

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

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA
TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021
MEETING 6:00 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
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 6:05 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. Discussion regarding Tot Lot Turf
Mayor Deno reported that the Village received the following quotes:
 - 1) Lawn Guys - \$25,901.50
 - 2) Easy Grass - \$31,664.71 (Bermuda Grass)
Easy Grass - \$34,411.30 (Fescue Grass)

- 3) CCG-Campus Construction Group -\$44,375.30
- 4) Synthetic Lawn -\$31,570.00

Village Administrative Assistant Macbeth Araque reported on the quotes that were received. Mayor Deno reported that padding would be required. Ms. Araque reported that all quotes received had the anti-static. Ms. Araque reported that City of Doral contracted CCG Campus Construction; however, Mayor Deno reported that it was sub-contracted to Easy Grass. Council Member Conover inquired who did our Tot Lot previously and Mayor Deno responded that it was Easy Grass. Council President Fernandez stated that we should go with Lawn Guys due to the fact that all the warranties are the same and the Tot Lot will last approximately 12 years. Council Member Block reported that the materials are basically all the same.

Ms. Araque reported that North Miami Beach used Lawn Guys. Mayor Deno would like a recommendation that we hire Lawn Guys.

A motion by Council Member Block to hire Lawn Guys in the amount of \$25,901.50 to renovate the Turf for the Tot Lot was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion was approved 4-0.

2. Discussion regarding the Police Contract

Mayor Deno reported that the dollar figures were the main issues. Attorney Cuadra reported that there were no major changes to the contract only minor ones. Mayor Deno reported that the approved leave was an issue; however, the Chief of Police may utilize Part-time/Reserve Officers to cover any shift during those time a full time police officer is using any approved leave benefit. Mayor Deno reported that we do not have a Human Resources department and the contract was changed to Village Clerk. Mayor Deno reported that the Village Handbook shall apply to all Officers. Mayor Deno reported that the Village will furnish PLEA bulletin board space at such locations and on the VGPD electronic network include the PLEA Union's logo and maintain an e-mail group of bargaining unit members. Mayor Deno stated that sick leave return to duty document must be from a medical professional.

Mayor Deno reported that bereavement leave will be granted not may be granted upon approval of the Chief of Police. Attorney Cuadra reported that was just a clean up to reflect the employee handbook.

Chief Hernandez reported that Officers are required to join the ICMA.

Mayor Deno reported on the Salaries and Wages. Mayor Deno reported that Officer Johnson and Rodriguez are gone. Mayor Deno reported that the new officers will automatically go to Step 2. Village Clerk Fernandez reported on the step issues between Officer Espinosa and Officer Fonseca. Chief Hernandez stated that PLEA is proposing an 8% increase. Mayor Deno stated that this increase can be negotiated and Attorney Cuadra reported that this can be negotiated. Attorney Cuadra reported that the Village has already given them a 2% salary increase. Attorney Cuadra reported that the Village can give them a 6% increase over the term of the contract rather than that they are requesting. The Council agreed to send the contract back to PLEA and negotiate for a 6% salary increase.

3. Ordinance No. 368 – FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 16, “ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS” SECTION 12.1, “VACATION RENTALS,” WITHIN ARTICLE XII “ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SHORT RENTALS” TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SHORT TERM RENTALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Deno would like a minimum number of days stay. Attorney Cuadra will research if this is permissible and if so, will amend the Ordinance before the next reading.

A motion by Council Member Block to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 368 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez.

ROLL CALL: GABRIEL FERNANDEZ – YES
RICHARD BLOCK – YES
ELIZABETH TAYLOR MARTINEZ – YES
DEBRA CONOVER – YES

The motion was approved 4-0.

4. Ordinance No. 369 – FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS,
FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 6, “BUILDINGS AND
BUILDINGS REGULATIONS’ SECTION 6-60, “BUILDING AND
ZONING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE REVIEW,” TO REVISE
AND UPDATE CERTAIN FEES’ PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Council President Fernandez reported that some fees excessively increased. Attorney Cuadra reported that these seem to be the norm in smaller cities. Mayor Deno reported that we have one of the lowest fees in the County. Village Clerk Fernandez reported that these fees are acceptable. Village Clerk Fernandez reported that we are in danger of losing our inspectors because of our current fees.

A motion by Council Member Block to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 369 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez.

ROLL CALL: GABRIEL FERNANDEZ – YES
RICHARD BLOCK – YES
ELIZABETH TAYLOR MARTINEZ – YES
DEBRA CONOVER – YES

The motion was approved 4-0.

5. Ordinance No. 370 – FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS,
FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 16, “ZONING AND LAND
DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS’ ARTICLE VI, “LAND
SUBDIVISION AND IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS” TO

PROVIDE REGULATIONS FOR IMPERVIOUS AREA OF FRONT YARD; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion by Council Member Block to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 370 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez.

ROLL CALL: GABRIEL FERNANDEZ – YES
RICHARD BLOCK – YES
ELIZABETH TAYLOR MARTINEZ – YES
DEBRA CONOVER – YES

The motion was approved 4-0.

6. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Council Member Taylor Martinez is asking prayers for Melanie Martinez.

7. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Conover to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion was approved 4-0.