



Fred Spencer Deno IV
Mayor

Jorge Arce
President

Council Members
Richard Block
Debra Conover
Gabriel Fernandez
Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes
August 18, 2022
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Council President Arce called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Deno, Council President Arce, Council Member Block, Council Member Fernandez, Council Member Taylor-Martinez, Council Member Conover, and Attorney Cuadra were in attendance.

3. Invocation

Council Member Block led the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Block led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Meeting Notices

- 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 ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
- 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**.

6. Presentations

7. Citizens Comments

8. Announcement of Amendments/Corrections to the Agenda

A motion to move item 12, Attorney's Report, up to item 10 made by Council Member Fernandez was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Approval of Minutes

(a) – Regular Council Meeting – June 16, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 16, 2022 made by Council Member Block was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

(b) – Special Council Meeting – July 26, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes of the special Council meeting of July 26, 2022 made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Deno asked for Chief Hernandez and Lieutenant Morales to approach the Council chamber and introduce the new police officers. Lieutenant Morales introduced Ruben Yero, Angel Lopez, and Osvaldo Leyva Prado. Lieutenant Morales and Chief Hernandez stated that all of the officers are doing a wonderful job so far. Mayor Deno and the Council welcomed the new officers to the Village family.

Mayor Deno mentioned that he received a letter from Alejandro Del Valle, son to the woman who had the car accident recently at the Boeing building. Mr. Del Valle stated that Chief Hernandez, Officer Garcia, Officer Sacramento, and everyone that responded and assisted his mother were all wonderful and thanked them for their professionalism. Mr. Del Valle stated in the letter to Mayor Deno that the Village of Virginia Gardens is in good hands. Mayor Deno mentioned that one of our public work employees witnessed this traffic incident. Mayor Deno thanked Officer Sacramento, Officer Garcia, Lieutenant Morales, and Chief Hernandez for their hard work. Mayor Deno stated that this is how we want to help the community and that the Village nor its officers are here to cause problems or trouble. Mayor Deno said that the Village only wants to help its residents, visitors, and the community.

Mayor Deno then welcomed State Representative Alex Rizo to the podium. Representative Alex Rizo, who is now the Representative for District 112, thanked Mayor Deno and the Council for the invitation to attend the Council meeting. Representative Rizo stated that he looks forward to working closely with Virginia Gardens and promised to put as much effort and love into Virginia Gardens as the Village and its residents do. Council President Arce thanked Representative Rizzo and stated that he knows he will do an incredible job.

(a) – Update on current projects in the Village.

Mayor Deno stated that the first project that he wanted to discuss is the FDOT project. Mayor Deno stated that the submittals for shop drawings have been coming in and the notice to proceed was issued on August 8, 2022. Mayor Deno mentioned that the next step is for the shop drawings to be turned in, which most of them have been turned in. Mayor Deno mentioned that some items such as pull boxes are still on back order currently. Mayor Deno also stated that some piping was dropped off at the storage lot on NW 37 Terrace. Mayor Deno mentioned that the other part of the project for NW 37 Street to NW 40 Street, including NW 38 Street and NW 58 Place, is in the works and will be coming up in a few months.

(b) – Request Council approval of proposal #2022-078R2 from LTG Sports Turf One.

Mayor Deno informed the Council that he received a proposal from a company named LTG Sports Turf One regarding the placement of artificial turf on the recreation field here at the Village. LTG Sports Turf One provided a proposal to replace the field with artificial turf, replace the fencing, drainage, earthwork such as stripping the sod, modifying the irrigation system as required. Mayor Deno mentioned that Village administrative assistant, Michelle Morales, called or emailed each reference that LTG Sports Turf One provided. Ms. Morales stated that all of the references had nothing, but positive things to say about the company and mentioned that the artificial turf has held up. Mayor Deno mentioned that LTG Sports Turf One is a reputable company who have worked with numerous places such as City of Miami Gardens, Doral Academy, University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, etc... Mayor Deno listed the sources of revenue and scope of work for this project. The engineering, design, and permitting will cost \$56,450. The ballfield drainage, synthetic subbase, and installation of the synthetic turf will cost \$1,011,550. Removing/replacing the baseball chain-link fence will cost \$77,250. An option removal/replacement of chain-link fence on the north side to match the ballfield fencing will cost \$17,850, which bring the total expenses to \$1,163,100. Mayor Deno stated that the total difference is \$51,900. Mayor Deno stated that we have state grants, grants/funds with Miami-Dade County that are our source of revenue. Mayor Deno mentioned the total funds is \$1,215,000. Council Member Conover suggested to make the color of the fence that will be installed green rather than black. Mayor Deno stated that well water will cause the color to change with a green fence. Mayor Deno stated that the artificial turf will help will less games being cancelled as no water pools or puddles as it will drain out. Virginia Howard, Planning and Zoning Chair President, asked how long the warranty for the artificial turf is. Mayor Deno mentioned that there is a standard 8 year warranty. Council Member Taylor-Martinez expressed that the artificial turf was a great idea as natural grass will one day be gone.

