

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, April 10, 2012 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:	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 Ivan Tomic, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief Melvin Davis, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Deputy Fire Chief, Brian Chellios, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Paul Blockoms, Cable Studio Manager Eddie Pearson, IT Director Deryl Bolton, 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. READING OF MINUTES

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of the Board of Trustees held, March 27, 2012 as amended to show changes as noted by Mayor Covington on page 5, paragraph 2 to add that Mrs. Mary Truss videotaped a forum at Freedom Hall that included two of our Trustees; and on page 13; paragraph 11 to show her response to comments by Mr. James Bell included that the Village, through the efforts of Manager Linear saved \$250,000.00 in unemployment benefits.

Roll Call on Minutes:

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion to Approve Carried, As Amended.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E-1: Village Manager's Report

Village Manager Lafayette Linear reported that they are continuing reconciliations efforts of the industrial Park Business TIF accounts, and that the most recent reconciliation is the account of 702 Commerce Center; One of the objectives in preparation of the budget document for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2012 is to demonstrate fiscal responsibility. A review of the most recent audited financial statement, fiscal year ended April 30, 2009, reported an operating fund deficit of \$2.4 million dollars. It is reasonable to assume per his observations of the incomplete years, which include fiscal year 2009 to current, that deficit for the village has grown. Therefore he and the Finance Director have conducted a series of meetings with all department heads to compile a budget capable of reversing this unsustainable fiscal trend. He also reported that he and Mayor Covington are continuing their efforts to create a corporate citizenship program to date they have engaged in discussions with several businesses in the industrial park area and that our Public Relations Consultant. The goal of this program is to create a platform for business and the government to provide tangible support for the quality of life in University Park.

Manager Linear also reported on his continued efforts to explore ways to operate the Village's summer employment and activity programs more efficiently, noting that this summer, the Village's seasonal staff will be a combination of employees hired by the Village the traditional way, and contracted employees from Davis Staffing. These efforts should substantially reduce the cost of personnel and related cost for summer programs. He also reported that thanks to the finance department they had located the contract related to the cash station machine at the golf course, and it appears that the Village leased the machine from Electronic Cash Systems, Inc. The lease has expired, however under the terms of the lease the Village is required to continue to make monthly maintenance payments of \$358.00 or purchase the machine at \$1,325.00, and it appears that the most economical course for the village is to purchase the machine.

Manager's Report – continued:

Trustee Griffin commented that he had spoken to Director Townsend relating to the lights that are out at Craig Park, and stated that last year the baseball teams had to cancel certain games because of the light problems. Therefore he now wants an answer from Manager Linear and wants him to give him a date when all the lights would be repaired; He asked if we would be losing the mowing contract with METRA, stating that he has previously requested a schedule for grass cutting from Public Works, and is now requesting the schedule again. He also asked to know why so many employees are being hired for jobs that live outside the Village of University Park.

Manager Linear and Director Townsend responded to the concerns of Trustee Griffin. Director Townsend stated that he has been working with the Fire Department in replacing the burned out lights, and they discovered that the main issue with the remaining lights that are out is that several balances are blown, and they are working on that problem. However, for clarity, he stated that no games were canceled last year as a result of lighting at Craig Park.

Relating to the mowing with METRA, Manager Linear responded that the contract with METRA has expired, and the Village is not interested in renewing the contract to cut the grass; relating to a mowing schedule, he stated that mowing season has not yet begun, and no schedule has been prepared, but he will forward it to Trustee Griffin when there is a schedule. Relating to hiring of personnel, he stated that the first two employees that he hired are village residents, and that he has tried to provide the village with the most qualified employees, and that sometimes takes him outside of the village to review all applications that he receives, and sometimes the most qualified applicants happen to live outside village limits.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if Aqua has given the Village a dollar amount that they will be paying for painting of hydrants and curbs.

Director Townsend responded that Aqua has agreed to pay for all paint and materials for the painting, and pay the salary for two summer workers.

Trustee Roudez asked to know the total monthly cost for publication of the Village Newsletter. Manager Linear responded that he did not have those figures with him, but would provide Trustee Roudez with that information.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if the Village is selling advertisement for the Communicate; if there is a cost for vendors to participate in the Job Fair, and what are the procedures for employees to participate in the Job Fair.

