

Minutes Of The Special Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday May 29, 2012 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park (Re-scheduled Meeting of May 24, 2012)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called this special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:07 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Present
Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present
	Milton C. Payton	Present
	Keith J. Griffin	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Attorney Ivan Tomic, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief Melvin Davis, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Paul Blockoms, Cable Studio Manager Eddie Pearson, and Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Covington led the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

D. READING OF MINUTES

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of the special meeting/public hearing of the Plan Commission and the Board of Trustees held May 8, 2012, and minutes of a special meeting held May 14, 2012.

Motion To Amend Motion:

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves to table the following items:

Item D – Reading of minutes of the special meeting/public hearing of the Plan Commission and the Board of Trustees held May 8, 2012, and minutes of a special meeting held May 14, 2012.; **E-1 - Manager’s Report; E-2 – Mayor’s Report**, (with the exception of presentation of awards; **E-3 – Committee & Commission Reports; E-4 – Reports of Other Officers – Department Updates;**

F-1a: **2nd & 3rd Readings –Ordinance Amending The Village Of University Park Zoning Map To Change The Zoning Of 8.005 +/-Acres Of Vacant Land Located At The Northeast Corner Of Burnham And University Parkway From F-Public Facilities To R4 Multiple Family Residence District;**

F-1b: **1st, 2nd & 3rd Readings – Ordinance Amending Chapter 230 Of The Administration Code Entitled “Division Of Police” Creating Section 230.06 (A) -(G), Police Commander;**

F-1c: **1st 2nd, & 3rd Readings – An Ordinance Adopting The Budget For All Corporate Purposes Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois, In Lieu Of The Appropriation Ordinance For The Fiscal Year Commencing On The First Day Of May, 2012, And Ending On The Thirtieth Day Of April, 2013**

F-2e: **1st, 2nd, & 3rd Readings – An Ordinance Authorizing The Acquisition And Installation Of Street Lighting On University Parkway Between Western Avenue And Steger-Monee Road;**

Item G – General Public Comments; Item H – Board Caucus; Item I – Board Of Trustees & Manager Comments; Item J – Announcement of Scheduled Meetings; Item K – Executive Session.

Trustee Oscar Brown read into the record the aforementioned items to be tabled and presented Clerk Jones with a copy of the motion.

Trustee Payton asked to know the reason for the tabling of these items.

Attorney Tomic noted that it would be in violation of the Opens Meeting Act to exclude the public from making comments at a public meeting.

Motion To Amend Motion:

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to remove Item G – General Public Comments from the list of tabled items.

**Roll Call On Motion to remove Item G – General Public Comments From The List
Of Tabled Item**

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Motion to Approve Carried.

Roll Call On Motion To Table Items As Amended:

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin, and Roudez.
Nays: Trustees Payton, and Larry Brown..
Absent: None.

Motion to Approve Table Carried.

Trustee Roudez left the meeting at this portion of the agenda, and did not return.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington thanked those employees who had received certificates for training in the following areas from the following departments:

The Illinois Department of Public Health recognized Fire Department Employees for participating in emergency medical services: Eric Hajkowicz – EMT – Paramedic for 5 years of service; Michael Stegena - EMT – Paramedic for 10 years of service; Keri Pacelli - EMT – Paramedic for 15 years of service.

AFSCME Illinois Council 31, AFL-CIO Local 3837 recognized Eugene Lawson as a Certified Steward.

Public Agency Training Council – National Criminal Justice recognized Police Chief Melvin Davis for completion of 8 hours in Response to Sexual Misconduct, Legal Issues, Officer Complaints and Best Practices, and for completion of 8 hours in Response to Protest, Legal Issue and Best Practices.

South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Development Training Conference recognized Police Chief Melvin Davis for completion of 8 hours in Leadership In the e21st Century; and Grant School Recognized Police Chief Melvin Davis for addressing students at that school.

South Suburban Fire Investigation Task Force certified Fire Chief Charles Exner and Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic Keri Pacelli, Tim Roche, Kevin Tambling for completion of forty (40) hours of Advanced Cause & Origin Training.

Office Of The Illinois State Fire Marshal awarded the title of Firefighter II, and Hazardous Material Awareness to Janel M. Hurd.

Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association issued a Certificate of Completion to Fire Chief Charles Exner' for completion of 40 hours in Communication; and for completing 40 hours toward Fire Officer III Certification.

F-2a: Appointments

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the appointments of the following individuals to the Plan Commission as Advisory Members: Mrs. Norma Scarborough and Mrs. Bettie Wayne.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: Trustee Roudez.

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2b: Motion To Reject Bids For The Regent Road Street Resurfacing Project

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to reject all bids for the Regent Road Street Resurfacing.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: Trustee Roudez.

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2c: Motion To Approve The Expenditure Of Scholarship Funds

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves the expenditure of five thousand dollars for University Park Scholarships for 2012 scholarship recipients (the list was provided to the Board under separate cover)

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: Trustee Roudez.

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2d: Bills Payable

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park has incurred for the last two (2) weeks from May 9, 2012 to May 22, 2012. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 44,691.82
Fund 142 TIF II	\$ 63,058.75
Road & Bridge	\$ 2,516.19
Towncenter Operations	\$ 1,272.39
University Golf Club	\$ 12,303.38
Debt Service – 1998 Bond	\$ 39,446.88
Payroll Fund	\$ 175.19
2003 Bond Project Fund	\$ <u>96,565.63</u>
Total	\$ 260,030.23

Trustee Griffin referred to check number 76633 – Tomic Law Group and asked if any expenses for a trip to Springfield were included in that check, and check number 76680 – Kids Health Club and asked when the facility would be open.

Attorney Tomic responded that there were none, that he used his own funds to attend Lobby Day.

Village Manager Linear responded to Trustee Griffin relating to the Kids Health Club and stated that the facility was already open.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, and Larry Brown.

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Roudez.

Motion To Approve Carried.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Donna Gaston voiced her displeasure with the tabling of most of the agenda items; voiced her concern with the number of Board meetings missed by Trustees, and asked Manager Linear if their pay checks reflected deductions for those missed meetings, and suggested that the Manager follows the By-laws in this matter.

Ms. Jewel Thompson read from a poem that she prepared relating to the decorum of the Board, and asked the Board to examine where their loyalty lie; asked to know what they are doing to make sure that their actions are for the betterment of the Village.

General Public Comments – continued:

Ms. Sandra Warren commented on the positive things that the HSSEC is doing to enhance the health and welfare of village residents, and return to doing some of the things that we used to do. She noted that the Village wide Yard/Garage Sale would be held on Saturday, June 9th and urged residents to get involved. She also commented that Congressman Jesse Jackson was a visitor at her Church last Sunday, and that she asked that he pray for this community and our leaders.

Ms. Patti Guinn asked that the Ethics Commission is established very soon in the Village.

Mrs. Bobbie Greer voiced her anger at this meeting stating that she would like to know what is really going on, because shutting down a meeting is a waste of everyone's time, and is ridiculous. She also commented that the HSSEC is working hard to bring programs to residents, and that the upcoming Blues, Jazz & Gospel Fest would be held at Pine Lake in July, and that auditions would be held at #90 Town Center on June 2nd and those interested in participating should HSSEC Chair Donna Gaston at (708) 534-1853. She encouraged the entire Board to get involved in these endeavors.

Mr. Bill Smith voiced his concern with the tabling of the item that deals with Senior Housing stating that that action is not a good idea, and that the Board meeting is not the place for personal vendettas'. He commented that he did not offer his service and expertise under the past administration, but thought that with the new administration, things would be different should. That he looks not at the words, but at the actions of the Board. He asked certain members of the Board to examine their reasons for their seat on the Board, and thanked Trustee Larry Brown for assisting in bringing the senior project to the Village; however the action of the Board tonight puts their project in jeopardy for funding, because they are on a timeline.

Ms. LaVerne Williams voiced her concern with the action of the Board in tabling most agenda items, stating that enough is enough, and asked what would the Village gain by these divisive attitudes. She stated that she is applauded at the actions tonight and prays that God intervenes in this Board so we can move forward.

Mr. Milton asked to know what is going on, stated that he is a long time resident of this village, and now wants to know if we can re-call some of the elected officials. He also asked the Board to come together.

