

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, March 10, 2015 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 Felicia Frazier, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Interim Finance Director Sharon Floyd, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress, Cable Studio Manager Christel Allen, Police Chief Ed Bradley, 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 Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2015 as presented.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E-1: Unfinished Business

None.

E- 2 NEW BUSINESS

E-2a: First, Second and Third Readings An Ordinance Repealing And Replacing All Provisions Of Ordinance No. 02014-58 Of The Village Of University Park, Cook And Will Counties, Illinois Establishing A Municipal Gas Use Tax And Amending The Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to approve 1st 2nd and 3rd readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Payton asked for clarity on this action and noted that the date is still blank.

Village Attorney Frazier responded that this action was brought back before the Board because NICOR Gas would not accept the resolution form that we used when this action was taken and approved in 2014, and that this is to use the standard form of NICOR. She also stated that the date is blank because she did not have with her the actual date of the effect of this passage of the last agreement.

Mayor Covington asked if this agreement would cover the period from November 2014 to date.

Village Attorney Frazier responded that the effective date of the agreement should not change, and should reflect the passage in 2014.

Village Treasurer Dilworth stated that he was not informed of this tax and feels that the finance director should be responsible for collecting these taxes and not the Village Treasurer since he has nothing to do with taxation.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O 2015 – 08.

E-2b: First, Second and Third Readings - An Ordinance Repealing And Replacing All Provisions Of Ordinance No. 02015-04 Of The Village Of University Park, Cook And Will Counties, Illinois Approving An Agreement By And Between The Village Of University Park And Holland LP

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

Village Attorney Frazier commented that the only change to this document was to eliminate the strikeouts that were in the last document, and to include approval for changes by the Mayor and Board of Trustees.

Motion To Amend Main Motion Main Motion:

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to amend the main motion to add “and Board Of Trustees” to approve any changes.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

Roll Call On Main Motion:

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve As Amended Carried Ordinance Number O 2015 – 09.

E-2c: First, Second and Third Readings - An Ordinance Accepting The Lowest Responsible Bid For Repair Of The Front Porch At Reigel Farm

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

Trustee Payton stated that there was such a variation in the bids, and asked if there were any formal RFP's, and if everyone got the same information before submitting their quotes.

E- 2c: continued:

Parks And Recreation's Director Childress responded that everyone received the same information before submitting their bids, and some quotes were for repairs not needed.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve As Amended Carried Ordinance Number O 2015 – 10.

E-2d: Resolution Approving Will-Center Road Storm Sewer Outfall Contractor Payout Request No. 6

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

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried Resolution Number R 2015 – 05.

E-2e: Resolution Urging The Governor And General Assembly To Protect Full Funding Of Local Government Distributive Fund Revenues

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

Trustee Larry Brown commented on the proposed lack of revenue, and asked Manager Linear how much would this impact the Villages upcoming budget.

Village Manager Linear responded that this is a proposal for the Governor's 2016 budget address, however, if imposed the Village would have to find ways to oppose the action and to find ways to move forward.

Trustee Payton asked the amount of funds we would lose if the LGDF is cut by 50% as proposed by Governor Rauner.

Village Manager Linear responded that the LGDF is approximately \$400,000 of our current revenue.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried Resolution Number R 2015 – 06.

E-2f: Resolution Dedicating A Village Right-Of-Way To The University Parkway Improvements Project – Phase III

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to approve this resolution.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried

Resolution Number R 2015 – 07.

E-2g: Bills Payable:

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown 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 February 24, 2015 to March 10, 2015. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 408,865.24
MB Financial Special Purpose	\$ 6,205.00
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 4,504.55
Town Center	\$ 1,678.62
Golf Course	\$ 33,591.13
MFT Fund	\$ 34,929.39
Capital Project Fund	\$ 7,145.11
Payroll	\$ 6,057.16
Total	\$ 502,976.20

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Litigation - Pending Litigation Against, Affecting, Or On Behalf Of Public Body; And Personnel - Appointment/Employment/Compensation/Discipline/Dismissal Of An Employee/Review of Closed Session Minutes)

No executive session called.

Mayor Covington called a recess from 7:49 PM to 7:51 PM to allow for the exiting of the Attorney and certain appointed staff.

G. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

G-1: Reports of Elected and Appointed Officials

Trustee Williams reported that she is still working on an overpass or underpass on University Parkway to help alleviate the build-up of traffic. She also stated that the cost of the GED classes in the amount of \$28,000 as reported by Trustee Payton is incorrect.