Manager Linear responded that there is no cost to the vendors or employees this year.

Manager's Report – continued:

Trustee Payton commented that since this is the first year, no fee is associated with vendor and individual participation. However, the HSSEC will be looking at tweaking the process for next year. He suggested that those interested should contact Trustee Griffin.

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported that Town Builders Studio would be opening an office in the Town Center, and that Aqua is on board with this village; that the Pembroke Company has forty applicants for free training and that they will train and certify applicants for vital job training opportunities. Those interested in this training program should contact Ms. Johnna Townsend at (708) 534-4237. She also reported that Congressman saw a copy of the Communicate Newsletter was very impressed, and asked her to send him several copies.

Mayor Covington commented on jobs available and asked residents to apply in a timely manner so they could be considered for these positions.

Manager Linear explained the process for advertising vacant positions that include posting internally for two weeks, then advertising outside. Once the application is complete they conduct interviews and select the most qualified for our purposes.

Mayor Covington reported on a meeting that she attended with Trustee Griffin and BMX Sports Representatives in an effort to work in conjunction with Monee to find land for a sports complex for the area, and noted that they will be working with Monee Township to bring this to fruition.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee Griffin reported on meetings he attended with Thorn Creek and METRA Representatives relating to reducing traffic flow around the METRA station.

Trustee Roudez reported that Director Childress in out taking students on a College tour.

Trustee Larry Brown reported that thanks to the Public Safety Committee Neighborhood Watch Plaques are completed and included in the Communicate as a tear-out that can be placed in the homes of those individuals interested in participating in working to reduce crime. He stated that this is the first project that Public Safety has completed in twelve years.

Committee & Commission Reports – continued:

Trustee Payton reported that the HSSEC would be meeting Saturday April 14th and that they are working with Sub-committees to bring interesting programs to the Village including the first annual Job Fair on April 20, 2012 at #90 Town Center Drive and gave procedures for that event, and a schedule of events planned for the year. He expounded on the Village Wide Block Party and Yard Sale, and asked elected officials to become Chairs for their area Block Party. The event will be held June 9th & 10th. He also reported that the Police and Fire Departments have been asked to coordinate the parade for the annual Family Fling.

Trustee Williams reported that she received a call and letter from Mrs. Griffin relating to rise in crime related to “3B” gang that is posted on trees in the Pin Oak area, and asked Chief Davis if he was aware of the gang and their activities. She read a letter from Mrs. Griffin.

Chief Davis responded that the police department is aware of the activity, and that they are addressing the issue. He noted that these are gang want-a-be. However, he knows that sometimes persons see crimes being committed and do not call police. He urged residents that when they see something, that they say something.

Trustee Griffin commented on kids of school age out in the streets during school hours and suggested that Chief Davis contact the school district and report these kids to Truant Officers.

Trustee Oscar Brown reported that Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. and SSAC would be hosting a symbolic ground breaking of the third airport on April 21, 2012 at 5710 W. Eagle Lake Road in Peotone, Illinois beginning at 9:00 a.m. and urged residents to come out, bring a shovel and show that we want economic development, and to bring pressure on Governor to release the land so construction can begin on the third airport. He noted those officials who have been invited to this event.

Manager Linear reported on the procedures for hiring employees and stated that he does not want anyone to think that he does not want to hire University Park residents as employees. However, his charge is to provide Village with the best qualified individuals for an effective team, and that hiring unqualified applicants would be counterproductive, because we are part of a global community that sometimes must reach out beyond its immediate boundaries for these qualified individuals.

Mayor Covington reported that she is planning a Town Hall meeting in the near future, and asked residents to let her know what their concerns are, and that she has been in contact with Tom Dart of Cook County and the Will County Sheriff relating to bringing Officers into the Village to assist with our crime issue.

E-4: Reports Of Other Officers

Public Works Director Townsend reported on the progress of the fence installation along Fairway Estates and the public works building, and the installation of lighted bus shelters by PACE, and that they are looking to add two more shelters. One on Cicero, and one at Fairway Estates.

