

February 26, 2025

Village Council Special Meeting

Attendance:

Mayor Yardley

Mr. Tomlinson

Mr. Hodgson

Mr. Borshchukov

Mr. Robichaux

Mr. Weber (via phone)

Also:

Sean Swartz

Starr Paton

Chief O'Brien

The roll was called, and a quorum was determined.

There were no residents or public attending, therefore no public comments.

Mayor Yardley addressed the council and gave a brief history of Chief O'Brien's tenure with the Village Police Department. Mayor Yardley stated Chief O'Brien's work experience and caliber of integrity shaped not only how the village department runs but also shaped the community as the police department is such an important part of the existence of the Village.

Mayor Yardley asked Chief O'Brien to speak regarding the proposed candidate for Police Chief, Fernando Gajate.

Chief O'Brien stated he is proud to recommend Fernando Gajate. Capt. Gajate has an extensive background in many areas of law enforcement and retired from a career with Broward Sheriff's office. He has been with the village police department for one and a half years on a part-time basis but has been working full-time over the last several months. Capt. Gajate has personality traits that are a good fit to collaborate with both residents and police department staff. He will have Lt. Scott Bures to help with administrative duties and they have previously worked together at BSO. Chief O'Brien stated he wholeheartedly endorses the hiring of Fernando Gajate and feels he will be leaving the Village in very good hands.

Mayor Yardley asked each of the council members to interview Capt. Gajate and review his resume and background prior to the meeting. The council members each gave their thoughts on their meetings with Capt. Gajate and their feelings regarding his ability to lead the police department.

Mayor Yardley stated Capt. Gajate is a people person which is so important in the Village and to lead our police department. The mayor wanted this special meeting so that all the council members could express their thoughts regarding the position and hiring of the new chief. Chief O'Brien will resign at the regular council meeting on February 27th and the council will then appoint the new chief of police.

Adjourn.