

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, September 27, 2016 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 7:09 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend, Village Attorney Felicia Frazier, Village Prosecutor Gary Mueller, Public Works Director Gary Richardson, Police Chief John Pate, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, 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 Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve minutes of the special meeting held August 2, 2016.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown

Motion To Approve Carried.

Approval of Minutes – continued:

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting held August 2, 2016.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown

Motion To Approve Carried.

E: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attorney Frazier informed of the public of the procedures for public comments.

Mayor Covington informed the public that if a response to their concerns is needed, they would be done within the next two weeks, and not necessarily at the Board meeting.

Mrs. Debra Taylor commented on her desire to know the exact date for the town hall meeting; she commented on voter registration, Crete Monee Middle School grand opening, the opening of a new Walmart in Olympia Fields and her disappointment that University Park has nothing. She also voiced her concern for enforcement of curfews with youth. She also commented that they had started a petition for cameras in her area on Pin Oak Lane due to the amount of crime in that area.

Ms. Connie Adams asked if there any projects to give work to our youth.

Ms. Gina Williams greeted the Mayor and Board and asked if there were any plans to hire a finance director; she stated that we have hired Mr. Mays to handle our finances and he is someone who has many negative thing about on the website; she stated that she would like to know where the loyalty of Acting Village Manager Townsend is; she stated that we need a plan of action because nothing is being done and to know where the funds that are being collected to daycare and the head tax are being used. She also stated that she wants to see a breakdown on all bills payable, and that the previous Village manager is instrumental in bringing a new Walmart to Olympia Fields and Homewood.

Mayor Covington responded that a response would be given prior to the next Board meeting.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to Ms. Williams and stated that the loyalty and concerns of Acting Village Manager Townsend are with the Village of University; he further stated that the head tax is being used to keep the Village afloat. He asked residents to be patient, and stated that some matters cannot be addressed in public forum at this time, and encouraged Acting Manager Townsend to continue her efforts.

Trustee Roudez responded to Ms. Williams stating that new construction and new businesses are happening in our industrial Park namely Kloeckner Metals, and Buddrig, with other companies coming.

Trustee Griffin responded to Ms. Williams stating that last year the Village was negotiating on bringing a Walmart to this area, but they walked out due to the treatment of former Village manager Delano. He also stated that information that Ms. Delano was instrumental in the construction of a Walmart in Homewood is untrue. He explained that that store is a result of collaboration between the mayors of Glenwood and Homewood, with both communities receiving revenue.

Acting Manager Townsend responded stating that the Board made executive decisions not to bring in a finance director, but to bring in a financial consultant until we know our financial deficit. She further stated that her loyalty lies with the Concerned Citizens Committee, We The People, and all of the residents of this community. She also stated that the Board decided not to hold a Town Hall meeting until the Board knew where the funds would come from, and she reiterated the fact that funds from the Head Tax Ordinance are used to keep the Village afloat

Ms. Mary Pruitt stated that she wants a printout of all the bills from August to the present, and that she wants this Board removed; she commented on the fact that this deficit has been building for twenty years and questioned the performance of previous attorneys and finance officers. She also asked to know how many times a Trustee can miss a meeting and still receive their salary, and why the Trustees did not approve the appointments of volunteers to committees. She also commented on the lack of petition packets being made available for the public.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded that at a strategic planning meeting the Board agreed that there would be no appointments to any committee that was nonfunctioning at this time.

Mayor Covington responded that a member of the human services and special events committee wants to put on a benefit at no cost to the Village to raise funds for our fiftieth anniversary celebration.

Trustee Payton responded that there is nothing that addresses the Trustees pay when absent. However, Trustee Larry Brown was absent due to a change in his work hours. He also stated that resources are not available for special events, and since the Village is not a 501-C organization, fundraising would be inappropriate.

Pastor Charles Floyd stated that he had one question to ask relating to previous 2014 audit that showed up a \$3.9 million deficit, and the Board did nothing to fix the deficit, and asked why now do strategic planning on this information has been available since 2014.

Trustee Payton responded that he has asked financial questions for years, but the Board had been given wrong information from previous administrators and auditors, therefore the Board assumed that funds were available. He stated that bank reconciliation was not done by our previous finance director, and he explained the misuse of TIF funds in the loss of approximately 10,000,000 dollars at the golf course.

Due to unsavory comments by members of the public Police Chief Pate asked the public to be mindful that this is a business meeting of the Board of Trustees and that the action of the some members of the public are close to disorderly conduct.

Ms. Laverne Williams asked her concern with the angry debate between the public and the Board of Trustees; she also stated that the plan commission were any new developments, and stated that it is the function of the plan commission to update the comprehensive plan and stated that there needs to be an oversight committee for the TIF District, and stressed the importance of the need for a town Hall meeting.

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1a: First, Second, and Third Readings - An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And The Will County 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System Board For The Funding Of A 9-1-1 Surcharge Reallocation

Trustee Roudez moved and Trustee Griffin seconded the motion to approve first, second, and third readings of this ordinance.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown

Motion To Approve Carried Ordinance Number O2016 – 24.

F-1b: Resolution Adopting a Revised Engineering Plan Review and Inspection Fees Schedule

Trustee Griffin moved and Trustee Roudez seconded the motion to approve this resolution.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

Abstained: Trustee Wilson.

Motion To Approve Carried Resolution Number R2016 – 25.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings – An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor Or Village Manager To Execute Any And All Documents Concerning CDBG Grant Funding For Storm Sewer And Laterals, Drainage Structure Adjustments, Manhole Removal And Replacement, And Storm Sewer Sliplining And Other Revisions To The Scope Of Services For Said Project

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve this ordinance.

Motion To Amend Main Motion:

Trustee Roudez made a motion to strike the Mayor from the document. For lack of a second the motion failed.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to strike and remove the Mayor from Paragraph 1.

Attorney Frazier explained the process of official signatures on executed documents.

Trustee Wilson asked to know the qualifications of Public Works Director Richardson to be the Project Manager/Program Administrator for this project, and not a qualified consultant.

After discussion, Trustee Oscar Brown withdrew his motion, and Trustee Roudez withdrew his second.

Roll Call On Main Motion:

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

Abstained: Trustees Wilson, and Roudez.

Motion To Approve carried

Ordinance Number O2016 – 25.

F-2b: Resolution Authorizing The Acting Village Manager And Village Staff To Declare Village Property Items As Surplus And Authorize The Disposal Of Surplus Items. This Resolution Rescinds, Repeals, and Replaces Resolution Number R2016-15 In Its Entirety.

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

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

Motion To Approve carried

Resolution Number R2016 – 26.

F-2c: Resolution Acknowledging The Sale Of A Surplus Item Of The Village Of University Park, Illinois To The Town Of Millville, Massachusetts Fire Department

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

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

Motion To Approve carried

Resolution Number R2016 – 27.

F-2d: First, Second and Third Readings - An Ordinance Authorizing The Acceptance Of A Proposal From Fire Service, Incorporated For Acquisition Of A New Fire Engine

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve this ordinance

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

Motion To Approve carried

Ordinance Number O2016 – 26.

H. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK, MANAGER, APPOINTED OFFICIALS, and COMMITTEES

H-1: Appointed Officials

Police Chief Pate reported that the Police Academy might need to be canceled due to low enrollment, and he again reminded the public and Board that this is a meeting of the Board of Trustees held in a public forum and that as the chief law enforcement officer it is his duty to enforce the law and remove those individuals who become disrupted and create disorderly conduct.

Public Works Director Richardson reported that lights at the town center have been replaced; tree cutting has begun and they have cut back on contractual mowing.

Village Treasurer Dilworth commented on the comments made by Trustee Payton and stated that formal finance director Sharon Floyd did complete bank reconciliation from 2009 until her departure. He also stated that the Treasurer's report would not be done by October 14th as required because we do not have any finance director. He gave a list of figures and information that he stated he had gotten which were factual. He also stated that there are attempts to stop him from access and information from the bank.

Acting Village Manager Townsend explained the terms and conditions of finalizing the 2015 audit, because the numbers are based on information that did not include bank reconciliations.

Mayor Covington stated that she is not allowed access to bank account information.

Report of the Village Clerk

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that October 11th is the last day to register to vote by mail for the upcoming November 8, 2016 Presidential General Election; she also addressed the concern relating to the agenda packets for the 2017 local election and stated that the Village does not have the funds to supply these complimentary packets as she did in the past. However, specific information on how to obtain the nominating petitions, Candidates Guide, websites for the State Board Of Elections, and the Will County Clerk's website, and all information relative to the election process is available in her office, was published in the daily Southtown and would be on our website. She further stated that the Will County Clerk's Office stopped supplying municipalities with these documents years ago due to the cost and directs Clerks to the websites.

She also encouraged residents to check the status of their voters' registration by going to voterregistration@willcountyillinois.com , and to re-register to vote if they have moved, or changed their name, especially if they had not received a new voter registration card.

H-3: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported on an extraordinary job by Police Officers Wynn, Sockwell, and Sergeant Glowinski on handling the situation at Speedway Gas Station; she reported on software from Robinson Engineers that she would like put on our website so residents and businesses can access. She also reported that she attended the National Black Caucus in Washington DC at her own cost, and is working with legislators to obtain funding for lighting at the I-57 Interchange. She also requested donations of new or slightly worn coats and heavy sweaters for the upcoming coat drive that will continue. Additionally, IDES will be hosting a job fair in Chicago Ridge.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:26 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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