Mayor Covington commented that the Village will receive nine hundred dollars per shelter from advertisement, and asked Mr. Townsend if the Village could have the shelters that are being removed.

IT Director Bolton reported on his negotiation for copier for the village, and stated that the company he recommended guaranteed us a savings of \$26,000.00. This also included two free printers from the company and free maintenance.

Mayor Covington suggested that Mr. Bolton look into the Focus Program.

Finance Director Gibson reported that the regular meeting of the finance committee has been rescheduled, and that a joint workshop of the Board and finance committee would be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Village Treasurer Dilworth reported that while he had no Treasurer's report, he commended Mayor Covington for the work that she is doing in getting work finished that was not be attended to by MB Financial in the Fairway Estates.

F. DISCUSSION AGENDA

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None on the agenda.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second, And Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of an intergovernmental agreement Between The Village of University Park, Village of Monee and Will County for the engineering services and construction of traffic signals at the intersections of Manhattan-Monee Road & Egyptian Trail/Central Avenue in the County of Will

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves first, second and third readings of this ordinance.

Roll Call on F-2a:

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2012-12.

F-2b: First, Second, and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of an intergovernmental agreement Between The Village of University Park And South Suburban Mayors & Managers For Participation In PRISIM (Professional Range Instruction Simulator

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves first, second and third readings of this ordinance.

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2012-13.

F-2c: First, Second, and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of A Value Lease Agreement Between The Village Of University Park and U. S. Bank for Lease Of Computer Equipment.

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves first, second, and third readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Payton stated that he would like to see competitive bids or quotes.

Director Bolton stated that he did have other quotes, but choose to go with this company because of the massive savings or rebates of more than twenty six thousand dollars.

Motion To Amend Main Motion:

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend this to first reading only tonight.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if there is a time constraint on this item, and if delaying it would cause an adverse effect on the functions of the village finance department.

F-2c - continued:

Mayor Covington commented that she wants to move forward, and there are financial advantages in going with this company.

Trustee Roudez stated that he does not want Attorney Tomic to sit on the podium next to, and advise the Mayor on how she should vote on agenda items.

Attorney Tomic responded that he has the right to set where the Mayor wants; that he is the parliamentarian and legal counsel. However, he does not tell the Mayor how to vote.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves first reading of this ordinance.

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

Motion To Approve First Reading Carried.

F-2d: First, Second, and Third Readings – Ordinance Amending Chapter 210 Of The Administration Code Entitled “Board Of Trustee” Specifically, Section 210-02(d), Special Rule Four, To Allow For Public Participation During The Period Of The Board Meeting Set Aside For Public Comment

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion that the Board approves first, second and third readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Roudez voiced his concerns that these changes would strip residents of their rights to participate and speak on items that would affect them, while the item is being debated, and asked why this Board would want to do that. He also stated that the Mayor can always stop comments at any time.

F-2d: continued:

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that basically he feels same as Trustee Roudez; that he feels that public comments sometimes help them to make decisions they otherwise would not have considered, and he gave examples of when public comments changes his thinking and his, and others votes on issues of importance. He stated that he would not support these changes and asked that the Board stand with him and vote this ordinance down.

Trustee Payton commented that he does not know of any other Body that allows public comments during agenda items, not Congress or the Senate. This is a business meeting to be held by the elected officials, and he would not like to see anyone cut off during their comments if the debate becomes abusive, and he plans to vote in favor of this ordinance.

Mayor Covington asked Clerk Jones to comment on this matter. Clerk Dee Jones commented that statutorily the public must be allowed to speak at Board meetings; however, State Statue gives the municipality wide latitude in setting procedures and guidelines on when and how those comments are allowed. Therefore she has suggested that the Board set guidelines to allow for public comments.

Mayor Covington commented that she too knows of any other place where public comments are allowed during debate; that at the School Board meetings those wishing to be heard must arrive at the meetings thirty minutes early and write down their comments.

Trustee Roudez commented that he is fine with public comments during that portion of the agenda that allows for general public comments, but action by the Board has already been taken; therefore those comments bear no weight.

