



**Fred Spencer Deno IV**  
Mayor

**Jorge Arce**  
Council President

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

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes  
**JANUARY 19, 2023**  
6:30 p.m.

---

**1. Call to Order**

Council President Arce called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Council Member Richard Block led the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Roll Call**

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

**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**

---

## **9. Approval of Minutes**

---

- (a) – Regular Council Meeting – November 17, 2022
- (b) – Special Council Meeting – December 15, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of Nov 17, 2022 and Special Council meeting of Dec 15, 2022 made by Council Member Richard-Block and was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

## **10. Mayor's Report**

---

### **(a)- Request Approval of Zoila Lostarakos**

A motion to approve a new employee was made by Council Member Fernandez and seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Deno requested Zoila Lostarakos to contact the FL League of Cities to order a 20-year Service Award for Council Block and Council Taylor.

### **(b)- Update regarding the Annexation meeting.**

Throughout the week, multiple discussions took place regarding our annexation application. On Monday, however, Mayor Deno received a call from the Commissioner's office confirming that due to the hostile takeover from businesses around the area and their stand against Annexation, this group should be heard and therefore pulled the item.

By Monday 12:30 pm, the announcement was made public regarding the Commissioner's decision, and the county recommended a survey to take place.

By Monday 4:30 pm, Mayor Deno received another call that the survey had to be prepared and paid for by Virginia Gardens.

By legal advice, Mayor Deno will not participate in the survey because they have already done their due diligence, abided by the County ordinance, and had numerous meetings. Mayor Deno recommends waiting to see whether Medley is vetoed.

**Attorney Cuadra** states that possible legal remedies are available depending on what transpires. It is important to recall that our Annexation was approved and what is pending approval is the Interlocal agreement which is the vehicle in which we implement and execute and transition for the Annexation.

## **11. Administrative Items**

---

**(a) – Administration**

**(b) - Beautification**

The Minutes for December 7th, 20th, and January 2023 have been submitted.

1. Council Member Fernandez requested an update on the US City Tree Application. The project is still ongoing.
2. Mayor Deno suggested that before submitting a check to Israel Tree Trimming, all details on the invoice must be clear.
3. Chairman Martinez congratulated and thanked Mayor Deno for the 2023 Christmas tree display! Mayor Deno stated that the credit goes to Macbeth and Maritza.

**(c) – Planning & Zoning**

Mayor Deno states there was an Issue on the Ludlum Project, but the local team will resolve it.

Update on 37th street the landmark is down for the Bike path and working onsite.

Three Projects have been submitted to the State for Virginia Gardens.

**Project #1**

Requested 550 K for resurfacing our Pump Station; Mayor Deno Spoke with Butch, and he states that pumps have 300 hours, still brand new but need a tune-up, need to replace the control panel. Also, resurfacing the generator, the casing has some rust. This will also include cleaning/updating and GIS mapping, as well as Storm Water Master Plan and drains as required by the state.

**Project #2**

Phase II Central Drainage Improvements. We are requesting an Additional 750 k to our initial \$ 850k to replace water lines. Funding is invited to address the flooding issues mainly on 37th through 41st street between 62nd -64th Ave.

**Project # 3**

Public Safety/Expanding the Village Hall ADA/Emergency Shelter Hardening Requested 875 K.

**(d) – Public Safety**

1. The statistics for November and December 2022 have been submitted.
2. Mayor Deno stated he would like to see VGPD bike patrol occur more often.

**(e) – Public Works**

**(f) – Recreation**

The Annual Soccer Award Banquet and the Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 5th, at 10:00 am. Commissioner Bermudez will attend our Soccer Banquet and present a check for 200k for our Ballfield project.

**(g) - RESOLUTION** - A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA ADOPTING VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS TITLE VI PLAN AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion to Resolution made by Council Member Taylor was seconded by Council Member Block. The motion passed 5-0.

**12. Attorney's Report**

**13. Old Business**

**14. New Business**

**15. Good & Welfare**

Council Member Taylor-Martinez asked for prayers for Maritza's Father, Melanie Martinez and Esther Block, Council Member Block's spouse.

**16. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Conover was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0. Council President Arce adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

---

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: February 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

---