

***Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, October 13, 2015 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 7:10 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend, Attorney John Daly, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Finance Director Sharon Floyd, Police Chief John Pate, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Deputy Fire Chief Brain Chellios, IT Director Deryl Bolton, Director of Governmental Affairs Tim Williams, 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.

Minister Charles Floyd offered prayer for the Board and community.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to table the minutes of the regular meeting of the BOT held Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

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

***Motion To Table Carried.***

**E: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Mildred Morgan directed her comments to Mayor Covington, stating that the Mayor must start respecting the seat that she occupies; she referred to information relating the purchasing of floral arrangements from florists and decoration from a retailer, credit card purchases, and travel expenses charged to the credit card listed in the name of the Mayor.

Mayor Covington responded that Mrs. Morgan has made a career of attacking her, and that \$1800.00 in a minimal amount to spend on Christmas decoration throughout the Village. She agrees that the decorations were not properly stored, and many have not been located. She also stated that all of the officials receive travel expenses, and that even though the charges were listed in her name it is because there are only three credit cards for use by the entire Village.

Mrs. Bettie Wayne asked if two Village Manager are being paid; she asked why Johnna Townsend is here, and why was someone in Bola's office not approved to fill this position while she was on leave. She questioned the qualifications and domicile of Ms. Townsend, and stated that she believes there were some secret meetings going on.

Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend responded that she was asked to attend the special meeting and if she would accept the temporary appointment of Acting Village Manager. She further stated that there is an item on the agenda to officially appoint her Acting Village Manager while these issues are being resolved. Relating to her qualifications she stated that for several years she had served this Village as executive liaison to the Mayor and Board of Trustees, is familiar with municipal government, and that the previous Village Managers did not live in this Village.

Mayor Covington stated that the agenda of September 25<sup>th</sup> listed appointed an Acting Village Manager while Bola is on leave with pay. Therefore, both of them are being paid.

Mrs. Star Lawson greeted the Board and voiced her concerns with what is going on in this Village and how it is affecting Village residents. She stated that she is concerned with control and how it is being used. She feels that control is necessary, but to use it to attempt to micromanage is unacceptable.

Ms. Janice Adams commented on the need for tree removal on or near the property on Cordoba. Stated that lightning hit a tree and Raccoons have now entered her property and is a big concern. Stated that she contacted Will County Animal Control who suggested that she also bring her concerns to the Village.

Ms. Gina Williams stated that the Village is in a state of emergency, and she referred to certain Trustees as corrupt, and stated that Orange is the new black. She further stated that she feels Bola Delano was doing a great job, exposing corruption, missing money, and was removed without cause at the whim of four Stogies, namely Trustees Oscar Brown, Griffin, Roudez, and now Trustee Payton. She commended Trustee Larry Brown for not voting with the other Trustees. She also questions the takeover at the golf course.

**General public comments continued:**

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to Ms. Williams and asked that she respect him as an elected official, and that he would continue to do what he feels is best for the Village. He stated that we must all work together; that he respects Ms. Townsend and her skills sets to act in this capacity. Relating to the golf club he stated that that entity is losing over \$600,000 per year and running it as it has been in the past is not the answer.

Trustee Griffin referred to statements made by Mayor Covington that he had stolen from the Village, and stated that those statements are blatantly not correct, and he does not appreciate it. Relating to the golf club he stated that it has lost over \$12 million and something must be done. He referenced that Park Forest closed their golf club after it lost \$92,000 in one year, and this Village now leases a portion for a driving range.

Trustee Roudez asked Finance Director Sharon Floyd why Tim Williams who was the campaign chair for Mayor Covington's election is being paid \$65,000 for a position that was not in the budget.

Mayor Covington responded that Bola Delano decided that funds were available in the budget and that this was a good position for Mr. Williams. She further stated that she will hold Coffee meetings with residents every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month to listen to their concerns. She also stated that several items that Ms. Delano was progressively working on will not be done, such as the Board Retreat, that would have been at no cost to the Village, and she was getting funds to address the CityScape property, but that would no longer happen, because the individuals have stated that they will not work with anyone else. She also stated that the Board voted raises for themselves, while other important issues are not addressed.

Mrs. Debra Taylor asked to know why her comments from the last meeting were edited. Relating to the removal of Ms. Delano and replacement by Ms. Townsend, she stated that the residents did not get an answer to why this action was taken. She also stated that she is not aligned with anyone, but feels that the residents should have been given a copy of the resume' of Ms. Townsend, and that there is a need for a thorough investigation.

Mrs. Mary Truss commented that she does not get paid for recording the Board of Trustees meeting, and she does not edit her tapes, which would be illegal. She stated that her tapes of the meetings are aired on YouTube under Mary T Prospective, and that her programs were removed from WUPC TV Channel 4 for the Village.

Mayor Covington responded stating that the tape was not edited but they ran out of tape, but they are working to air all the program in their entirety.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that he had visited several municipalities to see how their cable program are handled, and that he likes the way Park Forest programming are done.

**F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**F-1a: Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Amending Section 230-08 Of Chapter 230 Of Title Six Of Part Two Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois Pertaining To The Employment And Duties Of Part-Time Police Officers**

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

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

**Motion To Approve Carried**

**Ordinance Number O2015-40.**

**F-1b: Second and Third Readings – An Ordinance Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing An Intergovernmental Agreement By And Between The Board Of Education Of Crete-Monee Community School District 201-U And The Village Of University Park Establishing A Reciprocal Reporting System.**

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

Trustee Oscar Brown referred to page 4 of the document, and noted changes that needed to be made relating to Section 5 (d).

Chief Pate commented that the criminal code of 1961 is “as amended”.

**Motion To Table:**

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to table this item.