Trustee Oscar Brown again agreed with Trustee Roudez, and stated that this is a democracy and input from the residents is important. He read Standing Rules 4 and 5, and stated that these are two separate items.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that the thinks public comments should be moved back to the beginning of the agenda, and that would allow the public to comment on items on the agenda prior to Board discussion.

Mayor Covington stated that she would move public comments back to the beginning of the agenda as it was previously.

Mr. Robert Travis commented that he agrees with Trustees Oscar Brown and Roudez; however, in order for the public to comment at the beginning of the meeting, they would need information, and that information is not available prior to the meeting.

Mayor Covington commented that Mr. Travis should be able to obtain a copy of the agenda items at Village Hall prior to the meetings

Mr. James Bell commented that most of these changes are because of comments he made two Board meetings ago; he asked the Board not to play loose with the residents. He read from Chapter 210 of the Codified Ordinance and stated that he disagreed with Trustee Payton, because other Bodies allow for public comments during debate of items of concern, and he cautioned the Board that it appears that they are concerned with attempts to minimize participation of the residents who they are elected to represent.

Mayor Covington stated that we should respect each other and stop the staged dog and pony shows.

Mr. James Bell responded that his comments are not staged, and this is not a dog and pony shows.

Motion To Amend Ordinance

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

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

Motion To Table Carried.

F-2e: First Reading – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of A Lease Agreement With Kenneth Kidd, Individually and D/B/A/ KDK Decorators For The Operation Of A Contractor/Real Estate Office In Space No. 8 In The University Park Town Center Building

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves first reading of this ordinance.

Manager Linear asked the Board to consider a table of this item to correct Scribner errors, and to allow Mr. Kidd to appear before the Board.

Motion To Amend Ordinance

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to table this item.

F-2e: - continued:

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

Motion To Table Carried.

F-2f: Resolution – Committing Local Funds (In-Kind) CDBG Disaster Recovery IKE Planning Program (PLP Grant)

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves this resolution.

Mayor Covington commented that for two years Trustee Larry Brown wanted to get this type of grant in place, and now we are filing in time.

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Resolution Number R2012-11.

F-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 has incurred for the last two (2) weeks from March 28, 2012 to April 10, 2012. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 255,170.20
Road & Bridge	\$ 11,386.83
Towncenter Operations	\$ 939.79
University Golf Club	\$ 39,837.35
Capital Project Fund	\$ 7,272.43
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$ 15,600.00
TIF II - Industrial Park Fund	\$ 60.00
TIF III – Cicero Industrial Fund	<u>\$ 300,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 630,266.60

Trustee Griffin referred to check number 76358 (Joshua Kim, Inc.) and asked if this is the final payment for that Vendor, and noted that the \$300,000.00 payment listed on the bills total was not on the check register and asked for clarity.

Finance Director Gibson responded that she would check to see if this is the final payment to Joshua Kim, Inc and report back to Trustee Griffin. Relating to the \$300,000.00 payment she stated that the check was manually cut, and was not listed on the register.

Trustee Roudez referred to check number 76395 (HSSEC) and asked if they have a Petty Cash fund.

Manager Linear responded that there is a \$500.00 Increment funds to allow for purchases for special events.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Eric Hurst commented that the Village is not hiring Village residents but is hiring people from outside the Village, and that personally he feels that there is favoritism in the hiring process. Mayor Covington asked him for specifics, and he responded that outside employees are being hired in Public Works.

Mr. James Bell addressed the Mayor and Board and read a letter of complaint from Trustee Williams into the record. That letter is attached at the end of the minutes, and made part of the official minutes

Mr. Bell stated that while he did not witness the events referred in the letter, but believes that there was contact with Trustee Williams that made her feel inappropriate, and that he feels that Attorney Tomic should have apologized immediately. He further stated that the attorney represents the entire Village, and if he is lobbying Trustees to vote a certain way, that is wrong.

Mr. James Jenkins commented that he has attended meetings since 2002 and found the meeting today upsetting, with no formality, and stated that when we talk about honesty and integrity it should begin with the Board. He referred to Trustee Roudez and stated that he should pay rent on the space he used for his campaign. However, he is beginning to see positive gains and commends the Board for that and stated that he wants to see a more unified Board.