A motion to approve the proposal #2022-078R2 from LTG Sports Turf One made by Council Member Fernandez was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

11. Administrative Items

(a) – Beautification

The minutes for the meeting of July 6, 2022 and August 3, 2022 have been submitted.

Beautification Chairman Hector Martinez stated that he spoke to Waterstone Capital, the company that is putting in the new hotel, about retrieving the trees that they wanted to remove and throw away. Mr. Martinez stated that Israel Tree Service will remove and collect said trees. Mr. Martinez stated that there was a slight issue with a resident regarding on NW 66 Avenue whose mango tree was overgrown and coming over the sidewalk area. Mr. Martinez stated Virginia Gardens trimmed the mango tree, but the resident was upset about it.

(b) – Planning & Zoning

The minutes for the meeting of August 11, 2022 have been submitted.

(c) – Public Safety

The statistics for the month of June and July 2022 have been submitted.

(d) – Administration

First Budget Hearing Scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2022 at 5:01 PM

Final Budget Hearing Scheduled for Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:01 PM.

Spencer Deno III, one of the Recreation directors for the Village, stated to the Council that soccer season starts Monday, August 22, 2022. Mr. Deno mentioned that uniforms have been ordered and they have been receiving requests from people to coach soccer, including college students. Mr. Deno stated that the first game on our recreation field will be the first week of October 2022 and the last game will be around the end of January 2023. Mr. Deno thanked administrative assistants Macbeth Araque and Michelle Morales for their hard work.

12. Attorney's Report

(a) – RESOLUTION NO. 1011 – A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, GRANTING/DENYING VARIANCES OF CHAPTER 16 SECTION 7.1.4(a) & 7.7.4(c)(2) AT 6355 NW 36 STREET, IDENTIFIED UNDER FOLIO NUMBER 26-3025-001-0243; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Cuadra informed the Council that this Resolution has two variances within it. Attorney Cuadra stated that the first Variance 7.1.4(a) is to allow signs exceeding the maximum of 80 sq. feet with Las Mercedes signs being 555 sq. ft. each. Attorney Cuadra stated that the other Variance 7.7.4(c)(2) is to allow the set back requirement of less than 50 ft. minimum with Las Mercedes set back being 36 ft. 7 in. Mayor Deno asked Priscilla Pagan, the representative for Las Mercedes, if they would be willing to center the East sign more. Virginia Howard mentioned that the Planning and Zoning Board had no problem with the variance for both of the signs being 555 sq. feet, but recommended for Las Mercedes to bring a sketch to the Council meeting with the Eastern sign being centered or placed in a way where a Variance would not be required. Priscilla Pagan stated to the Council that even if they moved the sign to the center, it will still require a Variance, but she could ask if her clients, Las Mercedes, are willing. Attorney Cuadra agreed with Priscilla Pagan that they will need a Variance to center the sign. Mayor Deno mentioned that the Village will have to look into the sign ordinances in the future. Priscilla Pagan informed the Council that they will only be administrative offices, not a medical facility.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1011 made by Council Member Fernandez was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion passed 5-0.

(b) – RESOLUTION NO. 1012 – A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA GRANTING/DENYING VARIANCE OF CHAPTER 16 SECTION 7.1.4(a) AT 3814 CURTIS PARKWAY; IDENTIFIED UNDER FOLIO NUMBER 26-3025-001-0020; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Cuadra stated to the Council that this Variance 7.1.4(a) is to allow sign exceeding maximum of 80 sq. ft. with LFR LLC's sign being 190 sq. ft. Planning and Zoning Chair President Virginia Howard mentioned that the previous company, PAN AM, had a sign that was 153 sq. feet, so this sign for Paramount Aviation is not too far off from that number. Chair President Howard stated that Planning and Zoning approved this Variance.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1012 made by Council Member Conover was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

13. Old Business

14. New Business

Council Member Conover mentioned to the Council and Mayor Deno that when the one of the flags is taken down that it should be given Robert with the Boy Scouts so they can retire them properly.

15. Good & Welfare

Council Member Taylor-Martinez asked for prayers for Melanie Martinez. Council Member Taylor-Martinez stated that Melanie is doing well, but this September will make five years since her incident.

16. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Fernandez was seconded by Council Member Conover. Council Member Block adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: September 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.