



**Fred Spencer Deno IV**  
Mayor

**Jorge Arce**  
Council President

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes  
**MAY 16, 2024**  
6:30 p.m.

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

**1. Call to Order**

Council President Jorge Arce called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Council Member Taylor-Martinez led the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Member Taylor-Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Roll Call**

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**

A – Ms. Linda Morris from Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) presented the Better Bus Network Plan, detailing upcoming changes to the bus system set to take effect in July 2024.

**7. Citizens Comments**

Resident Timothy Boylen raised concerns about a neighbor's fence encroaching 12 inches onto his property, potential house flooding due to surrounding cemented properties, and the need for proof of home ownership and a warranty deed. Attorney Cuadra offered to meet with Mr. Boylen to discuss possible steps and solutions, determining what issues the village can address and which civil matters are.

## **8. Announcement of Amendments/Corrections to the Agenda**

## **9. Approval of Minutes**

(a)-Regular Council Meeting –April 18, 2024 Approved

A motion to approve Regular Council Meeting for January 18, 2024 made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0.

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

## **11. Administrative Items**

### **(a)-Administration**

### **(b)-Beautification**

- The Minutes for the month of May 2024 have been submitted.

### **(c)-Planning & Zoning**

- No meeting for the month of February.

### **(d)-Public Safety**

- The statistics for the month of April 2024 have been submitted.

### **(e)-Public Works**

### **(f)-Recreation**

### **(g)-Resolutions**

1. RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH ATC ENGINEERING INC., (CONTRACTOR) FOR PROJECT NO. LPA0402 CENTRAL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$842,395; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion to approve Resolution 11 (g) 1 Made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0.

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA GRANTING/ DENYING VARIANCE OF CHAPTER 16 6.2.4 (A) 6380 NW 38 TERRACE, IDENTIFIED UNDER FOLIO NUMBER 26-3025-003-0790; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion to approve the variance request with the condition that any pending roofing compliance issues be resolved. Resolution 11 (g) 2 Made by Council Member Conover was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

**The Motion for Resolution 11 (g) 2 was amended by Council Member Conover and Council Member Taylor-Martinez.**

A motion to approve the variance request with the condition that there are no pending compliance issues, building or otherwise. Resolution 11 (g) 2 made by Council Member Conover was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Cuadra informed resident Santamaria that she must obtain approval for her local business tax and registration before legally operating an Airbnb. He emphasized that compliance with these regulatory requirements is mandatory, involving the submission of an application, supporting documents, and awaiting formal approval from municipal authorities. Operating an Airbnb without completing these steps would violate local ordinances.

## **12. Attorney's Report**

## **13. Old Business**

Mayor Spencer highlighted that current regulations require a survey no older than one year when residents apply for a permit to redo their driveway, even if they have lived there for over five years. Given the cost of a new survey, which can be close to \$600, Mayor Spencer is proposing a new approach: sending a certified Engineer or Architect to assess and certify the existing survey for a reduced fee of \$60. Attorney Cuadra is reviewing this proposed ordinance, which will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

## **14. New Business**

Laurie Varona and a colleague from the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County met with Council Member Block at the Village of Virginia Gardens to discuss implementing smoke-free policies in the park system. They highlighted the importance of maintaining a healthy and clean environment for visitors from Virginia Gardens and Miami Springs. An attorney will draft an ordinance to be presented at the next meeting.

## **15. Good & Welfare**

Prayers and good health for Melanie and her Family!

## **16. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez was seconded by Council Member Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0. Council President Arce adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: June 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**