Mr. Andre' Covington commented that he has listened to the disrespect for his wife the Mayor and stated that she is the best thing that has happened to this Village in the last twelve years. That she is a friend to the Board and Village, but that the last mayor was not a friend to anyone. He referred to Trustee Williams and stated that he will not allow her to slander his wife's name, and asked her why she did not submit the letter that was read to the Mayor and Board. He also asked Board members to explain why they were on the Board of Trustees, and that one day he hopes they can see what a dedicated Mayor that they have.

Mr. Zack Cameron congratulated Mayor Covington for being on the right road, and congratulated the Police Department for the strives that they have made.

H. BOARD CAUCUS/RESPONSES TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Mayor Covington suspended the meeting from 9:00 to 9:10 pm to allow the Board an opportunity to caucus. The Board returned and the following responses were given to general public comments.

Trustee Williams responded to Mr. Covington stating that she gave the letter to the individuals that it was addressed to and a couple of others, and she does not know why Mr. Bell read it to the public; that she never disrespects the Mayor, however the Mayor accused her of disrespect because they invited the sitting Congressman to come to the Village after he was not allowed to do so by the Mayor.

Mayor Covington stated that she had been in communication with Congressman Jackson and that recently he hugged her and invited her to lunch.

Attorney Tomic stated that if he inadvertently touched Trustee Williams he apologizes, because it was unintentional.

Mayor Covington addressed Mr. Travis relating to his obtaining complete agenda packets prior to the meeting and noted that she misspoke, and asked Clerk Jones to respond further to Mr. Travis.

Village Clerk Dee Jones responded to the concern of Mr. Travis and noted that as stated in previous meetings, complete agenda packets are not available to the public until after the items have been presented to the Board at a public meeting. Therefore, he could not get a copy prior to the Board meetings.

Manager Linear responded to Mr. Hurst relating to hiring practices in the public works department and stated that he hired one highly qualified employee, and that the job was posted for three months before the position was filled.

April 10, 2012

To: Mel Davis, Vivian Covington and Lafayette Linear

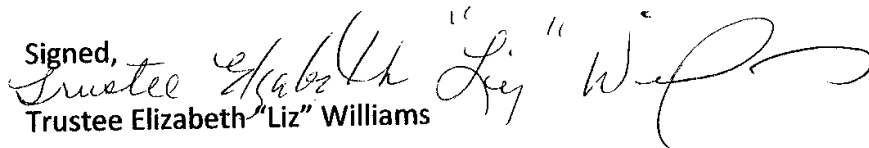
I am writing this letter after much reflection and thought as to how I have been violated by our village attorney at the Board Meeting dated 03/27/2012. After being thrown into the wall due to the anger that the attorney was harboring for our vote to make things right by having the board vote on the up and coming changes to the developments of the builders project as there is not island in University Park or at least there shouldn't be.

I, with my own eyes saw this attorney lobbying for votes from officials. I with my own ears heard this attorney tell these trustees and the Mayor to vote no and this attorney saw me witness this activity. I feel this is a personal threat to my safety. If I am not voting with this attorney that physical harm can and will come to me as it did.

I, would like for this to be very clear, NO ONE IS TO TOUCH ME INAPPROPRIATELY I will not stand for this. I have been violated, disrespected and made spectacle of as a person... as a woman... and... as a Trustee. I do not appreciate this one bit!!

I AM HERE FOR THE PEOPLE for anyone to make personal my voting issues simply is not necessary. I keep thinking about this over and over I cannot put it out of my mind. For someone to deliberately push me sending me into a wall and run and sit by the Mayor who is the village Leader; and, for her to watch and laugh as if it were amusing while hearing a Trustee in distress say "You saw that! He pushed me into the wall!!" and to further laugh and the only response "Oh he didn't mean it" and to laugh again only humiliated and embarrassed me further and validated his actions.

Consider this written notice that this incident occurred and I will not allow another one in the like to simply pass.

Signed,
Trustee Elizabeth "Liz" Williams


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I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 10:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk*