

# **Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, June 24, 2014 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park**

## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Covington called this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 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	Absent

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Attorney Steward Diamond, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief Edward Bradley, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Finance Director Joe Jones, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Public Works Interim Director Jerry Hunt, Community Relations Manager James Bell, 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 Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded motion to table minutes the minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2014.

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

***Motion To Table Carried.***

## **E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Village Clerk Jones reported on a conference that she attended in May of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks held in Milwaukee Wisconsin. She noted that at these training conferences, all participants are scanned in and out of sessions and attendance is mandatory in order to receive educational points. Clerk Jones expounded on the types of educational sessions and Keynote Presenters which included such notables as author and motivational speaker Michelle Ray, speaking from her latest novel entitled "Lead Yourself First" and Dr. D "It Is Hard To Get Spaghetti Sauce Off The Ceiling". She noted that there was a lot of training on leadership, ethics, record management, government/policy and technology, and that at this international conference there were Clerks from all 50 States plus 10 foreign countries. She thanked the Board and community for their support in the on-going training that ultimately benefits the residents and Board.

Trustee Williams reported on her position and support of the Village Employers Head Tax Ordinance, stating that as she has promised she will not support raising taxes on Village residents; however, she does support taxes that will come from the business district to help fund some needed projects for the Village. She stated that she feels it is unfair for Mayor Covington, Trustee Payton, and Trustee Larry Brown and CCC to be going to the businesses in the industrial Park inciting them, and trying to persuade them not to abide by the Head Tax Ordinance.

Trustee Payton responded to some of the statements made by Trustee Williams, and stated that misleading statements by certain Trustees is the reason for the uproar in the Village. He further stated that currently Trustees Williams, Roudez, Oscar Brown, and Griffin controls the Board and are making decisions that are not in the best interest of the Village, and that he has not gone to the industrial Park to canvas against the head tax ordinance, but he is scheduling a meeting with them in the future. He also stated that he will call out hypocrisy when he sees it, and that the four aforementioned Trustees do not have the Village interest at heart because they voted down a senior development facility that would have brought an alternative other than Thornwood House for seniors. And to him this is hypocrisy.

### **E-1: Village Manager's Report**

Manager Linear reported on the progress of the auditor's noting that they will be coming out again later this month to begin the 2011 field work; that the University Parkway Reconstruction Project continues to move forward and is on target; he has begun work with the Department of Community Relations to bring back the job bank application process, which would allow residents to fill out and have applications on file for easy reference when there is a vacancy in the industrial district.

Trustee Roudez asked if there was a reason that the flags were removed at the Memorial site.

Interim Public Works Director Hunt responded that the flags were removed because they were all torn and frayed, but that new flags were ordered to replace those damaged flags.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked Manager Linear if the Village is preparing for road salt for next winter, and asked for a status on the road repairs.

Responding to Trustee Oscar Brown, Manager Linear stated that we are okay with the salt and would be placing our orders prior to October; and that he would have a report by this weekend on the road repairs, noting that it is much more costly than expected.

Trustee Roudez commented on the upcoming July 4 holiday and the use of fireworks, and asked Deputy Fire Chief Chellios to comment on the safety issues of handling fireworks.

Deputy Fire Chief Chellios responded that normally they do public service announcements on local cable channel informing the public that fireworks are illegal in the Village of University Park.

Trustee Payton commented that fireworks are illegal in the State of Illinois, and he cited certain dangerous firework activities.

Police Chief Bradley commented that fireworks are illegal except by licensed professionals.

Mayor Covington stated that the \$1 million grant for streets and sidewalks is on hold; she asked if there was any status update on the thefts at Public Works. She also stated that she wants Robo calls to go out to the residents informing them of criminal activity; she commented on trash that is being dumped on University Parkway, near the golf course, and at our Parks and Recreation facilities; asked if the Village is receiving job postings from the industrial Park businesses, and stated that she is still waiting to receive the job notices that were posted and their requirements, and asked if there are any of the positions that will be posted, and if so, when would they be posted. She also asked if the qualifications are listed as part of the announcement, and asked the status of seasonal employees and the Audits..

