

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF FAIRMONT CITY HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019
4001 COOKSON ROAD
FAIRMONT CITY, ILLINOIS
AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting began with an opening prayer and pledge of allegiance.

President Michael Suarez called the meeting to order.

Clerk Richard Ramirez recorded attendance. The following were in attendance:
Trustees: David Suarez, Guadalupe Hernandez, Raul Munoz, Robert Belba, and Charles Arriola. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent. Also, in attendance were; Treasurer Juan Mena, Police Chief/Administrator, Scott Penny, Fire Chief Robert Allen, and Public Works Director Roger Juenger.

The motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of November 6, 2019 was made by Robert Belba and seconded by Raul Munoz. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, pass; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mena presented the financial report for the month of October, 2019 with a brief explanation.

The treasurer reported he has considered employee Christmas Bonus' and the village can afford the same as the previous year. The bonus will be considered for passage at the next meeting.

Clerk's Report

Mayor Suarez asked the clerk to rearrange the agenda to consider the N 45th Street Reconstruction first so the engineer can be released. The village engineering company,

Thouvenot, Wade and Moerchen, has assigned the reconstruction project to Engineer Jeffery Reis.

Mr. Reis presented a drawing and gave a brief overview of the project. The plan is to reconstruct N 45th Street from Collinsville Road to Cookson. There will be a new sidewalk, 6 inches of asphalt with aggregate as the roadway and some additional drainage added.

The project will take one to two months depending on the weather and other variables, including the storm sewer placements.

Mayor Suarez, Public Works Director Juenger and Treasurer Mena have concluded using TIF (Tax Increment Financing) money for the project is in the villages best interest. To try to utilize Motor Fuel Funds the project would come under additional technical scrutiny and more than likely, increase costs.

With no further questions the mayor thanked Mr. Reis for coming. The motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez to approve funding from the Tax Increment Financing account for the N 45th Street Reconstruction Project to be orchestrated by village engineers, Thouvenot, Wade and Moerchen. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Under Old Business Mr. Ramirez presented a Business License Application, Universal Environmental Services, LLC, 955 N. First Street, Used Oil Collection. A representative from the home office in Georgia was in attendance and provided a detailed account of what the company does. The representative also presented safety data sheets and apologized for being unprepared at the previous meeting.

The representative also detailed how the repurposing of used oil has changed through the years. There were a number of questions regarding safety and spills. The company has emergency response companies who take over spills. The company has 34 locations. The mayor asked if there were any spills. There have been maybe 2 spills within the locations. The representative reported the biggest disaster for them is oil into any type of water system.

Fire Chief Allen reported he has met with the company and inspected the building. He and Rick Ramirez have interviewed the representatives and pre-inspected the building. The fire chief recommended approval.

The motion was made by Robert Belba and seconded by Charlie Arriola to approve the Business License Application, Universal Environmental Services, LLC, 955 N. First Street, Used Oil Collection pending a final inspection. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Also Under Old Business the clerk presented Ordinance No. 745, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 Parts 1 and 2 (General Provisions, Definitions), Chapter 1 Part 4 (General Zoning Regulations), Chapter 1 Part 5 (Conservation District) Chapter 1 Part 9 (Business Districts), and Chapter 1 Part 10 (Industrial Districts) of Ordinance No. 601 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Village of Fairmont City Municipal Code Pertaining to Adult-Use Cannabis.

Mayor Suarez discussed some changes to the ordinance from the previous presentation. The main change was exempting Collinsville Road from the footage distance between residential areas and cannabis sales. The mayor feels the potential revenue generated by cannabis sales cannot be over looked. Mr. Suarez also expressed the fact the ordinance can be changed should problems occur.

With that said, the motion was made by Charlie Arriola and seconded by Robert Belba to approve Ordinance No. 745, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 Parts 1 and 2 (General Provisions, Definitions), Chapter 1 Part 4 (General Zoning Regulations), Chapter 1 Part 5 (Conservation District) Chapter 1 Part 9 (Business Districts), and Chapter 1 Part 10 (Industrial Districts) of Ordinance No. 601 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Village of Fairmont City Municipal Code Pertaining to Adult-Use Cannabis. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Under New Business Clerk Ramirez presented Ordinance 748 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Village of Fairmont City, Saint Clair County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the 1st Day of May, 2019 and Ending the 30th Day of April, 2020.

With no objection the motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez to approve Ordinance 748 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Village of Fairmont City, Saint Clair County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the 1st Day of May, 2019 and Ending the 30th Day of April, 2020. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Clerk Ramirez presented a Building Permit Application 2832 N 43rd Street, Steel Two Car Garage, Gabriel Morales, Owner.

With everything in order, the motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve the Building Permit Application 2832 N 43rd Street, Steel Two Car Garage, Gabriel Morales, Owner. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

The clerk presented a Building Permit Application, 1139 State Route 3, Installation of Fiber Conduit to Existing Cell Tower Site, Verizon, Crown Castle, Owner.

The motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez to approve the Building Permit Application, 1139 State Route 3, Installation of Fiber Conduit to Existing Cell Tower Site, Verizon, Crown Castle, Owner. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Lastly Mr. Ramirez presented a Business-Liquor License Application, 3623 Collinsville Road, Buzz's Firehouse Bar & Grill, Daniel Raflowski and Juan Mena, Owners.

