



**Fred Spencer Deno IV**  
Mayor

**Jorge Arce**  
President

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

Special Council Meeting  
Minutes  
**August 14, 2023**  
5:30 p.m.

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**1. Call to Order**

Council President Jorge Arce called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Council Member Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez led the Invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Member Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance

**4. Roll Call**

Mayor Fred Spencer Deno, IV, Council President Jorge Arce, Council Member Richard Block, Council Member Gabriel Fernandez, Council Member Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez and Council Member Debra Conover 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. Citizens Comments

Jason Neil from Waste Management is offering the Village of Virginia Gardens the following terms;

- A service rate of \$30.50 per home.
- Rate Adjustments will change from 2 per year (CPI capped at 5% each January and disposal increase each October with no cap) to one per year, each January, which would be CPI capped 8%.
- Services will remain the same: twice a week at the curve and quarterly bulk collection.

## 7. Discussion regarding the proposed Police Contract submitted for 2023-2026

The following changes have been made throughout the Proposed Police Contract. These changes have been reviewed and approved by the Council and, in some cases, involve the removal or modification of specific sections and provisions;

On Page 10, ARTICLE 6 Section 6.1, the Last paragraph is to be reviewed by Attorney Cuadra.

On Page 16, Article 12, Section 12.5, and Section 12.6 have been approved by the Council.

On Page 20, ARTICLE 16, Section 16.2. Council approved changes.

ON Page 23 ARTICLE 19 Section 19.2 Council Approved 5% for Step 1 to Step 6 from the proposed 8% and removed Step 7 and Step 8.

On Page 23, Article 19 Section 19.3, the Council approved a 5 % salary increase based upon the sole discretion of Council members and the Mayor's recommendation.

On Page 23, Article 19 Section 19.4 was approved by the Council.

On Page 24, Article 20, Section 20.1 and Section 20.2 has been removed.

On Page 25, Article 21, Section 21.1 and Section 21.2 have been approved by the Council.

On Page 26, Article 22 Section 22.2, Changes are approved for Article 26 and Article 27.

On Page 27, Article 21-23 Section 23.1, the Council has approved changes.

On Page 28, Article 24, Section 24.1, 24.2, and 24.3 have been approved by the Council.

On Page 31, Article 26 Section 26.3, the Council approved 420 hours instead of 480 as noted.

On Page 32, Article 27, Section 27.1, and Section 27.4, Officer's Birthday was removed, and the Council approved Juneteenth and 3 Personal Leave Days.

A motion to approve changes on page 32 of Article 27 Section 27.1 was made by Council Member Conover and was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 4-1.

On Page 38, Article 32 Section 32.3 was approved by the Council.

On Page 39, Article 33, Section 33.2, and Section 33.5 were approved by the Council.

On Page 40, Article 34 Section 34.4 was removed by Council.

On Page 48, Addendum II was removed by the Council.

### **Good & Welfare**

Council Member Taylor-Martinez requested prayers for Melanie Martinez and Family.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. was made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez and was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion passed 5-0.