021. Attorney Herrera reported that we are waiting for a traffic study to come back. Attorney Herrera stated that this is the only solution.

Attorney Herrera stated that the apartment buildings are our problem. The apartment buildings should have 1.5 parking spaces per unit and the average now is 2.5 parking spaces per unit. Attorney Herrera suggested that we should invite the landlords to our Council meetings to discuss this situation. Attorney Herrera suggested that the landlords can stack park vehicles. Attorney Herrera reported that we can legally restrict apartments to 2 vehicles per unit; however, we will potentially face a lawsuit.

Attorney Herrera reported that the lollipops have flourished over the Village and suggested that we either repeal the Ordinance or enforce it. Attorney Herrera stated that someone is going to get hurt due to the lollipops. Attorney Herrera stated that the homeowners have essentially privatized the swale. Attorney Herrera stated that if the Village privatized the swale area, it will become taxable to the homeowners. Attorney Herrera reported that we cannot discriminate by restricting the swale and asking for permit parking decals.

Attorney Herrera suggested that we can contact fire code and send the fire department to the apartment buildings for over occupation of units.

A motion by Council Member Block to allow residents to permit the lollipops until the parking issue is resolved was not seconded. The motion died.

Mayor Deno suggested that a special council meeting should be held on March 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. regarding this matter. The Council agreed.

12. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Council Member Taylor Martinez is asking for prayers for Melanie Martinez. Council Member Block wished Council President Arce a speedy recovery.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Block to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion was approved 5-0.