

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, August 27, 2013 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 7:04 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 Linear, Village Attorney Steward Diamond, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Interim Police Chief Darryl Stroud, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Finance Director Joe Jones, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Paul Blockoms, Public Works Director Ross Burgess, 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. READING OF MINUTES

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of a regular meeting held July 23, 2013.

Mayor Covington noted a correction on page 2, under her report that read "funding for a grant for summer youth jobs was from South Suburban Mayors And Managers" should read "Southland Regional Mayors Black Caucus".

Reading Of The Minutes Continued:

Trustee Payton referred to item G2-a: relating to An Agreement Extension With Homewood Disposal Service Inc. and stated that since this was the Mayor's item he does not feel she would have concurred with the actions of the Board, but would have voted in favor of the legislation. However, a review of that meeting indicated that the Mayor, although she disagreed with the actions of the Board, did concur at roll call.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Williams.

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of The Board.

Motion To Approve Carried.

E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

E-1: Village Manager's Report

Village Manager Linear reported due to the length of the agenda, he had no report.

Trustee Larry Brown asked Manager Linear for a status report on the title search for the owners of the Cityscape property.

Village Attorney Diamond responded that is soon as he gets the information needed he will begin the title search.

Mayor Covington voiced her concern with the policy that rental units or inspected prior to occupancy; she asked if there was a permanent location for a cooling center doing this hot weather; she also asked for an updated status on the SB Freidman project, and the status of the Employee Policy Manual revisions.

Manager Linear responded to Mayor Covington's concerns and noted that inspections and fees are dictated by ordinance; that the lobby of the Police Department is the designated cooling center, however, if that becomes overcrowded number 70 or 90 Town Center Drive could be used. Relating to the SB Freidman project, Manager Linear stated that he had supplied the entire Board with that information, and referring to the employee policy manual he stated that earlier today he met with insurance representatives and would be moving forward with recommended revisions.

Trustee Griffin voiced his concern with Davis Staffing cost, and asked the status of savings to the Village, and that he wants this service to go out for bids in the future.

Village Manager Linear responded that currently he is looking at alternatives for next year.

E -2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported that she is working on new grants for the Village, and additional information is forthcoming; she thanked Mr. and Mrs. Wayne of EY Company for their efforts to service the female veterans in their transition from active military to professional working class with professional clothing; South Shore Bank is interested in opening a branch in University Park. However, they want more information before committing. She noted that Family Dollar store would have a Grand Opening/Ribbon-Cutting on August 29, 2013.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee Payton asked Mr. Robert Travis to give a report on the recently held Back To School carnival and festivities.

Mr. Robert Travis thanked the Village Board, Police Department, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department, Golf Course, committee members and volunteers for their assistance in making this event such a success.

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress presented framed photos that were taken at the Back To School carnival and festivities of the Mayor, Board of Trustees, and Clerk to them.

Trustee Payton thanked all of those who participated in the Back To School Carnival and festivities, with special thanks To Crete Monee Marching Band. He also noted that the 1st meeting of The Education Advisory Committee was held last week and they have several interesting topics that will be on upcoming agendas. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2013 at 7:30 PM, and at that meeting they will be working on it to enhance the educational culture within the Village of University.

Mayor Covington reported that a resident had asked her if there could be tutors as part of this educational advisory committee functions.

Trustee Payton responded that they have volunteers who are willing to tutor once the Kid's Health Center is completed.

Trustee Williams reported that the GED classes would be starting soon and would be held during evening hours.

E-4: Reports of Other Officers

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress reported that tomorrow is Senior Fun Day here at 90 Town Center, and transportation would be available to and from Thornwood House. She asked those needing a ride to contact Her office.

Reports of Other Officer -continued:

Interim Police Chief Stroud thanked parents who brought their children out and participated with them at the Carnival and Back To School festivities; he extended thanks to those residents who reached out to the police department, and for working with the Police Department by reporting burglaries and suspicious activities. He noted that due to the reporting by residents it allowed Sergeant Glowinski and his team to capture the burglars. He also informed the Mayor and the Board that he has been able to obtain free training for officers who attend the Police Training Institute, and that he has been nominated as President of a Regional Police Training Board.. He thanked the Board and Department Heads for working with Commander Wilson during his absence.

Trustee Larry Brown reported on the disposition of 3 individuals who were arrested and charged with a residential burglary on Gordon Terrace. He noted that each of the individual were sentenced to 23 years in prison, and he thanked our Police Department for their efforts in solving this case

Mayor Covington asked Interim Chief Stroud if he is working on having the firing range as a revenue generator.

