

**Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, December 9, 2014 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Covington called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Present
Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Absent
	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 Felicia Frazier, Police Chief Ed Bradley, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Golf Pro Paul Blockoms, Parks and Recreation's Director Keely Childress, Finance Director Joe Jones, Public Works Interim Director Jerry Hunt, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 25, 2014.

Trustee Payton referred to page 2; paragraph 2; Line 7, and asked that it be added after architectural plans the wording "as was done", and at the end of the paragraph to add "they did not have the architect JMA sign off".

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

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

### ***E-1: Reports of Elected Officials***

Village Clerk Jones reported that the filing period for the April 7, 2015 Consolidated General Election would begin at 9 AM on December 15, 2014 and end at 5 PM on December 22, 2014. She noted that the positions to be filled are Mayor, Clerk, and 3 Village Trustee.

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

Village Manager Linear stated that he had no report, but did take questions from the Board.

Trustee Larry Brown asked that all Police Officers who received awards and commendations be recognized. He also questioned the lack of Fire and Police Commission Minutes being made available to the public.

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

Mayor Covington reported on meetings that she has attended or participated in since the last meeting which included: a meeting with Senator Hasting and Mayor Martin from Olympia Fields where she made a presentation in support of the Southland College Prep School before the Commission on behalf of the schools; House Bill 5485 Medical Assistance was approved by a vote of 42 and is now pending for the Governor's signature; she congratulated Mrs. Herring for her International Appointment with Sigma Gamma Rho for her undying contribution to Saint Jude Hospital where she was an advocate of raising thousands of dollars, and that Mrs. Herring was honored by Senators and Representatives from President Obama's office for her accomplishment. She also reported on the great meeting she had with Governors State University, and stated that Governors State University had given the Right Of Way to the Village of University Park for the road reconstruction.

Mayor Covington offered condolences to the family of former Washington DC Mayor Barry and to the family of former Dolton Mayor Ronnie Lewis., She thanked our Public Works Department for an outstanding job in decorating the Village for Christmas holiday; she extended thanks to Cook County Board President Toni Periwinkle for sending a representative from her Economic Development Office to speak with her and Robinson Engineers.

**E- 3: Commission and Committee Reports:**

Trustee Roudez reported that the Parks and Recreation's Department is in the process of collecting used gym shoes for recycling in an effort to obtain a Nike Grant to rebuild our playgrounds. He stated that drop-off locations would be at all churches in the community, Parks and Recreation, Village Hall, and some business locations, and asked that residents please donate their used gym shoes for this project, and stated that only gym shoes would be accepted..

Ms. Kimberly Rowe-Barney addressed the Board on behalf of Delta Sigma Rho, Joliet region regarding an upcoming partnership with IDOT and 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of University Park to hold Expungement Workshops at 90 Town Center Drive in the near future.

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

No reports given.

**F: General Public Comments:**

Attorney Frazier reminded the public of the guidelines for public comments as listed on the agenda. Responding to a question raised by Trustee Roudez, she stated that public comments should only include items on the agenda, and if not followed could be a violation of the Opens Meeting Act. She also stated that if the public wanted to meet with the Mayor or members of the Board of Trustees they could do so at other times such as hosting coffees with the Mayor or members of the Board of Trustees.

A lengthy debate ensued over the limiting of comments to concerns of agenda items.

Trustee Payton stated that he agrees with Attorney Frazier however, Attorney Diamond informed the Board that the procedures being used in the past were acceptable.

Mayor Covington stated that that since the public have not been previously informed of the changes in the procedures for public comments that tonight she would proceed as usual, and after tonight she would set up dates and hold forums with residents to address their concerns.

Ms. Chere'se Williams asked as a point of order what would happen if the Board proceeds as in the past after being informed that the action could be a violation of the opens meeting act.

Attorney Frazier responded that she doubts if any fines or sanctions would be issued, however she suggested that the general public comments are limited to agenda items.

**General Public Comments Continued:**

Mrs. Star Lawson addressed the Mayor, Board and the public, and voiced her objections to raises approved by four members of the Board of Trustees, and given to the elected officials. She stated that this is the wrong time and that there is misappropriation of funds, malfeasance, grandiose action and a variety of other complaints.

Ms. Gina Williams addressed the Board and commented that she does not agree with the changes of procedures regarding public comments; that she disagrees with the raises given to elected officials while there is nothing for our kids to do. She stated that as a widow she raised her 3 kids and two nieces, and that Bimba Manufacturing and Aqua Water Company gave scholarships to her daughters that enabled them educational opportunities and that these companies are no longer given the scholarships because of the head tax, and that she wants to see positive change in the Village.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan commented that she has worked with the Parks and Recreation's committee for 17 years and she knows that University Park offers many amenities for activities for our kids. She stated that a previous Attorney Tomic was brought here by Mayor Covington, and Trustees Larry Brown and Payton. She listed a variety of activities that are available for our kids.

