



**Fred Spencer Deno IV**  
Mayor

**Jorge Arce**  
President

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

**First Budget Hearing Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**September 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 Conover, Council Member Gabriel Fernandez, and Council Member Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez were in attendance. Attorney Cuadra was absent.

**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**

## **7. PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET- FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024**

Adopting the proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in the amount of 4.8500 Mills, which is 9.82% higher than the Roll-Back Rate of 4.4162 Mills, to balance the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

A motion was made by Council Member Block was seconded by Council Member Conover to open discussion regarding the new recycling price increase for budget-Fiscal year 2023/2024.

Mayor Deno and the Council Members have approved a plan to split the cost of recycling charges with the residents of The Village of Virginia Gardens. Here are the key points:

Residents will be responsible for paying half of the recycling charges, which amounts to \$7.5 annually.

The Village of Virginia Gardens will subsidize the other half of the recycling charges, covering the remaining cost.

At this time we opened up a public hearing at 5:40p.m and closed at 5:45 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.

This initiative will result in a reduction in the property tax millage rate to 4.8500.

This plan aims to make recycling more affordable for residents while also lowering the property tax burden by reducing the millage rate. It's a positive step towards promoting recycling and providing financial relief to the community.

## **8. PROPOSED WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET- FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024**

A motion was made by Council Taylor-Martinez was seconded by Council Member Fernandez to open discussion regarding the Proposed Water Department Budget-Fiscal year 2023/2024.

At this time we opened up a public hearing at 6:21p.m and closed at 6:21:30 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.

## **9. PROPOSED PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET- FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024**

A motion was made by Council Block was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez to open discussion regarding the Proposed Public Works Budget-Fiscal year 2023/2024.

At this time we opened up a public hearing at 6:24p.m and closed at 6:24:32 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **10. PROPOSED CITT BUDGET- FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024**

A motion was made by Council Taylor-Martinez was seconded by Council Member Block to open discussion regarding the Proposed CITT Budget-Fiscal year 2023/2024.

At this time we opened up a public hearing at 6:25 p.m. and closed at 6:26 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **11. GOOD & WELFARE**

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

#### **12. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the First Budget Hearing meeting at 6:28 p.m. was made by Council Member Taylor- Martinez and was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion passed 5-0.