



Fred Spencer Deno IV
Mayor

Gabriel Fernandez
Council President

Council Members
Jorge Arce
Debra Conover
Elizabeth-Taylor Martinez

Regular Council
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2026
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Council President **Gabriel Fernandez** called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 Fernandez, Council Member Arce, Council Member Conover, Council Member Taylor-Martinez, Mayor Spencer Deno IV and Attorney Cuadra attended.

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 20, 2025.

A motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on November 20, 2025 was made by Council Member Arce and seconded by Conover. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

10. Mayor's Report

- The Mayor extends heartfelt condolences to the Howard and Block families during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and we share in their grief.
- Council Member Conover shared Mr. Council Member Block's heartfelt resignation letter, written before his passing, expressing gratitude to everyone for their kindness. The Mayor announced that the service will be held at the Methodist Church on Thursday January 22, 2026 at 11 AM.
- The Mayor reported the Soccer Banquet was a success.
- An executive session is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss litigation options in a closed session. A follow-up special meeting will be held immediately afterward at 5:30 p.m. to appoint a temporary council member to complete Mr. Block's term.
- Central Drainage project update
 - Advertisement scheduled for January 28, 2026
 - Preliminary BID opening on February 4, 2026
 - Bid submission deadline to be announced

11. Administrative Items

(a)-Administration

- No specific items discussed.

(b)-Beautification

- The Minutes for the month of December 2025 have been submitted.
- The Minutes for the month of January 2026 have been submitted.

(c)-Planning & Zoning

- No meeting for the month of November.

(d)-Public Safety

- The Statistics for the Month of November & December 2025 have been submitted.

(e)-Public Works

Public Director Lazaro Garaboa provided an update on FPL's ongoing underground work, including the installation across the entire city.

(f)-Recreation

Soccer Banquet was a success

(g)-Resolutions

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND COMPLIANCE SECTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AS PREPARED BY CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion to Approve Resolution 11(g) 1 .made by Council Member Arce Was seconded by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. The motion 4-0.

12. Attorney's Report

(a)- Ordinance –Second Reading

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VIRGINIA GARDENS, FLORIDA, CREATING NEW ARTICLE III, OF CHAPTER 11 OF THE VILLAGE CODE ENTITLED 'SMOKE-, VAPE-, AND TOBACCO-FREE VILLAGE PROPERTY'; PROHIBITING VAPING AND THE USE OF TOBACCO OR NICOTINE PRODUCTS ON VILLAGE PROPERTY; PROHIBITING SMOKING IN VILLAGE PUBLIC PARKS CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW; PROVIDING THE REQUIRED EXCEPTION FOR UNFILTERED CIGARS IN PUBLIC PARKS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, SIGNAGE, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion to Approve Ordinance 12(a) made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez. Was seconded by Council Member Conover. The motion 4-0.

13. Old Business

None.

14. New Business

None.

15. Good & Welfare

For the first time the Mobile Tax Collection and License renewal will be coming to provide many services from License Renewal , Tax Collections and many more, right here at City Hall of Virginia Gardens on Friday, January 23rd 2026.

A memorial service will be held at the Methodist Church on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 11:00 AM for Council Member Richard Block.

Following the service, a heartfelt Celebration of Life will be held at the Village of Virginia Gardens City Hall in loving remembrance of Council Member Block.

During this profoundly difficult time, our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences are with the Block Family. May they find comfort in the love and support of our entire community, and may Council Member Block's legacy continue to inspire us all.

16. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Taylor-Martinez and seconded by Council Member Arce. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Council President Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: February 19, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.