

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE VILLAGE OF FAIRMONT CITY HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020  
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 took attendance. The following were in attendance: Trustees: David Suarez, Raul Munoz, Robert Belba, Michael Fiudo, and Charles Arriola. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent. Also present were Treasurer Carlos Gomez, Police Chief Gerald Brown, 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, December 2, 2020, was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by Raul Munoz. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlos Gomez presented the Financial Reports for the month of November with a brief review.

Clerk's Report

Under Old Business the clerk presented a Business License Application, Los Reyes Ent. LLC, Taqueria Los Reyes, Food Truck, Josue Solis, Owner. At the previous meeting Mayor Suarez reported concern over the number of food trucks the village currently has licensed. The application was tabled.

Mayor Suarez and Trustee Munoz have since met with the owner. Like every food service business, the owner is struggling and was hoping to salvage some of his business. It was concluded the truck can be licensed during the pandemic. When the building can be re-opened the truck will no longer be licensed here in village.

The motion was made by Raul Munoz and seconded by David Suarez to approve the Business License Application, Los Reyes Ent. LLC, Taqueria Los Reyes, Food Truck, Josue Solis, Owner during the pandemic. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

Motion Passed

#### New Business

Clerk Ramirez presented Ordinance 758, An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Village of Fairmont City, St. Clair County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2020 and Ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2021. Mayor Suarez gave a brief overview of the annual ordinance.

The motion was made by David Suarez and seconded by Michael Fiudo to approve Ordinance 758, An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Village of Fairmont City, St. Clair County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2020 and Ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2021. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

Motion Passed

The clerk presented Ordinance 759, An Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Groundwater as Potable Water Supply by the Installation or Use of Potable Water Supply Wells or by Any Other Method. Mayor Suarez reported the ordinance is an EPA requirement necessary regarding the use of ground water in potentially contaminated industrial areas. The Newman Carrier company in the National City area of town is seeking to expand and brought it to village attention.

With no objections the motion was made by Raul Munoz and seconded by Robert Belba to approve Ordinance 759, An Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Groundwater as Potable Water Supply by the Installation or Use of Potable Water Supply Wells or by Any Other Method. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

Motion Passed

#### Report of Police Chief

Police Chief Gerald Brown reminded those present there will be a Holiday Food Distribution Drive, Saturday, December 19, 2020. He thanked Fire Chief Allen for donating from the Toy Drive. He also announced Santa will be attending.

The chief also thanked Sally Rodriguez and Roger Juenger for attaining a Speed Alert Messaging Board. The board is designed for traffic detail but also can be used as a message board.

The chief also reported the police department tasers are outdated. Chief Brown asked the board to consider the purchase of 4 new tasers at \$1,300.00 each. The department will rotate the new tasers per shift, as is done at the St. Clair County Sheriff's department.

The motion was made by Charles Arriola and seconded by David Suarez to approve the purchase of 4 new tasers at \$1,300.00 each. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

Motion Passed

### Report of Fire Chief

Fire Chief Allen wanted to thank everyone who helped with the Toy Drive. It was an experience but he thought it went well. For the record, Chief Allen wanted to thank the generosity of area businesses and community who contribute to the Toy Drive. The drive is over and still receiving donations.

As Enterprise Zone Administrator Mr. Allen reported he has enrolled the Fairmont City, Caseyville, Brooklyn Enterprise Zone in the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association. Keith Moran, the Village Enterprise/ TIF Consultant, suggested the association and is also a member. The fee is \$200.00 per year and is payable from Enterprise funds. At a board meeting Mr. Allen attended (by phone) today, he found Mr. Moran to be very well respected by the other members. Chief Allen will be attending a phone conference tomorrow which includes the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDR) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

### Report of the Public Works Director

The director reported the trash pickup will be on December 23, 2020 for the whole of the village. Christmas eve is a holiday for the department so Monday, December 28, 2020 will be the next trash pick up for all residents. Trash pick up will be on New Years Eve for the whole town and resume January 4, 2021. The schedule has been shared on social media sites.

The director also reported variations in trash pick up due to staff shortages recently have caused a few changes to what originally was scheduled for Mondays and Fridays for the whole of town. He has been working with a 3-man crew due to COVID issues.

## Committee Reports

Police/Public Safety-Chair- Charles Arriola

The police commissioner reported the village network system is near it's end according to Information Technology (IT) specialist Robert Ward. Robert is a part-time police officer for the village who is the fulltime IT director for Anderson Hospital. Mr. Ward is concerned the current system cannot be maintained much longer. The commissioner has asked Mr. Ward to put together a presentation for the board regarding a possible replacement.

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

Trustee Raul Munoz wanted to express what a rough year 2020 has been and his hope the coming year improves. The trustee wishes all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

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

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

Trustee Suarez asked that the village consider getting dumpsters over the holiday to help out the village Street Department. Those present agreed it would be helpful for everyone.

## President's Report

Mayor Suarez also wanted to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

The mayor reminded every one to social distance and stay safe.

At this time Fire Chief Allen announced former Village Trustee Ronald Biggs has passed away. Mr. Biggs held a board seat for many years before retiring in the early 90s.

## Public Comment

A regular attendee at the village board meetings reported:

The ground breaking of a new home at 34<sup>th</sup> and Maple Avenue.

During the pandemic he has been working at home and the only place to eat are drive through restaurants that have lines that go around blocks. He would like to encourage village restaurants to consider their properties and install a drive through.

This resident shared some nick names for Collinsville Road where there are 7 Mexican restaurants. The Mexican Mile was the favorite of those present.

Another attendee at the meeting reported pleasure driving 45<sup>th</sup> Street of which he used to avoid.

## Municipal Bills

The motion to approve payment of the bills as presented on this day, December 16, 2020, in the amount of \$38,724.66 was made by Robert Belba and seconded Raul Munoz. Roll Call Vote: David Suarez, yes; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

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; Raul Munoz, yes; Robert Belba, yes; Michael Fiudo, yes; and Charles Arriola, yes. Trustee Guadalupe Hernandez was absent.

Motion Passed

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted  
Richard D. Ramirez  
Village Clerk  
December 16, 2020