Village Manager Linear responded to Mayor Covington relating to public works stating that he would rather not discuss this matter on camera in public.

## **E-2: Mayor's Report**

Mayor Covington reported on her meeting with President Periwinkle of the Cook County Board, and other South Suburban Mayors where various topics concerning support for our roads, economic development, concerns that our communities are being redlined, and on water main issues. She stated that most importantly was a concern that she brought on the transition of city to the suburbs, noting that this is having a great impact on our budgets and that we are not equipped to support nor accommodate their special needs. She stated that we were given more people however, the resources did not follow them, and that we are in need of special educational programs and facilities that are offered in cities that were not instituted here, including more police officers and various summer programs that included jobs and training. She further stated that these conversations only solidify her point of action this weekend.

Mayor Covington also reported on her disappointment that someone throw a golf ball through one of the bus shelters shattering the glass, and that she wanted to thank Police Officers Jaco, Wynn, and Gebert for assisting her in the cleanup of the broken glass at that shelter. She also reported that she was recently elected as Chairman of the African American Mayors Of Women Council.

## **E-3: Committee & Commission Reports**

Trustee Roudez reported on the meetings of The Legislative And Operations Committee and invited residents out to bring their ideas for legislative changes, and become a part of this process.

Trustee Griffin reported that he and Manager Linear are in communication with 4 companies that they met at the Recon Convention in Las Vegas.

## **E-4: Reports of Other Officers**

Parks And Recreation's Director Keely Childress reported that the department would be sponsoring a day camp talent show on July 3, 2014 here in number 90 Town Center from 1 to 3 PM; the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of day camp begins July 8<sup>th</sup>. She reported that there were 55 day campers for the 1<sup>st</sup> session, and that they are looking to expand the daycare program. She also reported that swim classes would be held beginning on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.; Pine Lake is open and to date they have received applications for 14 rentals. She thanked the Parks and Recreation Staff for all their efforts in getting those facilities prepared for the summer season, and encouraged parents to get their kids enrolled in swim Classes.

Community Relations Manager James Bell reported that Family Fling would be held on August 2, 2014 at Palmer Park; the TIF Job Bank is being reactivated and is a joint responsibility of the Village and the Industrial Park businesses to make sure that job postings were sent to the Village and that there is follow up; he explained the job employment process and stated that he is in the process of developing a form for that project and that he needs resumes on file.

Mayor Covington commented that she feels uncomfortable with the collection of resumes and feels that this is a function for Human Resources

## **E-5: Department Updates**

None

## **F. GENERAL PUBLIC**

Attorney Diamond reminded the public of the 30 minutes maximum allowed for public comments, with three minutes for each individual, and asked that they be mindful of the time limit. However, anyone who has signed in and not allowed to speak tonight would be 1<sup>st</sup> on the list for comments at the next meeting.

Mr. Robert Travis commented that he has been a member of CCC (Concerned Citizens Committee) for 20 years and that the statement of Trustee Williams is not correct, because they have not been going to the Industrial Park soliciting for anything. He voiced his concerns with the revisions to the ordinances relating to committees and commissions and stated that he would like to see a workshop on this matter; he also commented on an incident with CCC members when they were passing out flyers and were stopped by the Police Department, threatened with tickets and accused of soliciting without a permit. He noted that when the Chief was contacted the matter was resolved. He also asked for a status of the fire at the golf course and stated that there is a Toast Master program in Park Forest that could be of benefit to our officials and individuals addressing the public.

Mr. James Young addressed the Mayor and Board as a private citizen, noting that he is an elected Monee Township Trustee, and University Park Library Trustee. He commented on a 201-U forum that was held at 90 Town Center where there were a lot of concerns relating to our kids failing in school. He noted that the University Park library has resources to help with tutoring in reading, math, and foreign languages that meet State standards, and that he had brochures that he would leave to be utilized by our residents.

Ms. Morgan thanked Trustees Griffin and Oscar Brown for attempting to become corporate partners with the industrial Park businesses, and wonders why the Mayor invited Ms. Ryan of Bimba Manufacturing to come to, and address the Board and totally disrespect Trustee Griffin, and that she is calling for the Mayor and Trustee Payton to step down from Their position.

