

**VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS
6498 N.W. 38 TERRACE
VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA 33166
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**SPECIAL MEETING
VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019
TOWN HALL-5:30 P.M.**

“Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Village Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceeding and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.”

PRESENT: Council Members: Jorge Arce
Gabriel Fernandez
Richard Block
Debra Conover
Elizabeth Taylor Martinez
Mayor: Fred S. Deno IV

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Arce called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was led by Council Member Taylor Martinez.

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

1. Discussion regarding appointing a new Village Attorney

Mayor Deno advised the Council that Jose Pepe Herrera has received a ten-year disbarment and the Village needs a new attorney. Mayor Deno reported that he met with Guillermo Cuadra last week and is recommending that Mr. Cadre be hired as the new attorney for the Village. Mayor Deno reported that Mr. Cuadra has municipal, zoning and land use experience which is what the Village needs. Mayor Deno stated that he spoke with three non-political persons who all stated that Mr. Cuadra is very favorable. Council President Arce reported that he spoke with the Mayor of the City of Sweetwater who stated that Mr. Cuadra was not favorable. Council President Arce reported that he is not in favor of hiring Mr. Cuadra and would like to keep the Law firm of Herrera. Council Member Block was not in favor of keeping the Law firm of Herrera. Council Member Conover reported that she likes Mr. Cuadra's resume and his knowledge of land use. Council Member Conover reported that she has full confidence in Mayor Deno's recommendation. Council Member Taylor Martinez also stated that she has full confidence in Mayor Deno. Mayor Deno reported that the Village will not have a contract with Mr. Cuadra; therefore, his services will be month to month. Mayor Deno reported that the legal fees yearly salary would be \$27,000.00 which is the budgeted amount.

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to appointing Guillermo Cuadra as the new Village of Virginia Gardens Attorney was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion was approved 4-1 with Council President Arce not in favor.

Mayor Deno reported on Phase 2 of Candlewood Suites. Mayor Deno stated that the original plans were for 108 rooms and they are currently asking for 133 rooms. Mayor Deno also stated that prior plans were for 125 parking spaces and they are currently asking for 145 stackable parking spaces. Mayor Deno stated that the prior plans for the hotel height was 60-65 feet and now the overall height of the hotel would be 69 feet. The new plans will go through the Planning & Zoning committee and then the Council.

Mayor Deno reported that the Physician Health building is for sale and they are asking for more than \$2 million dollars. Physicians Health Center will now be moving in the first floor of the 6501 building as soon as it is remodeled.

Council Member Conover inquired regarding the car place and their issues with the septic tank and Mayor Deno responded that he did not have any information.

2. Good & Welfare

Council Member Taylor Martinez asked for prayers for the spouse of Eduardo Perez and Melanie Martinez.

3. Motion to Adjourn

A motion by Council Member Fernandez to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion passed 5-0.