Mr. Larry Wayne commented that he commends the concerned citizens committee for making residents aware of what is going on in this community; that he has been a resident for 7 years and feels that there is no leadership, and that we need to stop fighting and support each other as a team, get economic development and keep our money in our community.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson encouraged parents to attend the 201-U School Board meetings and fight for our kids, and voice our concerns. She also asked the Board and community for support in her efforts to raise money for 3 of our children to take a trip to Spain, and that the cost is \$3000 per student. She also stated that we need to offer help to our seniors and disabled residents in the removal of snow, and that we take the slogan of UP to mean United People.

Mrs. Gloria Barnett Brookins commented that she has been a Commissioner with the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners for 13 years, and asked Attorney Frazier for proof that it would be a violation of the Opens Meeting Act if public comments continued as they have in the past because every other Attorney has allowed it. She also commented on emails that she sent to the Mayor and the Board of Trustees relating to dashboard cameras in Police vehicles and asked if they are being used. She stated that only Trustee Payton responded to her emails.

## **G-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**G-1a: First, Second and Third Readings - An Ordinance Establishing A Municipal Gas Use Tax And Amending The Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park**

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 Larry Brown asked if this would constitute a new tax on Village residents.

Mr. Greg Carr President of AmAudit responded that any NICOR gas customer is not affected, however this allows the Village to re-capture monies paid to secondary providers of gas utility.

Trustee Payton stated that this item was tabled at the last meeting because Trustee Oscar Brown stated that this was not addressed in our codified ordinances, and asked if that statement was correct. He also suggested that we include the wording "Natural Gas" to clear up any ambiguities in the document.

### **Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to amend this ordinance to add a paragraph that would explain that this gas tax is for natural gas.

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

### **Motion to Approve Carried.**

### **Roll Call On Main Motion As Amended:**

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

### **Motion to Approve Carried**

**Ordinance Number O 2014 – 58.**

**G-2a: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Amending Section 210-02 (a), Special Rules Of Order, Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park**

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 voiced his concern with the placement of the executive session, noting that if we moved into executive session that either the public or the Board would have to relocate doing that period, and asked if the executive session could be moved to the end of the agenda.

Village Manager Linear responded that the placement of agenda items would allow the Attorneys to leave after the business portion and that when an executive session was required the Board could vote to change the placement at that time.

Mayor Covington commented that if the Board needs to move into executive session that the Board should move to another location.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that he feels the agenda should remain as it is because the meeting is for the residents and not the Board.

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

Nays: Trustee Larry Brown..

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

**Ordinance Number O 2014 – 59.**

**G – 2b: First, Second and Third Readings – Tax Levy Ordinance (FY 2015/16)**

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 tax Levy ordinance.

Trustee Griffin asked if this tax Levy ordinance was with zero increase.

Finance Director Joe Jones responded that there is no increase in the corporate taxes.

Trustee Payton commented that he is disappointed with the process and with no increase in corporate taxes. He stated that he feels there was no budget preparation provided to the Board for the finance committee.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

**Ordinance Number O 2014 – 60**

**G-2c: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Accepting The Lowest Responsible Proposal For A 2015 Ford F450 For The Public Works Department And Authorizing Expenditure Of Funds From The Employer’s Expense Tax Fund**

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 Roudez asked the amounts of the payments. Finance Director Jones responded that the payments would be \$12,006 annually.

Trustee Payton asked to know why was this item tabled at last meeting.

Village Manager Linear responded that he was on vacation, and that to use funds from the employer’s expense tax fund would need Board approval.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried*                      Ordinance Number O 2014 – 61.**

**G-2d: First, Second, and Third Readings – An Ordinance Accepting The Most Responsible Proposal To Remove And Replace An Air Conditioner Condenser Coil (Police Department)**

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.

Trustee Larry Brown asked why the urgency with the winter here does the condenser in the air conditioner affect the facility.

Village Manager Linear responded that we need to keep our technical room at a certain temperature to avoid problems with our technical equipment.

Mayor Covington asked if these bids are advertised on our website and local TV 4 our local contractors to be aware of.

Parks And Recreation’s Director Childress responded that attempts are made to contact local contractors however, many of them do not renew their license.

Trustee Payton asked if any minority contractors had been contacted for this project.

**G-2d –continued:**

Trustee Larry Brown stated that in the future he would like it made standard practice to reach out to minority contractors.

Trustee Roudez commented that perhaps we can start a minority set aside for projects.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Ordinance Number O 2014 – 62.**

**G-2e: Bills Payable**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded 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 November 26, 2014 to December 9, 2014. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 33,216.03
Road & Bridge	\$ 220.00
Town Center	\$ 1,977.26
Golf Course	\$ 45,002.67
Motor Fuel Tax	\$ <u>12,206.31</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 47,619.80</b>

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

Trustee Larry Brown responded to the concern of Mrs. Gloria Barnett Brookins relating to the use of dashboard cameras and Police vehicles and stated that In Will County body cameras will become part of the uniform, and that he will work with Chief Bradley for implementation. He further stated that most of our lawsuits come from patrolman and confrontations with residents, and that he sent emails to Village Manager Linear to place in the budget funds for body cameras.

Mrs. Brookins asked if our unmarked squads are equipped with body cameras.

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

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

## **J. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **K. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 8:50 p.m.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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

*/drj*