

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

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 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 Block.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Council Meeting – April 15, 2021

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 15, 2021 was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion was approved 5-0.

2. **BEAUTIFICATION**

A. The minutes for the month of May 5, 2021 meeting were submitted. Mr. Martinez reported that any homeowner requesting a tree should contact the Beautification committee and be placed on the tree list. Mayor Deno reported that we received a tree grant for 5 oak trees.

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. Introduction of Tomas Alcalá from Miami Dade County Office of the Mayor Deno introduced Mr. Alcalá from the Miami Dade County office of the Mayor. Mr. Alcalá reported that he is the liaison for West Dade which includes Virginia Gardens. Mr. Alcalá reported on the Corona Virus, the infrastructure of Miami Dade County and environmental issues. Mr. Alcalá stated he would be the point of contact if there are any issues.

B. Presentation of the New Jail Replacement Project –Presented by Director Daniel Junior

Mayor Deno introduced Director Daniel Junior regarding presentation of the plan to replace the downtown facility. Director Junior reported that this is a replacement of an old downtown facility. Director Junior reported that they are the 8th largest correctional system in the United States and process approximately 55,000 person's annual and the average length of stay is 31 days. Director Junior reported that the Miami Dade County initiatives to reduce jail populations are as follows: Crisis Intervention Training, Jail Diversion Program, Mental Health Diversion Center, Expansion of the Monitored Release Program and Civil Citation Program.

Director Junior reported that in 2008 there were 118,075 bookings, 7 jails and 1 boot camp and in 2020 there were 35,094 bookings, 3 jails and 1 boot camp. Director Junior reported that the current jail population type of primary is 96% is felonies.

Director Junior reported that we need to replace an aging infrastructure of oldest facilities which is 60 years old. Director Junior stated that \$30 million is needed in renovations for infrastructure to meet 40, 50, and 60 year recertification compliance requirements.

Director Junior reported that direct supervision of officers not possible due to layout of facility, Insufficient number of Segregation cells for discipline and protective custody, insufficient reentry programming space, insufficient treatment space, insufficient administrative and office space and lack of infrastructure for network connectivity.

Director Junior reported that the proposed plans include 1,956 inmate bed facility at Metro West Detention center, one courtroom and a central support building and no additional beds at TGK. Director Junior reported that at the TTC center there will be administrative offices, four courtrooms, centralized intake/release center and a parking garage and video visitation. Director Junior reported that this replacement will take 5-7 years

Mayor Deno inquired regarding releases and Director Junior reported that there are no releases after 9:00 p.m. and if there are, they are released to family members only. Director Junior reported that releases are being given bus passes. Director Junior reported that there is a release transportation program that is currently being funded. The homeless are being picked up by the Homeless Trust and being sent to Camillus House.

Council Members would like to tour the TGK facility and Chief Hernandez will contact Chief Rodriguez to handle this matter.

Chairman Diaz's staff is in attendance and Mayor Deno reported that Fire Department Station 17 is named Virginia Gardens and Mayor Deno would like to request that the Station 17 name be retained if it is moved to the new facility at TGK.

C. Discussion regarding upcoming 4th of July Parade

Mayor Deno reported that the Village received an invitation to attend the 4th of July Parade from the City of Miami Springs

Mayor Deno reported that the mask mandate has been removed by Miami Dade County. Mayor Deno is recommending that we hold off our annual 4th of July event in Virginia Gardens. Mayor Deno reported that the caterer used by Virginia Gardens for our event is out of business. Council Member Conover and Council Member Arce will be out of town and will not be able to attend the Miami Springs Parade. The Council made the decision not to attend the parade.

D. BALLFIELD UPDATE

Mayor Deno reported that the Village of Virginia Gardens is short in the amount of \$100,000.00 to replace the clay on the Ball field. Mayor Deno reported that a grant which was approved by the State in the amount of \$50,000; however, we are still short.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Council President Fernandez reported that there were no citizen Comments.

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

A. Council President Fernandez reported that the minutes for the May 13, 2021 meeting were submitted. A motion by Council Member Arce to approve the minutes for the May 13, 2021 meeting was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion was approved.

B. A variance has been requested by Oriam Corrales from 6001 NW 38 Street with respect to Chapter 16, Section 4.2.4 € of the Village of Virginia Gardens code so as to allow for the construction of a swimming pool on the street side yard

Ms. Howard reported that Village Architect Perez and Attorney Cuadra looked at the Variance and approved.

A motion by Council Member Arce to approve the variance request by Mr. Oriam Corrales was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion was approved 5-0.

8. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

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

Chief Hernandez reported that all the poles from NW 37 Street have been removed.

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. 986

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA GRANTING/DENYING VARIANCE OF CHAPTER 16, SECTION 4.2.4 (E) AT 6001 NW 38 STREET, IDENTIFIED UNDER FOLIO NUMBER 26-3025-018-0130; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion by Council Member Arce to approve Resolution No. 986 was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion passed 5-0.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 987

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (FDLE) RELATING TO INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE IN OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS AND IN-CUSTODY DEATHS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Cuadra reported that this resolution is in order to receive investigative assistant through FDLE.

A motion by Council Member Arce to approve Resolution No. 987 was seconded by Council Member Taylor Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

C. RESOLUTION NO. 988

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Deno reported that this is a FDOT project coming up which FDOT requires a resolution. A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve Resolution No. 988 was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion passed 5-0.

D. ORDINANCE NO. 367 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 14, “STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES” OF THE VILLAGE’S CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING ARTICLE V “TREE PROTECTION PROGRAM” PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY, STANDARDS, APPLICABILITY, AND PROHIBITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 367 was seconded by Council President Fernandez.

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

The motion was approved 5-0.

Attorney Cuadra reported that he will have information regarding updating the building permit fees, short term rentals which will include a 30 day minimum rental and the exhibit registration form at the next meeting.

12. **GOOD & WELFARE**

Council Member Taylor Martinez is asking prayers for Melanie Martinez. Council Member Conover thanked the Village for the beautiful orchid for the passing away of her children's father. The Council wished happy birthdays to Council Member Taylor Martinez and Debra Conover.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion by Council Member Taylor Martinez to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. was seconded by Council Member Arce. The motion was approved 5-0.