

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE VILLAGE OF FAIRMONT CITY HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020
4001 COOKSON ROAD
FAIRMONT CITY, ILLINOIS
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

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, Chief of Police Gerald Brown, Fire Chief Robert Allen, Public Works Director Roger Juenger, Deputy Treasurer Sally Rodriguez and Stephanie Pacheco.

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, was made by Raul Munoz and seconded by David Suarez. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Guadalupe Hernandez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, pass and Charles Arriola, yes.

Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mena presented the financial reports for the month of 2020 with a brief overview.

Treasurer Mena also presented an overview of the Rose Lake Park Project of 2019. The total project cost was \$101,310.05. The St. Clair County Grant received was in the amount of \$100,000.00. The treasurer thanked Fire Chief Allen for his role in the grant being awarded to the village. The treasurer also thanked Sally Rodriguez, Chris Brown and David Beard for their contributions to what Mr. Mena described as "a lot for the money". Playground equipment, a new pavilion, restrooms, landscaping and other updates were completed which cost the village a mere \$1,310.05.

The treasurer also reported his office has been having trouble with the mail. Certain checks are not making it to their destinations and last month Verizon wanted to cut phone service. Treasurer Mena informed the board he would like to make payments on line to some of the village's bigger vendors like Verizon and the utility companies. Mr. Mena has had some bad

experiences with making payments through Busey Bank and will only be making payments through vendor websites. There was no objection.

Clerk's Report

The clerk introduced Lorenzo Mendez, 3617 Collinsville Road, to discuss Construction of a New Building for his Roofing Company. Mr. Mendez was there to get the boards view on building another building on his property located on Collinsville Road. Mayor Suarez would not make a commitment to the project without doing a little research regarding the property division. He told Mr. Mendez he would be in contact with him after he consults the village lawyer.

Clerk Ramirez presented a Liquor License Application, 5703 Collinsville Road, Penny Wash Laundromat, Inc. Mayor Suarez tabled the application.

Clerk Ramirez presented Resolution 2020-09, A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Nomination of Executive Trustee (Illinois Municipal League Nomination).

With no objection the motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Raul Munoz to approve Resolution 2020-09, A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Nomination of Executive Trustee (Illinois Municipal League Nomination). 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 – No Report

Report of Zoning Administrator – No Report

Report of Fire Chief

Chief Allen gave a brief update regarding grant funding he has been looking into.

The chief also informed the board there is some training coming in October to the Southwestern Illinois College that he would like to take advantage of since there was no firefighter training at the University of Illinois this year. He will be forth coming with details at the next meeting.

Report of the Public Works Director

Public Works Director Roger Juenger reported the concrete work on 45th Street should be completed by Friday 21, 2020.

Committee Reports

Police/Public Safety-Chair- Charles Arriola

Trustee Arriola also wanted to complement those persons who helped with the Rose Lake Park project.

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 – Chair - David Suarez – No Report

President's Report

Mayor Suarez also wanted to thank those who's participation was so instrumental in the park project.

The mayor shared a letter outlining the new COVID-19 guidelines issued by the state. Mayor Suarez emphasized the importance of following the new guidelines and continuing with social distancing and the use of masks.

Public Comment

There was a question regarding the guidelines for mechanic shops regarding COVID guidelines. Mayor Suarez suggested putting a sign on the door that a mask is required to enter.

Pat Marsh of the Christian Activity Center was present with an outline of the group's activity for their fiscal year which ended June 30, 2020.

The groups activity has changed with the COVID crisis. They have been actively distributing food to the trailer courts to persons out of work.

Ms. Marsh outlined a number of activities the group is involved in through the generosity of donations. The group has been spending \$1,000 a week in groceries to unemployed persons. Prairie Farms and Frito-Lay has partnered with the group.

The group is working on how to go about the tutoring program which is needed now more than ever with various virtual classes requiring internet that some families don't have.

The director asked for volunteers from the village to tutor and assist with other activities of growth within the group. She asked those present to help spread the word the group is looking for volunteers. Sally Rodriguez offered to assist in getting the word out that the group is looking for help.

A local resident was in attendance emphasizing the importance of the Census. Mayor Suarez originally planned on using the village's annex conference room as a center for Census assistance. With the COVID crisis all that has changed. The resident informed those present the Census can be completed on line.

Also, this resident who works for the food stamp office, wanted to squash rumors that state health coverage and the food stamp programs will no longer be available. That is not true and if anyone knows of anybody struggling economically please send them to the food stamp office.

Municipal Bills

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented on this day August 19, 2020, in the amount of \$21,223.94 was made by Charles Arriola and seconded 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
August 19, 2020