Trustee Payton responded to Mrs. Morgan stating that her statements and comments were untrue, and that Bimba is an employee owned company and the employer head tax would be felt by each of the employees at approximately \$120 per year. Additionally, it appears that Bimba never received communications relating to the passage of the head tax ordinance.

Ms. Laverne Williams commented on the proposed job postings, and asked if the list can include the types of jobs that might become to the Village. She also asked the status the broken truck scales.

Police Chief Bradley responded that there was not a problem with a broken scale, and that the delay in usage was related to personnel issues.

**G-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None.**

**G-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**G-2a: First, Second and Third Readings — Ordinance Correcting A Typographical Error In Ordinance No. O2013-15, An Ordinance Establishing A Legislative And Operations Committee For The Village Of University Park And Amending Section 210-01, Standing Rules And Section 239-03, Duties Of The Clerk Regarding Agendas**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of this ordinance.

Village Clerk Jones noted for the record that this action would not change any aspects of the ordinance, it would only correct a typographical error that listed section **230.03** instead of **239.03**

Trustee Payton asked Attorney Diamond if there would be any effect on the legality, and if it would affect any agendas that the Clerk may have set under the old ordinance, with the error, thereby deeming them invalid.

Attorney Diamond responded that there is nothing that would make those agendas invalid, and that he thinks it is honorable that the Clerk discovered that typographical error and took steps to correct it.

**Roll Call on G-2a:**

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

Abstained: Mayor Covington.

***Motion To Approve Carried***

***Ordinance Number O2014-28.***

***G-2b: First, Second and Third Readings – An Ordinance Amending Section 420-02, Speed Restrictions, Of The Codified Ordinances***

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Payton commented that in previous discussions Police Chief Bradley was to take a comprehensive look at the traffic problem surrounding Family Dollar.

Trustee Roudez commented that the Legislative and Operations Committee reviewed this, and looked at options to help you alleviate a potentially dangerous problem ,and at this time this would be the most cost-effective, and also deal with the safety issue. He urged the Board to support this legislation.

Trustee Payton stated that he would like to see a written copy of the action taken at the Legislative And Operations Committee Meeting that would indicate what was to be done and to share that with the residents.

Village Manager Linear stated that minutes of the Legislative and Operations Committee meetings could be made available; the options looked at with the traffic lights were out of the price range.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez, and Mayor Covington.

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

***Motion To Approve Carried***

***Ordinance Number O 2014 – 29.***

***G-2c: First, Second and Third Readings – An Ordinance Approving The Lowest Responsible Quote For Two Kawasaki Riding Mowers And Authorizing Purchase Of The Mowers For The Public Works Department***

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked to know why Kawasaki was chosen over John Deere.

Public Works Interim Director Jerry Hunt responded that location and the warranty played a part in his decision. Parks And Recreation's Director Keely Childress responded that their experience with John Deere is that it is very difficult to get parts and service.

Trustee Payton asked to know if these items were in the budget and if so, under what line item.

Village Manager Linear responded that they were budgeted for under the capital budget, but would come out of the head tax funds.

Attorney Diamond stated that he feels expenditures from the employer's tax fund should be done by motion with the approval of the Board..

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Ordinance Number O 2014 – 30.**

***G-2d: First Reading – An Ordinance Amending Part 4, Title 6 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park, As Amended, Regarding The Use Of Wireless Telephones And Electronic Communications Devices While Driving***

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of this ordinance.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

***G-2e: Resolution Of Authorization – Project Title: University Park OSLAD Outdoor Recreation Project***

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve this resolution.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Resolution Number R2014-12.**

**G-2f: Bills Payable**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown second a motion that the Board approves the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park as incurred for the last two (2) weeks from June 11, 2014 to June 24, 2014. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ \$289,972.70
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 11,652.49
Town Center Fund	\$ 392.00
Golf Course Fund	\$ <u>8,737.65</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 310,754.91</b>

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

## **H. BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGER COMMENTS**

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

## **J. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **K. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Roudez moved, Trustee Williams seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:28 p.m.

***Motion to Adjourn Carried By Unanimous Voice Vote.***

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC, RMC  
Village Clerk*