

.Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, October 11, 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 7:12 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Present
Trustees:	Larry B. Brown	Present
	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 Lauren Glennon, 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 Payton moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting held September 27, 2016.

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

Nays: None.

Abstained: Trustee Larry Brown

.Motion To Approve Carried.

E: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attorney Glennon 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.

Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth thanked Mayor Covington for appointing him as Treasurer, he informed the public of the duties of the Village Treasurer and stated that he would never withhold information about Village finances from the residents. He stated that he is experienced in the Village finances. However, he has not been allowed to do his job. He also stated that the Treasurer's report would not be done by October 14th as required, because proper accounting and record-keeping has not been done.

Mrs. Debra Taylor commented on the lack of response to the petitions from Pin Oak Lane that was presented to the Village relating to safety issues in that area; she asked if there was an update on a date for the Town Hall meeting, stating that she has petitions from residents demanding a Town Hall meeting.

Mr. Stanley Williams thanked the Board and the Police Department for their support in allowing a Vigil for 2 young people who were killed in a tragic automobile accident. He stated that they were all treated with respect and compassion from the Police and the Board members.

Ms. Gina Williams greeted the Mayor and Board and thanked Chief Pate and the Police Department for the great job that they are doing; she questioned Trustee Payton's 20 years of service to this community and asked why he would want to bring a developer who was a crook. And why Trustees Griffin and Roudez, who originally opposed the development changes their minds. She stated that she acknowledged that we need development, but not from those people; she stated that she would like to know why Trustee Roudez would tell someone that they could only sign one nominating petition for the April election.

Trustee Roudez responded to Ms. William's statement, and explained his position to support the proposed development, and that he felt the concept was a good idea to bring jobs and economic development to the Village. He stated that Ms. Williams was wrong for the accusations she alleged against him, and asked her to stop the false accusations.

Trustee Payton commented that he is disturbed with the misrepresentation of facts relating to the proposed University Village and the developer Mr. Louthen. He further stated that Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart did at an investigation of Mr. Louthen and found no violations. He explained the process needed to bring the Village out of this financial deficit, and stated that the project would have generated approximately \$1 million in revenue after that the debt was paid, and the increase to residents' tax base would be minimal, but the benefits would have been great.

Trustee Griffin responded to Ms. Williams and stated that he agrees with Trustee Roudez, however he changed his mind about supporting the agreement because the agreement would have allowed Mayor Covington to make changes without Board approval.

Mrs. Gloria Brookins addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees and asked whether or not there are plans to resume taping of the Board meetings, bringing back a newsletter, and requested to know the amount of the deficit, status of our finances, and information on the \$30,000 golf cart purchase. She complained that the police officers allowed parking in Merchants Plaza that could have presented a safety hazard in the event emergency response was needed, and that she feels the Vigil for the young people who were killed in the accident could have been handled better.

Police Chief Pate responded that the Vigil in Merchants Plaza was not sanctioned by the Police Department or the Village. However, the Police Department was aware of the Vigil at the Town Center and there were no issues at that one. He stated that after he was contacted by Mrs. Brookins he contacted the Supervisor on duty and the situation was resolved.

Acting Manager Townsend responded relating to the financial status and stated that at the next Finance Committee meeting next Wednesday, they would be presenting the budget, and how to move forward. Relating to the golf carts she stated that she would have to check into that and respond at a later date.

Trustee Roudez responded that that the young people were grieving, and needed a place to express their grief.

Ms. Laverne Williams voiced her concerns with the way agenda items are handled, stating that she does not agree that the Board should pass an ordinance with 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings at one time, and that she wants more than one reading on an agenda item; she asked for the status of the construction for Dot Foods, and Landmark sign, and asked to know when the Village plans a community forum.

Village Clerk Dee Jones responded that there is nothing statutorily or by Village ordinance that requires 1st 2nd and 3rd readings of an ordinance. She noted that a majority of the communities combine several items under one vote as a consent agenda.

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: **First, Second, and Third Readings – An Ordinance Adopting Policy For General Public Comments.**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to amend the agenda changing this item title from ordinance to a resolution.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2a: Resolution - Adopting Policy For General Public Comments.