There were a few questions for Mr. Raflowski for example what hours of operation will be and if there will be a kitchen. The owners are working on the building right now and hope to open up after the first of the year. Hours have not yet been set and the kitchen, if they have one, will be worked on once the doors are open. Mayor Suarez wished the new owners' luck and asked for a motion to approve the licensing.

The motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez to approve the Business-Liquor License Application, 3623 Collinsville Road, Buzz's Firehouse Bar & Grill, Daniel Raflowski and Juan Mena, Owners. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Report of Police Chief/ Administrator

Police Chief Penny reported there has been another rash of vehicle trespassing. The department received six complaints of missing items from parked vehicles in one 24-hour period. A home security video revealed two persons walking down 42nd Street checking car doors while another vehicle followed in the street. Identification could not be made from the video.

The chief would like to make residents more conscious of locking their cars. In one instance a car was stolen when the keys were found in another opened car. He will be addressing it in the next newsletter.

Report of Zoning Administrator

Zoning Administrator Penny reported the Zoning Board met Monday, November 18, 2019 regarding the rezoning of the property located between N 47th Street and N 48th Street north of Maryland Avenue. The applicante requested changing the zoning to Highway Business (HB) from Single Family Residential (SR-3). Mr. Gabriel Cardenas recently purchased the property with the intention of building a youth boxing gym. The mayor reported he has spoken with Mr. Cardenas and so has Trustee Arriola. They are excited about the project and are looking forward to the possibility of teaming up with the village's other youth group.

Mr. Penny reported the Zoning Board agreed unanimously and he will be presenting the recommendation at the next meeting.

Report of Fire Chief

Fire Chief Allen reported the Toy Drive news. Wrapping will begin at 8am in the Community Center on November 30, 2019. Traditionally the village has contributed refreshment for the event. The chief asked to do the same this year.

The motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve the expenditure of refreshments for the toy wrappers on Saturday, November 30, 2019 in the Community Center, not to exceed \$500.00. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

The fire chief reported the distribution will be on Saturday, December 7, 2019. The State Park Fire Department decide to do their own area this year without the FCFD.

Fire Chief Allen reported the water company has finished the infrastructure upgrade on 63rd Street. They are still working on 61st Street and are close to finishing.

Report of the Public Works Director

Public Works Director Juenger reported there is a new Superintendent at Illinois American Water, Doug Wagner. The Public Works Director is impressed with Mr. Wagner. A repair was made on 45th Street near the public works building where a water main leak had occurred. The contractor cut out the asphalt, concrete patched the road and in less than a day, it was drivable. A similar repair was made on 39th Street. The director is looking forward to working with the new superintendent.

Committee Reports

Police/Public Safety-Chair- Charles Arriola

Trustee Arriola reported he, Raul Munoz and Mayor Suarez met with the donor of the property at Maryland and Kingshighway. Trustee Arriola was asked to get an architect involved in drawing up some plans for a sports structure for the fields. He was told to use CBC as an example and review from there. The trustee also reported meeting with representatives of the Electrical Union regarding installation of an electric service at the site.

Economic/Finance, Development, Planning, and Tourism – Chair – Michael Fiudo – Absent No Report

Fire Protection – Chair – Robert Belba, Sr. – No Report

Community Relations & Communications – Chair – Raul Munoz

Trustee Raul Munoz asked the board to sponsor a night of Posada at Holy Rosary Church. The board did last year and it was a positive experience. There was a brief discussion concerning the date and the menu. Thursday December 19, 2019 was agreed upon and Mr. Munoz will be coming up with a menu and an amount for the next meeting.

Trustee Munoz also suggested to Chief Penny putting a notice on Facebook about locking your car. He admitted to being guilty and thinks Facebook is a more popular avenue and can be utilized today. The next newsletter doesn't come out until next year.

Public Health & Housing – Chair- Guadalupe Hernandez – No Report

Streets, Sewers, Grounds, Building & Parks – David Suarez – No Report

President's Report

The mayor reminded everyone about the Gazebo Lighting taking place this Saturday, November 23, 2019 2pm to 6pm. The mayor is excited about the event and hopes to establish this as an annual event. The mayor has signed up 6 local food vendors. The library started a list for pictures with Santa and have 400 names.

Public Comment

A regular attendee of the board meeting reminded those present 2020 is a census year and the importance of being counted.

Another resident in attendance wanted to know if Ordinance 748 passed tonight would be raising property tax. The mayor assured the resident the property taxes are not being raised and that passage of a levy ordinance is an annual requirement by law.

Another resident had a complaint about the trash at the apartment building located at 41st Street and Maple Avenue. There was some discussion regarding responsibility between ownership and tenant. It was agreed that notification on social media and the newsletter regarding bagging trash and appropriate containers would be a good start.

Municipal Bills

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$40,240.04 was made by David Suarez and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

Adjournment

With that, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by David Suarez. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Michael Fiudo was absent.

Motion Passed

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Richard D. Ramirez
Village Clerk
November 20, 2019