Mrs. Star Lawson addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees and noted that the All Star Baseball game would be held at Craig Park on June 1, 2012, and that Mayor Covington has been invited to throw out the first ball. She also voiced her concern with the type of attitudes that makes it difficult to get work done; she stated that Trustees are elected to do a job and that they are expected to do the job elected to do, and that she is dishearten that we cannot get things done because of venting of personal vendettas' and she read from 2 Philippians 2nd Chapter.

General Public Comments – continued:

Mrs. Mildred Morgan addressed the Board and was directed by Mayor Covington that she must address her as the presiding Chair or she would not be allowed to speak. Initially Ms. Morgan responded that she included the Mayor as part of the Board, then she referred to her as Vivian Covington, the Mayor. Mrs. Morgan was then escorted from the meeting by Police Officer on duty at the meeting.

A resident addressed the Board stating that some members of the Board are focused in the right direction, and that the village is watching the actions of the Board; some members of the Board have dignity and pride and that others needs to get on board, and support the Mayor and move forward, because kids are looking at us as leaders.

Mr. James Bell addressed the Mayor and Board and informed them that Trustee Roudez had to leave the meeting due to death of an immediate family member; voiced his concern and stated that he was astonished that with the advice of the Attorney, general public comments were added to avoid a violation of the Opens Meeting Act; however, to shut down a resident's right to speak could be a violation of Freedom of Speech and taking away a person's right to speak.

Mr. Roosevelt Martin addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees and voiced his concerns with the actions of some members of the Board; He stated the positive reasons that they moved to University Park, and stated that now he is not proud to say that he is a resident of this village.

Ms. Yvette Flowers addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees and commented that she is a resident of University Park, she voiced her concern with the disrespect of four members of the Board, and that she approves the removal of Mrs. Morgan from the meeting because of her disrespect of the Mayor; that we need to move forward. She stated that a house divided cannot stand. She stated that the stigma associated with this Board is not necessary; titles mean nothing, but your name should mean something, and she asked to know what the Trustees represent.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees and public and stated that now more than ever UP should stand for United People. She commented on the accomplishments of University Park young men who completed a course at John Marshall Law School and received several awards that included scholarships of thousands of dollars that can be used for tuition. She encouraged parents to get behind our youth, become involved with them in their activities and practice Love and Respect.

Mrs. Gloria Barnett-Brookins addressed the Board and commented that she was late arriving and is not sure what items on the agenda that were tabled. She referred an e-mail that she sent that dealt with the public's right to speak, and noted that for a long time the public has been allowed the right to speak; however, 2 minutes is not enough time for residents to voice their concerns.

Public Comments – continued:

Mrs. Barnett-Brookins stated that she was looking for great things under this administration, and that she worked hard on the campaign of President Obama because she believes in change; however, changes to the Standing Rules moved public comments to the end of the meeting where the public could only comment after action had been taken is not in the best interest of the public. She further stated that she does not know what the problems are with the Board, but she hopes that the Board will reconsider moving public comments up on the agenda; that personal attitudes dictates and affects actions; that the disrespect and game playing should stop, and that the public has the right to know what is going on. Mrs. Brookins referred to public hearings, and stated that the public hearing is not designed for the Board to ask question, but for the public to make comment; she commented that there was very little discussion with the budget and not enough time to voice concerns, and that the residents give direction to the Board through their comments. She also voiced her concerns that her phone calls and e-mails are not returned and that she hopes that tonight serves as a teachable moment for the entire Board, and that they reflect on how this affects this community, and ask themselves if they are a part of the problem, or part of the solution.

Mr. Robert Travis commented on the upcoming Family Fling and Carnival and noted that the carnival will have 23 rides and be the largest in the southern suburbs. That 200 free passes have been set aside for those residents in need. He stated that the community is responsible for some of the problems we are now experiencing, because some candidates were elected due to popularity, and that residents need to look at the record of candidates and get involved in the electoral process and volunteer for committees and commissions.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the special re-scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 8:30 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote; Trustee Roudez Absent.

Respectfully Submitted

*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk*

/drj