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

**Motion To Table Carried.**

**F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**F-2a: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Employment Agreement for the position of Acting Village Manager Between The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois And Johnna Townsend**

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

Trustee Wilson stated that on September 25, 2015 the action taken was for a temporary thirty day appointment, she also questioned the benefits.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to amend this item to first, and second readings tonight.

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

**Motion To Amend Failed To Carry.**

**Roll Call On Main Motion:**

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

**Motion To Approve Carried**

**Ordinance Number O2015-41.**

**F-2b: Resolution to Amend Resolution Number R2015-03 Approving An Agreement With The Illinois Department Of Transportation And The Village Of University Park For The University Parkway Stage III Reconstruction.**

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

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

**Motion To Approve Carried.**

**Resolution Number: R2015-21**

**F-2c: Appointments**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve the appointments of Mr. David Sevier (term to expire December 31, 2018), and Mr. Charles Floyd (term to expire December 31, 2017 to the Finance Committee, and Mr. Charles Floyd (term to expire December 31, 2018) to the Plan Commission.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**F-2d: Bills Payable**

Trustee Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve a listing of general operating funds for the Village of University Park from September 23, 2015 to October 13, 2015. The following is a list of funds charged for those expenses.

General Operation Fund	\$ 246,239.44
Road & Bridge	\$ 1,878.91
Town Center	\$ 652.21
Golf Course	\$ 39,990.44
TIF V- Dralle	\$ 2,064,480.62
Capital Fund	\$ <u>8,810.93</u>

**Total \$ 2,362,061.55**

Trustee Griffin questioned check numbers: 85712, 85666, 85671, 85678 and asked for clarity.

Trustee Roudez questioned check number 85702 to Montana & Welch, and payment to U.S. Investigation.

Trustee Larry Brown also questioned check number 85702 and commented that he had not received the detailed billing for the Attorneys as requested, stating that it appears that Montana & Welch had billed for approximately \$54,000 for a two month period.

Mayor Covington stated that she wants copies of all the Village of University Park Legal bill's with the date range of 2011 to current.

**Motion To Consider Separately Check #85702:**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to consider separately payment to Montana & Welch.

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

***Motion To Consider Separately Failed to Carry.***

**Roll Call On Bills Payable:**

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

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

***REPORT OF VILLAGE MANAGER***

Acting Village Manager Johnna introduced Mr. Khalid Hogan of VistaNational Insurance Group and asked him to give a brief overview of their company, and what they hope to bring to the Village of University Park.

Mr. Khalid Hogan addressed the Board and stated that he is a partner with Vista National Insurance, and that he had numerous years of expertise and experience in the health care industry. He stated that this company works with Blue Cross Blue Shield and other major insurance companies. He stated that a review of our insurance shows that to continue with our present insurance broker we will pay a much higher premium than they can offer. He stated that with their company the increase would only be 4% with no changes in coverage for the participants. He further stated that they outsource COBRA benefits to other insurance brokers.

Mr. Warner Brown, Property Agents/Owner Of a Property And Casualty Company addressed the Board and stated that a review of our property and casualty policies shows that we have grossly overpaid on insurance company deductible for having full coverage on vehicles with a value of less than 4000; that he propose to show and present coverage at a far less amount than what we are paying now.

**REPORTS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Trustee Paula Wilson stated that she wants a copy of the golf club management agreement that was voted for at the September 25<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

**REPORTS OF ELECTED OFFICIAL – Continued:**

Attorney Fraser explained the essence of the proposal that she had received and what their review of the proposal showed.

Mayor Covington commented that there were four proposals presented that were to be considered, but only one company was brought before the Board for consideration. She stated that on September 26 the company Michael Realty showed up at the golf course and started firing staff, and handling all the money. She stated that her intent in looking at alternative management of the golf course is to take the burden off the taxpayer, but there should have been more than one company considered. She stated that Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend has begun to reinstate some of the individuals that were removed, and address other concerns.

Trustee Wilson also stated that she has a problem with actions taken by the Board as it relates to the new Acting Village Manager.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Village Clerk Dee Jones took a moment to thank Mayor Covington, the Board of Trustees, staff, residents of the Village of University Park and all those individuals who extended acts of kindness, prayers, and condolences to her and her family during the recent loss of her grandson 2013 Small Fry Basketball World Champion, Windy City Outlawz Coach Marquis Adams.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Covington gave no report but asked to know if the Village was receiving any restitution payments, as ordered by the courts from Josh, who took thousands of dollars from the cooperatives supermarket.

Police Chief Pate responded stated that he would check into the matter, bring it to the attention of the States Attorney for status, and report back to the Board his findings.

**Reports Of Appointed Officials**

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress reported on the upcoming Halloween festivities and encouraged the Board, staff, and community to get on Board with their Trunks Of Treats Halloween Celebration, and make this a memorable event for our children.

**Reports Of Appointed Officials – continued:**

Police Chief Pate thanked the Mayor and Board for their support and working with him as he became acclimated to his position; he reported that he had visited the cityscape property and find that there is a need to immediately Board it up for health and safety reasons; there have been numerous break-ins at Metra parking lots throughout the South suburban area, and that University Park was recently targeted. He also reported on a bomb threat situation at Governors State University where he was Incident Commander. He also reported that there was a recent accidental death investigation in the Village that proved to be from alcohol or drug poisoning, and not foul play. He also reported that there reports of squatters in certain locations throughout the Village, and asked residents to contact the police department if they suspect squatters. He stressed the importance of notification within 30 days of sightings.

**H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

Mayor Covington announced that there would be an expungement workshop on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and the job fair is also scheduled.

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to move into Executive Session for purposes of litigation at 9:27 p.m.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Payton

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

The Board returned from executive session at 10:15 p.m. with nothing to report out.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 10:16 p.m.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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