

Minutes of A Special Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Thursday August 16, 2012 At #90 Town Center Drive, In The Village Of University Park.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:07 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 Stewart Diamond, Police Chief Mel Davis 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. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Covington stated that this is a special meeting of the Board of Trustees that was called at the written request of trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin and Roudez

D-1: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Readings of an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance Number O2012-16 Intergovernmental Agreement Between The University Park Police Department And The Cook County Sheriff's Police Department

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves to table this ordinance.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, O. Brown, Griffin, and Roudez
Nays: Trustees Payton, and Larry Brown.
Absent: None.

Motion To Table Carried.

D-2: Executive Session – Discussion Regarding The Performance Of The Village Prosecutor And Personnel

Attorney Diamond stated that the proper language should be as provided by State Statue an Executive Session to consider the Performance, Discipline, Employment, Compensation, Discharge Of Officers, Employee And/or Attorney Of The Village Of University Park.

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves to move into executive session to consider the Performance, Discipline, Employment, Compensation, Discharge Of Officers, Employees And Attorney Of The Village Of University Park.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, O. Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Motion Carried.

Attorney Diamond stated that even though public comments were not on the agenda, Mayor Covington wanted to allow for the public to speak and voice their concerns; he asked that the public limit their comments to no more than five minutes each.

General Public Comments;

Ms. Sandra Warren voiced her concern that these items were not voiced when the ordinance was first presented and passed, and asked if the Trustees bringing forth this repeal had talked with Chief Davis. She also stated that this meeting was inconvenient for the public, and that we need to bring back respect to this Board.

Trustee Roudez responded that he had spoken with Chief Davis, that he asked for a workshop on this topic, and he felt that this was the only way to bring this item back for clarification.

Mayor Covington responded that she offered dates for a workshop, but no one responded to those dates, nor suggested alternate dates.

Trustee Payton confirmed that Trustee Roudez did ask for a workshop on a Thursday, and that he wanted to include a workshop on the budget, but the workshop did not happen.

Ms. Paula Wilson referred to a letter from Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart dated months ago, and asked why these matters were not address sooner.

Trustee Payton stated that he feels that the Village is being bum rushed by the requestors originally asking for first, second and third readings.

Mr. Milton Mighty commented that he does not understand why, if Cook County wants to help us with the gang and drug problems why not accept the help. He asked the Board to wake up and work together, because he wants a safe community.

Mr. Art King voiced his concern that since the Chief of Police, who is the professional signed off on this document why not respect his judgment, because we have a footprint and residents in Cook County, and if we can combine services and leverage our resources, why should we hamper our police department. He suggested that the Board look at what we are trying to achieve and get the job done. He commented that residents voted for our elected officials to do the job of running the business of the village; however, it seems that we are now at a standstill, but he is disappointed with the actions presented tonight, and urged the Board to consider their actions.

Mr. James Harris commented that he is a 35 -36 year resident of this village and he feels that we should take advantage of resources wherever we can get them to move the village forward, and that he is disturbed with the actions of this Board.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that this is against citizens of this village. Repealing this ordinance is not in the best interest of the village, and that we should embrace resources available to us no matter where it comes from to help reduce crime, and that if there is a need and Chief Davis reaches out to Will County they will also respond.

Trustee Roudez commented that the ordinance is vague and appears that Cook County would have the authority to come into and have control over all of University Park, and that they wanted clarity on the limitations and authority of Cook County Sheriff. He also stated that there are no members of the Board who do not want protection, but they do want clarity. Additionally, he noted that the crime statistics are among the lowest in the county.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that since this item was tabled, he does not think it is appropriate to debate the ordinance.

Trustee Payton stated that these four Trustees need to look at the process of doing business, and the need to have discussed this matter with Chief Davis, and that he feels this is a disservice to residents of this village. He commented on gang graffiti on the fence of the home of his daughter that his granddaughter pointed out to him as an example of how much the agreement with Cook County is needed.

Mayor Covington stated that every Friday following the Board meeting there is an agenda prep meeting, and that she has invited and asked any and all Board members who want to put items on the agenda to come to the prep meetings and let her know. She also stated that she will not micromanage the police department, and whatever protection we can get we should accept.

Trustee Roudez in responding to comments made by Trustee Payton stated that these questions were asked, and if the ordinance can be amended that is what he would want.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan commented that things should be done in a proper manner; that she feels that private conversations between the Mayor and Attorney should not be allowed, because it is disrespectful to residents.

Mr. Art King again voiced his disappointment with the process tonight with debates between the public and the Board, noting it is not productive.

Evangelist Jones commented that she admires the female Mayor, and voiced her concern that she feels she is being targeted and followed by the police department because she might dress differently; however, she stated that she has famous family members in politics that she would not name.

Executive Session:

As previously motioned and seconded, the Board moved into executive session at 6:47 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:27 p.m., resumed the special meeting and took the following actions.

D-3: Motion To Direct The Village Manager To Investigate The Selection Of A New Prosecutor To Serve The Village Of University Park With A Written Report From The Manager To The Village Board To Be Made On Or Before August 24, 2012

Trustee Griffin moved to suspend action on this item. There was no second to his motion.

There was no motion or second to take action on this item, therefore no action was taken.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to adjourn this special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:30 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk

/drj