



Fred Spencer Deno IV
Mayor

Jorge Arce
President

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

Special Council Meeting
Minutes
August 28, 2023
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Council President Jorge Arce called the meeting to order at 5:35 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, Council Member Debra Conover and attorney Guillermo Cuadra (Via Zoom) 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

Discussion regarding the proposed Police Contract submitted for 2023-2026 Domingo Montoute Howard and VP, Mrs. Elena Shaffer from PLEA were in attendance representing VG officers.

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 23, Article 19 Section 19.2, the Council Approved 6% 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, Based on Longevity status. The Council approved a salary increase of no less than 3.5 % in perpetuity with a maximum of 6 % based upon the sole discretion of Council members and the Mayor's recommendation.

On Page 25, Article 21, Section 21.1 and Section 21.2 have been changed from 3% to 5 %. The Council has approved changes.

On Page 27, Article 21-23 Section 23.1, the Council approved four (4) hours.

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

On Page 47, Addendum I, All officers with Longevity status will receive a 6% salary **from October 1, 2023, through September 30—2024**, contract year.

Officers requested Shift differential compensation. The Council disapproved.

A motion to approve changes to the agreement between law enforcement and the Village of Virginia Gardens was made by Council Member Conover and was seconded by Council Member Block .The motion passed 5-0.

Good & Welfare

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

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. was made by Council Member Fernandez and was seconded by Council Member Taylor- Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.