

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF FAIRMONT CITY HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020
4001 COOKSON ROAD
FAIRMONT CITY, ILLINOIS
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

President / Mayor Michael Suarez called the meeting to order.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, and another special meeting held on Saturday, March 21, 2020, was made by Robert Belba and seconded by David Suarez. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

No Meetings were held during the month of April, 2020 in response to COVID-19.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mena presented the financial reports for March, 2020 with a brief explanation.

Treasurer Mena also presented a memo from the Illinois Municipal League's Executive Director, Brad Cole. The memo was an overview of how the COVID-19 epidemic is affecting state revenues which are shared with municipalities.

The memo serves as a warning to municipalities to adjust their budgets to what will be a significant decrease in state contributions.

The treasurer and the mayor are encouraging all village department heads and employees to be conscientious when it comes to spending.

Clerk's Report

The first item on the clerk's agenda were Municipal Appointments. Mayor Suarez tabled the appointments until the next meeting.

Clerk Ramirez presented Resolution 2020-07, A Resolution Authorizing the Signing of the Agreement between the Village of Fairmont City and The Fraternal Order of Police. Police Commissioner Arriola reported negotiations went fairly smoothly and he believes the contract resolution is a benefit to both, the police officers and the village.

The motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve Resolution 2020-07, A Resolution Authorizing the Signing of the Agreement between the Village of Fairmont City and The Fraternal Order of Police. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

The clerk presented a Building Permit Application (#2020-09), 1139 State Route 3, Cell Tower Upgrades, Jack Oates, Inc., Owner, Crown Castle, Contractor.

With everything in order, the motion was made by Guadalupe Hernandez and seconded by Charles Arriola to approve the Building Permit Application (#2020-09), 1139 State Route 3, Cell Tower Upgrades, Jack Oates, Inc., Owner, Crown Castle, Contractor. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Mr. Ramirez presented another Building Permit Application (#2020-10), 2552 N 42nd Street, Residential Renovation, Charles and Deborah Suarez, Owners.

Once again, everything was in order and the motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve the Building Permit Application (#2020-10), 2552 N 42nd Street, Residential Renovation, Charles and Deborah Suarez, Owners. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Next the clerk presented Ordinance No. 754 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No.704, An Ordinance Establishing an Enterprise Zone Within the Village of Fairmont City; Said Enterprise Zone Within St. Clair County Encompassing Contiguous Portion of The Village of Brooklyn, The Village of Caseyville, and The Village of Fairmont City. Administrator Penny provided a brief back ground of the ordinance. There are 15 square miles legally available to the current Enterprise Zone. The mayor of Washington Park, Rick Thomas, contacted Mr. Penny wanting to be a part of the Enterprise Zone. Washington Park Mayor Thomas has land in need of development contiguous to the village. Enterprise Consultant, Keith Moran, suggested to include the property to complete the zone. The property is very close to the available square footage.

Mayor Suarez added a public hearing was held at the Community Center and no public objections were made. The mayor believes it is in the best interests of everyone involved to approve.

The motion was made by Robert Belba and seconded by Charles Arriola to approve Ordinance No. 754 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No.704, An Ordinance Establishing an Enterprise Zone Within the Village of Fairmont City; Said Enterprise Zone Within St. Clair County Encompassing Contiguous Portion of The Village of Brooklyn, The Village of Caseyville, and The Village of Fairmont City. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Clerk Ramirez presented Ordinance NO. 755 An Ordinance Amending the Text of the Zoning Ordinance (No. 601). Zoning Administer Scott Penny gave a brief background on the ordinance. There have been two occasions of business license applications for the selling and repair of tires. The language change will require any one in the business of tires, batteries or other motor vehicle accessory shops to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals for a hearing. A hearing notice will be published. The hearing is intended as a place for neighbors or other concerned parties to vent their concerns regarding any hazard involved in storage of such items.

With that said a motion to approve Ordinance NO. 755 An Ordinance Amending the Text of the Zoning Ordinance (No. 601) was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Raul Munoz. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Mr. Ramirez presented Ordinance No. 756, An Ordinance of the Village of Fairmont City Disposing of Surplus Vehicles. Chief Penny reported the police department is retiring two police cars and have two new ones that are in the shop getting exterior details. The cars he would like to sell are in good condition with the exception of a steering problem that any home mechanic would be able to repair with used parts. He would like to see a starting bid at \$750.00.

Trustee David Suarez asked if there were any other departments with vehicles sitting around that could be sold. Public Works Director Juenger says he has at least one, the truck the previous director drove is not being used. It was agreed to do an inventory of all unused city equipment that might be sold. The ordinance was tabled as is.

The clerk presented Resolution 2020-05 A Resolution Authorizing the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Improvements to 45th Street. Mayor Suarez reported the long-anticipated project is very close to getting started. Director Juenger reported the bids should be available by next meeting for approval. Trustee Saurez asked Mr. Juenger how the bid process works. A publication goes out and interested parties are directed to the engineers for the specifications. After 3 weeks any interested parties should have their bid in and a date is set to open them. Under the COVID-19 circumstance the mayor has given the engineer the choice of coming in to open them or remotely. The remote process referred to a program called Zoom. In general, the lowest bid is the bid of choice.

The motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve Resolution 2020-05, A Resolution Authorizing the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Improvements to 45th Street. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

The clerk then presented Resolution 2020-06, A Resolution in Response to COVID-19, Describing Emergency Measures by the Village of Fairmont City, St. Clair County, Illinois, Continuing Measures Taken in Resolution 2020-04. Mayor Suarez reported since, the previous resolution ends on this day, May 6th, 2020 and the governor has extended the quarantine a new resolution is necessary to be eligible for any reimbursements that may be made available by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This situation will be reviewed at the June 3rd, 2020 meeting.

With no objection the motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve Resolution 2020-06 A Resolution in Response to COVID-19, Describing Emergency Measures by the Village of Fairmont City, St. Clair County, Illinois, Continuing Measures Taken in Resolution 2020-04. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Lastly on the agenda, for discussion, was a TIF II Application Fairmont Industrial LLC. Mayor Suarez asked if every got a chance to review TIF Coordinator Keith Moran's review. The

coordinator suggested any where from 10% to 25% of a \$150,000 project to excavate and improve a 3-acres of property to facilitate the day-to-day operations of a truck-trailer terminal. It was agreed that the company should receive a TIF distribution but there was a discussion regarding how much. When no conclusion could be drawn Trustee, Michael Fiudo suggested letting the finance committee work it out.

The motion was made by Michael Fiudo and seconded by David Suarez to have the finance committee meet to decide on an amount to award Fairmont Industrial LLC from TIF II funds. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Report of Police Chief/ Administrator

Chief Penny asked for a Closed Session regarding personnel.

Report of Zoning Administrator - No Report

Report of Fire Chief

Fire Chief Allen reported the Tornado Siren Test yesterday (first Tuesday of the month) was completed successfully.

The fire chief reported the 9 O'clock siren is having problems, once again. The chief has Pyramid Electric Co., working on it.

The fire chief also provided those present with an updated General Operating Procedure the Fire Department has been following.

Report of the Public Works Director

Public Works Director Roger Juenger wanted to thank the board for approving Resolution 2020-05 using TIF funds to pay for the 45th Street project. He continued by reporting a lot of work has gone into the project. He would have hated to tell those involved it can't be paid for.

The director also wanted to say thanks for the dumpsters the village approved. They are being used quite frequently. With his crew on COVID-19 schedule, the dumpsters have been a blessing.

The director had yet another thank you for County Board member Robert Allen's assistance in getting an equipment grant from St. Clair County. Numerous items were received from Hartman Turf & Equipment out of Millstadt Illinois including, 2 zero turn mowers, 4 weed eaters, 3 blowers, 2 back packs, saws and a hedge trimmer.

Committee Reports

Police/Public Safety-Chair- Charles Arriola

Trustee Arriola reported the sod and dirt work is done at the Maryland Avenue Soccer Field. There is a problem with a run off he may have to have the company look at and asked for Roger Junger's assistance.

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

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

Community Relations & Communications – Chair – Raul Munoz – No Report

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

Streets, Sewers, Grounds, Building & Parks – David Suarez

Trustee David Suarez wished to encourage people to follow guidelines and stay safe.

President's Report

Mayor Suarez wanted to say thanks to the administration, employees and residents in their efforts to set an example in curbing this disease. He reported the village has had 4 cases all of which have recovered. Communication lines were opened with these individuals and their needs were met.

The mayor has received numerous compliments regarding the convenience of the dumpsters.

The lunch program has been a means of encouragement in the community. The mayor has also received compliments for that. Mayor Suarez thanked all the people who help with the

lunch distributions. Right now, the lunch program will run through May 22, 2020. There is some talk of continuing it through June but there is no official notification to date.

Public Comment

A local resident who works for the state food stamp office reported a new food stamp program is available for family's with school age children who would otherwise not qualify. The program is referred to as the Pandemic Emergency Benefit. The benefit can be applied for online. Mayor Suarez asked that the instructions be sent to the village website technician for publication and distribution on the village website and department Facebook pages.

Fire Chief Allen gave an update on the Code Red program. The chief encouraged those present to encourage their families and friends to download the application.

Executive Session

At this time per the motion was made by Guadalupe Hernandez and seconded by Raul Munoz to enter into Executive Session regarding personnel. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed 7:36pm

Executive Session

The motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Robert Belba to return to the regular order of business from Executive Session. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed 7:41pm

The motion was made by Michael Fiudo and seconded by Robert Belba to approve the appointment of John Russel Simmons as a part-time police officer. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Municipal Bills

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented digitally on April 1, 2020 in the amount of \$34,152.47 was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Robert Belba. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented digitally on April 15, 2020 in the amount of \$60,646.28 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; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented on this day May 6, 2020, in the amount of \$115,062.58 was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Raul Munoz. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Adjournment

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

Motion Passed

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Richard D. Ramirez
Village Clerk
May 6, 2020