

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

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE  
VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021  
MEETING 6:30 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 proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.”

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this proceeding is asked to advise the Village at least 2 days before the proceeding by contacting the Village Clerk's office at 305-871-6104

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Council President Fernandez at 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION (MOMENT OF SILENCE)** The Invocation was led by Council Member Taylor Martinez.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Council Meeting – March 18, 2021

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 18, 2021 was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion was approved 5-0.

B. Local Planning Agency Meeting – March 18, 2021

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve the minutes of the Local Planning Agency meeting of March 18, 2021 was seconded by Council Member Arce. The motion was approved 5-0.

2. **BEAUTIFICATION**

A. The minutes for the month of April 7, 2021 meeting were submitted. Mr. Martinez reported that any homeowner requesting a tree should contact the Beautification committee and placed on the tree list.

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. Update on the Easter Parade that was held on April 2, 2021.

Mayor Deno thanked the police department, public works and Village Hall employees that were involved in making this event possible. It was a great event.

B. Update on Paul Bithorn Celebration of Life on May 8, 2021

Mayor Deno reported that Paul Bithorn had passed away due to a bacterial infection. Mayor Deno reported that there will be a service at Blessed Trinity Church and afterwards a Celebration of Life will be held at Village Hall.

C. Letter to Commissioner Diaz

Mayor Deno reported he sent a letter to Commissioner Diaz regarding the 2020 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant Program which we were recently awarded in the amount of \$50,000 to replace the clay in our baseball field to artificial turf. Mayor Deno stated that the Village needs an additional funding of \$200,000 which he hopes Commissioner Diaz takes into consideration in order to reach our goal.

D. DOT change of light for NW 57 Avenue and NW 36 Street

Mayor Deno reported that there have been serious traffic crashes at NW 57 Avenue and NW 36 Street. Mayor Deno reported that he has requested from the Department of Transportation for a light change.

Mayor Deno stated that the City of Miami Springs has been very helpful in providing information to the Department of Transportation. Mayor Deno is hopeful that we should see a change in June, 2021.

E. State of Florida Project for NW 62 Avenue and NW 40 Court  
Mayor Deno stated that our project for NW 62 Avenue and NW 40 Court is in the budget.

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Council President Fernandez invited Mr. Charles Sebastian, the new business owner of Carribean Sports whose address is 3968 Curtiss Parkway. Mr. Sebastian reported that the grand opening of the new business is May 1, 2021 and would like to invite the Mayor and Village Council.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Council President Fernandez reported that there were no old business.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Council President Fernandez reported that there was no new business.

7. **PLANNING & ZONING**

Council President Fernandez reported that the meeting for the month of April, 2021 was canceled.

8. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Council President Fernandez reported that the statistics for the month of March, 2021 have been submitted.

Chief Hernandez inquired if there were any questions regarding the statistics.

Council Member Arce had questions regarding traffic crashes on NW 57 Ave and NW 36 Street. Chief Hernandez responded that we are on the same radio frequency as Miami Dade County so the County will raise Virginia Gardens and when we responded our officer will determine whose jurisdiction the traffic crash is responsible for.

9. **RECREATION**

Council President Fernandez reported that there were no Recreation business.

10. **PUBLIC WORKS**

Council President Fernandez reported that Public Works Director Martin was not in attendance and that there were no Public Works report.

11. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

A. RESOLUTION NO. 985

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS,  
FLORIDA APPROVING AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT  
STATEWIDE INTERJURISDICTIONAL MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

Attorney Cuadra reported that the Village should adopt the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Attorney Cuadra stated that this agreement is in order to maximize the prompt, full and effective use of resources of all participating governments in the event of an emergency or disaster.

A motion by Council Member Arce to approve Resolution No. 985 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion was approved 5-0.

Attorney Cuadra reported that approximately 98% of the Tree Ordinance has been approved by the County. Attorney Cuadra reported that some training has to be put in place before the Resolution passes at the next meeting.

Attorney Cuadra reported that he will have information regarding updating the building permit fees at the next meeting.

12. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Council Member Taylor Martinez is asking prayers for Melanie Martinez.

Mayor Deno reported that Tracy is leaving the Village next month. Mayor Deno reported that MacBeth will be taking over Tracy's job.

Mayor Deno reported that Macbeth previously worked for Village Architect Manny Perez's office.

Council Member Arce reported that Tammy from the City of Miami Springs Recreation mother had passed away. Mayor Deno reported that the Village had sent flowers to Tammy.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Arce. The motion was Approved 5-0.