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

Trustee Payton stated that he wants to see a policy in place, but had concerns with some of the restrictions in this resolution. He stated that he wants an official timekeeper designated, and on page 2, extension of time he would like to see that the Mayor and Board of Trustee by majority vote could extend the time of the speaker. He also questioned the three minutes per person and thirty minutes total for public comments.

Trustee Wilson stated that she feels that all residents should be allowed to speak and not just a spokesperson if it is for an organization or group.

Trustee Roudez commented that all residents who want to speak should be allowed to speak.

Motion To Table

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

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

Motion To Table Carried.

F-2b: First, Second and Third Readings - Ordinance Appointing A Village Treasurer.

Trustee Wilson made a motion to approve this ordinance. However, there was no second. Therefore, no action was taken on this ordinance.

Trustee Payton commented that he is against Treasurer Dilworth because he and the Mayor represented him as a certified public accountant which he was not, and that he has been in this position for 5 ½ years and has not done the job, additionally he wanted changes in his job duties that conflicts with State Law.

Mayor Covington defended Treasurer Dilworth and asked why there was no job description for previous Treasurers...

F-2c: Resolution Declaring Certain Personal Property No Longer Necessary Or Useful To The Village And Authorizing Disposal Of A Fire Department Vehicle (One (1) 1984 FMC Spartan Type I Fire Engine, with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of S29RT6E05EC423626).

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

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

Motion to Approve Carried

Resolution Number R2016 – 28.

G. REPORTS OF MAYOR

G-1: Proclamation – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This proclamation was read by Trustee Wilson.

G-2: Proclamation - CPRS “Color the World Orange” Day

This proclamation was read by Trustee Larry Brown.

Mayor Covington reported on the groundbreaking ceremony of the Crete Monee Middle School, and the new industrial Park company that she along with other personnel from the Village attended; she reported on her trip to the Congressional Black Caucus held October 6, 2016 where she had meeting with our Federal Legislators, she also reported that South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association had informed her that our \$1 million grant is on hold.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES, CLERK, MANAGER, APPOINTED OFFICIALS, and COMMITTEES

G-3: REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Wilson reported that she is working with Dr. Hall at Crete Monee High School on a Youth Explosion Project on October 29, 2016 and the theme is “It Takes a Village”. She stated that additional information would be at Village Hall and around the Village.

Trustee Larry Brown reported that a new 911 Communication Center would be built on Laraway Road and Route 52, construction is expected to be completed in 2018. He also reported that a new courthouse building will be built in 2019.

Trustee Roudez reported that The Parks and Recreation Department would be hosting a “Trunk or Treat event on October 29th at Riegel Farm from Noon until 3 PM.

Trustee Griffin reported that the road project on University Parkway and Crawford Avenue is nearly complete, and should be completed in early November.

G-4: REPORT OF VILLAGE CLERK

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that early voting and early/grace period voting is now available at the Will County Clerk Office, 302 North Chicago St. Joliet, IL, and Early voting for University Park residents would be available at Governors State University, 1 University Pkwy., October 30th to November 4, 2016; the hours are 10 AM until 5 PM, and at the Village of Monee October 29th through November 4, 2016; the hours are 10 AM until 4 PM Monday through Friday and 9 AM until noon on Saturdays for the upcoming General\Presidential Election that will be a held on November 8, 2016. Additional information is available by going to their website. She also informed residents that absentee ballots are available by contacting the Will County Clerk’s office and requesting an absentee ballot. Clerk Jones stressed the importance of residents checking their registrations status to ensure their ability to vote on Election Day, this can be done by contacting the County Clerk at voterregistration@willcountyllinois.com .

G-5: Appointed Officials

Police Chief Pate commented on the disruptive and aggressive behavior during the Village Board meetings, and stated that he needs direction from the Board or Manager to remove individual who are disruptive, and acting in a threatening manner. He stated that he understands that the police have the authority to enforce the laws, but feels the need for directions.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

None noted.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to move into executive session for purposes of litigation pending or eminent at 8:50 PM.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion to Approve Carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:21 PM with nothing to report out.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:22 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/drj