Trustee Payton responded that he has consistently complained about the cost of the GED classes and that the Village paid \$26,000 for a program that no Village resident received a GED certificate. He also stated that residents can receive the same type of service at The University Park Library and at Prairie State College, thereby getting benefits that they are already paying for with their tax dollars.

Trustee Griffin reported on a meeting he attended with South Suburban Mayors and Managers relating to An Intergovernmental Agreement where they are looking to letting in May of 2015.

Trustee Roudez reported on food products allegedly being sold at a local store that contains no labels or contents of the product. He also reported that even though no license was granted by the State to Medical Marijuana Cultivation Or A Dispensary Facilities in minority communities, he has learned that license are still available, and the companies approved by the Village of University Park is still on hold. He stated that that he authored a letter To The State Of Illinois Department Of Agriculture asking them to reconsider granting a license to the companies approved by the Board, and asked the Village Board and residents to rally with him to bring attention to the need for this economic boost for University Park.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reminded the public that early voting for the April 7, 2015 general consolidated election is March 23, 2015 through April 4, 2015.

G-2: Village Manager's Report:

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

Trustee Roudez commented that the Village needs to fight for the release of funds for the Pine Lake Project that was previously approved by the State, that now Governor Rauner wants to suspend funding.

Mayor Covington referred to the restrictions in the political sign ordinance and stated that we need to be consistent in the enforcement, because in previous years the sign ordinance was not enforced. She asked Manager Linear to elaborate on the political sign ordinance.

Village Manager Linear responded that he was asked at the last meeting to make sure that as manpower allows to enforce the political sign ordinance.

Trustee Griffin left the meeting at 8:05 pm and did not return.

G- 3: Mayor's Report:

Mayor Covington reported on meetings and events she has attended since her last report, which included meetings with South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, South Suburban Black Mayors Association, and her meetings attempting to bring to the Village a bank, wellness center, and grocery store

H. General Public Comments

Mayor Covington asked Village Clerk Dee Jones to share with the public a conversation she had with the Mayor relating to public comments.

Village Clerk Dee Jones stated that in a conversation with Mayor Covington she asked if the general public would be allowed to make political commentary at a Board meeting, and they both agreed that it might be inappropriate, and also if one individual is allowed to do so it should be open to for everyone, which could create problems. She referenced the last Board meeting where a resident appeared to publicly ask the residents to retain Mayor Covington as Mayor.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan asked residents to help keep the Village clean by picking up trash and litter that they see throughout their area. She complained about Mrs. Williams being allowed to make political commentary at the last Board meeting, and she stated that the GED classes do benefit our residents who want to better themselves, and don't have transportation to go outside of the Village.

Mrs. Gloria Brookins commented on the replacement of general public and other changes to the agenda, noting that according to the ordinance she reviewed the Mayor sets the agenda and she asked for clarity.

Trustee Payton responded to Mrs. Brookins and explained the changes to the new agenda which allows the Attorney and Department heads to leave the meeting after the business portion is concluded. This is an attempt to save money on Attorney fees.

General Public Continued:

Village Clerk Jones responded to Mrs. Brookins stating that the Board passed an ordinance, and amended an ordinance relating to the duties of the Village Clerk that transferred the setting of the agenda to the Village Clerk with submission of agenda items from the Mayor, Chair of the Legislative And Operations Committee, Manager and Attorney.

Ms. Gina Williams commented that she made only one political statement at the last meeting that was unintentional. She also stated that she supports Trustee Roudez efforts to bring cultivation centers or dispensaries to the Village and asked that the Board gets behind him in this project, and asked if there is anything the residents can do to help move this project. Relating to the Democratic Party of University Park she asked for clarity.

Village Clerk Jones responded that candidates filed nominating petitions as a Democratic Party for the primary election that was held on February 24, 2015, and since there were no other parties or candidates filed nominating petitions for the primary the Democratic candidates were unopposed, and deemed elected thereby moving them to the general election with 1st place positions on the ballot.

Trustee Payton responded that this group is not a Democratic Party as certified by the Monee Township Democrats, and that the Concerned Citizens Committee would be hosting a meeting here at 90 Town Center on March 28, 2015 where Mr. James Harris, Chairman of the Monee Township Democrats would address the public on this issue.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that candidates filed legitimate petitions for the primary election and they were unopposed, thereby giving them 1st Place status on the ballot for the consolidated election.

Mayor Covington stated that they were not aware of the filing of a Democratic Party and that for 47 years the Village had always voted as independents.

Pastor Reginald Williams of 1st Baptist Church University Park addressed the Board and public and announced that on March 23, 2015 at 7 PM the Church would be hosting a Candidate Forum and invited everyone out.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Williams moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:31 PM.

Motion to adjourn carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/drj