E-5: Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Stewart Diamond asked the Board to move item 2a: down on the agenda for consideration after executive session.

Motion To Amend Agenda Placement

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the agenda placement and move items G-2a: down on the agenda after executive session.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of The Board.

Motion To Approve Carried.

E-6: Department Updates

None

F. GENERAL PUBLIC

Attorney Diamond reminded the public of the 30 minutes maximum allowed for public comments, and asked that they be mindful of the time limit.

Mayor Covington introduced Mr. Craig Blanchette, Vice President Of Operations of Aqua Illinois Water Company.

Mr. Craig Blanchette gave a presentation on the filing of Aqua Illinois Water Company's to the Illinois Commerce Commission Petition For A Certificate Of Public Convenience and Necessary To Construct, Operate And Maintain A Water Distribution System and a Wastewater Collection System in areas of Kankakee and Will Counties, Illinois. He expounded on the quest of Aqua to bring softer water to University Park, and stated that they completed the study in May, 2013 and filed a certificate with the ICC, and noted that August 16, 2013 is the deadline for filing objections to that petition; he also stated that the Villages of Monee, Peotone, and Wilmington had filed objections to Aqua's petition to bring softer water to the Village of University Park. He noted some of the reasons given by the Village of Monee which included that this project would interfere with their plans to expand their service area. The Hearing Judge at the ICC extended the deadline to September 16, 2013 for a ruling on Peotone's objection.

Mr. Blanchette asked the residents of University Park to contact the ICC in support of Aqua's petition for this certificate, noting that for years residents in University Park and Village officials have reiterated their request in several forums voiced their dissatisfaction with the aesthetics of the water here in University Park and this is their attempt, as they determined the most feasible and cost-effective means to provide softer water to this area is to transmit softened filtered water from the Kankakee River North 2 University Park in an expanded area adjacent to University Park and, within the area to construct water transmission facilities to transport Kankakee River supply from Aqua's facility in Manteno Illinois to its facilities in University Park. The Certificate would also allow Aqua to meet, as necessary, the water service demands likely to result from anticipated population growth in the University Park service area and areas adjacent to the new water transmission facilities.

Mayor Covington asked Mr. Blanchette if Aqua would be receptive of addressing the residents prior to the September deadline in an open house forum so that they could better understand what this project actually entails.

There were comments from the audience relating to possible increased costs for water and sewer being passed on to the residents for the expansion of Aqua system; and questions relating to reasons why for so many years the Village had to suffer with this type of water supply.

Mr. Blanchette responded that they were in the process of distributing flyers to residents in University Park with detailed information on this project; however, he wanted the residents to be assured that without the approval of the Certificate from ICC they could not begin construction or moving pipeline, and until that phase is completed they could not address with certainty any cost for the project.

Trustee Payton commented that this is important to the future of this community and having softer water, however, he feels that the information being disseminated to the residents should be more reader friendly, such as bullet points of what residents need to include in their comments to the ICC. He further stated that Village staff should be able to get the flyers out to each household by this weekend.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked for a copy of the study that was submitted to the ICC from Aqua Water Company, and asked if there would be adequate capacity of water from the Kankakee River. He also asked if the Village Of University Park could request a public hearing on this matter before the ICC.

Mr. Craig Blanchette responded that this information is available on the ICC website is docket number 13 – 0246.

Trustee Griffin voiced his concerns with the possible rate increase; and asked Mr. Blanchette if Aqua is successful in obtaining this Certificate could they guarantee that they would not raise the rates for residents in University Park.

Mr. Blanchette responded that when the time comes to build the pipeline rates and investments would be debated. However, there would be no rate increase before a hearing before the ICC on that matter.

Trustee Griffin responded that he felt the attitude and the answers given by Mr. Blanchette were condescending and disrespectful.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that he did not feel that Mr. Blanchette was condescending and he gave a brief history of water conditions in years past here in this Village and stated that we need to immediately began notifying residents of the advantages of softer more and how they can help to facilitate this matter by contacting the ICC with their approval for the project.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that he agrees with that this is bigger than University Park and that he would like to see us become business partners to address the capacity and look to the State And Federal Government for funding to expand the capacity; he stated that this is a good thing that we could all look into and support, and this is the 1st step in starting the process and afterwards we can look at rates: however, we will now look to our state officials for assistance.

Trustee Payton asked Mr. Blanchette if they had reached out to Governors State University for assistance in this process, because they have a voice with the State. He also stated that we need to play the race card, because we are a minority community and the objections are coming from other non-minority communities.

Mr. Blanchette responded that as of this date they had not reached out to Governors State University.

Village Manager Linear commented that we need to act with a sense of urgency; tweak the flyers from Aqua to include comments from the Board, and stated that he would work with Aqua to reach out to GSU and to mobilize the residents.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan asked to know the reason why the objecting communities are against softer water in University Park.

Mr. Blanchette responded that he does not have reasons but that the Village Of Peotone stated this move is unnecessary; Monee has suggested that they have a boundary agreement with University Park, and Wilmington, that is 36 miles away really gave no valid reason

Ms. Laverne Williams commented that it is difficult to access the ICC website, however she feels that the 3 communities opposing this is because if it gets approval it would prevent University Park from being serviced by them. She asked to know the benefits for University Park residents if they contacted the ICC in support of Aqua's petition.

Mr. Robert Travis asked to know how Aqua plans to build the pipelines to get the water from the Kankakee River through these other communities into University Park.

Mr. Blanchette responded that they would contact the land owners for permission to construct through their properties.

Ms. Patti Guinn commented that she notices that Aqua flushes the water hydrants in other communities but never see flashing in University Park. Mr. Blanchette responded that flushing is done at least once a year.

Attorney Diamond commented that Aqua can begin construction without this certificate, and asked if there is anything in this report to indicate potential costs to University Park residents, because Aqua is asking for an extended growth areas. He also asked if Aqua is considering reducing the area in the request from opposing communities prevail.

Mr. Martin Alexander thanked Trustee Williams for allowing him to pour concrete in her area, and stated that as a result of that job he was able to employ University Park residents to assist him. He also asked what University Park could do to get our own water system in garbage collection.

Mr. Robert Travis commented that 3 years ago there were plans to build a new Village Hall and Cable Studio in the Town Center. However, to date that has not been done and that they are several vacant units in the Town Center Property. He further stated that he would develop plans to assist in moving the project forward. He also asked the status of a Bulletin Board that he had requested be placed outside of Village Hall where notices and information could be posted for the public.

G-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G-1a: Second and Third Readings - Ordinance Approving The Lowest Responsible Proposal For The Lease Of A Vehicle For The Code Enforcement Department

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

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion to Approve Carried Ordinance Number O 2013 – 31.

G-1b: First, Second and Third Readings – An Ordinance Amending Section 220-05, Duties Re Officers And Departments, And Section 271-02, Modification Of State Statutes, Of The Codified Ordinances Regarding The Appointment And Removal Of The Police Chief, Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs In The Police And Fire Departments And Commanders In The Police Department

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin 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.

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion to Approve Carried Ordinance Number O 2013 – 32.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, and Larry Brown
Nays: Trustees Griffin and Roudez.
Absent: None.
Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion to table Carried.

G – 2-d: Resolution Accepting The Lowest Responsible Bid For The Hickok Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Over Deer Creek

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

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, , Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion to Approve Carried Resolution Number R 2013 – 21.

G-2e: Resolution Celebrating And Honoring The Life And Memory Of Scott A. "Doc" Freeman, Jr.

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

The resolution was read by Village Clerk Dee Jones.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, , Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion to Approve Carried Resolution Number R 2013 – 22.

G-2f: 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 as incurred for the last three (3) weeks from August 14, 2013 to August 27, 2013. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

Bills Payable-continued:

General Operation Fund	\$175,940.77
Road & Bridge Fund	\$1464.20
Town Center	\$5135.73
Golf Course Fund	\$1415.81
Capital Project Fund	<u>\$1755.00</u>
Total	<u>\$\$185,711.51</u>

Trustee Roudez referred to check number 88309 to an auto body shop and requested corrected.

Village Manager Linear responded that there was one fender bender with the Mayor's vehicle and one fender bender with a police vehicle.

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

Nays: Trustee Griffin.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Trustee Williams.

Mayor Covington concurred with the action of the Board.

Motion To Approve Carried.

H. BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGER COMMENTS

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board move into executive session for purposes of collective at 9:20 PM.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion To Approve Carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 10:40 PM and took the following action:

G-2a: First Reading – Ordinance Ratifying A Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And The Illinois Fraternal Order Of Police Labor Council

Trustee moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves 1st reading of this ordinance..

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

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion To Approve Carried.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 10:45 PM.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/drj