

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE VILLAGE OF FAIRMONT CITY HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 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, Fire Chief Robert Allen, Public Works Director Roger Juenger and Deputy Treasurer Sally Rodriguez.

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, was made by David Suarez and seconded by Charles Arriola. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, pass; Raul Munoz, pass; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Juan Mena presented the financial report for the month of June, 2020 with a brief overview.

At this time Mayor Suarez reported Chief/Administrator Scott Penny is on administrative leave until his retirement as of August 1, 2020. The mayor thanked Mr. Penny for his years of service and invited those present to thank him also.

The mayor then asked the clerk to proceed with the first item on the agenda, the appointment of Gerald Brown Junior as Chief of Police.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Ramirez presented the first item on the agenda, the appointment of Gerald Brown Junior as Interim Police Chief.

Mayor Suarez explained the appointment of Interim Police Chief Brown will be full time police chief upon the retirement date for Chief Penny and the oath of office taken today will include that transition.

The motion was made by Robert Belba and seconded by Charles Arriola to appoint Gerald Brown Junior as Chief of Police (Interim through July 31, 2020) of 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 then proceeded with the oath of office to Gerald Brown Junior, Chief of Police, Village of Fairmont City.

With the oath complete and applause made, the clerk presented a Building Permit Application, 3011 N 63rd Street, New Garage, Cleary Buildings, Contractor, Gerald Brown Jr., Owner.

The motion was made by Raul Munoz and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez to approve the Building Permit Application, 3011 N 63rd Street, New Garage, Cleary Buildings, Contractor, Gerald Brown Jr., Owner. 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 a Building Permit Application, 3808 Maple Avenue, Extending Existing Garage, Jonathan Rubio, Owner.

With everything in order the motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Charles Arriola to approve the Building Permit Application, 3808 Maple Avenue, Extending Existing Garage, Jonathan Rubio, Owner. 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 Resolution 2020-09, A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Fairmont Industrial, LLC for Redevelopment of Certain Property Utilizing Tax Increment Financing. Mayor Suarez explained the application had been on the agenda at previous meetings and an amount was agreed upon at the July 1st meeting, resulting in the resolution agreement as presented.

The motion was made by Guadalupe Hernandez and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve Resolution 2020-09, A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Fairmont Industrial, LLC for Redevelopment of Certain Property Utilizing Tax Increment Financing. 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

Chief Brown thanked the mayor and the board of trustees for presenting this opportunity to work with the community through this police department. He is looking forward to it.

Report of Zoning Administrator – No Report

Report of Fire Chief

The fire chief congratulated the newly appointed police chief on behalf of his department.

Report of the Public Works Director

Public Works Director Roger Juenger reported he has had discussion with the Health Department regarding the Community Center as a Cooling Center. With the Covid epidemic there are some new conditions and asked for board opinion on how to proceed. Mayor Suarez suggested to hold off on anything until the state comes out with the next phase of public conditioning, which should be the end of the month. The board agreed.

The public works director gave an update on the 45th Street Project. The storm sewers have been replaced. The next phase is curb and sidewalk before the actual paving of the street. The contractor is way ahead of schedule. Everyone is anticipating completion of the project.

Committee Reports

Police/Public Safety-Chair- Charles Arriola

Trustee Arriola reported observing the street department working in the garage at the Granby Park. The door there seemed to be difficult to open and the trustee suggested Mr. Juenger install a garage door opener there.

As Police Commissioner the trustee reported a police car has been put out of service. The trustee has spoken to the treasurer who reported there is a fund designated for police car purchase and has enough money to purchase a new car.

The motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Guadalupe Hernandez to approve the purchase of a new Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicle to be included in the Police Department Fleet not to exceed \$47,000.00. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

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

Trustee Hernandez wanted to welcome Police Chief Brown and congratulate him upon his appointment.

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

President's Report

Mayor Suarez also wanted to welcome Police Chief Brown. Mayor Suarez is looking forward to the future and is proud to be a part of it.

The mayor reiterated the severity of the COVID-19 reality. The mayor gets email updates from the state and reported the numbers are not good. The state has broken up demographics in proceeding with suggested phases. The village is in region four. Definition of the village's region has yet to be determined.

He also reported the COVID testing results that were pending have finally been completed. He asked for anyone who had not received their results contact him.

Mayor Suarez is determined the village does their part and continue social distancing and the use of masks in public.

Trustee David Suarez opened a discussion regarding the use of the County Sheriff in policing the flea market. There was a discussion regarding the limitations involved in governing the open market and the mayor has consulted the village lawyer.

Public Comment

Rachael Theolus introduced herself as a local volunteer, who previously worked with the Christian Activities Center's Education Program, is now working with local moms and their babies. The mission is to monitor and support moms in caring for their infants. Ms. Taylor is hoping for support from the community and that is why she attended. Mayor Suarez informed the volunteer that the local chapter of the St. Vincent De Paul volunteers has a food pantry at Holy Rosary Church. He suggested she get in touch with village employee, Stephanie Pacheco, who is also president of the group.

A local resident attended the meeting to voice his concern over village residents not following the COVID-19 guidelines. The resident observes congregations of large groups of people partying and wanted to know what can be done about it. Mayor Suarez reported not much can be done to force people to comply. He also reported the use of force is not a legal option. The mayor, once again, encouraged compliance.

An area karate expert attended the meeting to share her business's class and availability. The business holds virtual classes for children and adults and would like to have a physical class when life returns to a new normal. Mayor Suarez suggested getting with Trustees Raul Munoz and Charles Arriola who spearhead the youth sports program in the community. They can help with reaching out to the kids through their social media resources. When life does return to normal a class in town somewhere, possibly the community center, will be considered.

Municipal Bills

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented on this day July 15, 2020, in the amount of \$18,362.30 was made by Raul Munoz 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

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
July 15, 2020