

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, September 10, 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 7:03 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	Absent (arrived at 7:04 PM)

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, Cable Studio Manager Eddie Pearson, 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 Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of a regular meeting held August 13, 2013.

Mayor Covington referred to page 4; paragraph 8, and stated that her intent was to say that she would like to see funds received from the bus shelters go to pay a part time bus driver instead of A Part Time Human Resources Director. She also noted some grammatical errors in the minutes.

Reading Of The Minutes Continued:

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

E-1a: Elected Officials Report

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that she had received a letter and a phone call from Will County Clerk Nancy Voots informing her that in an effort for them to cut costs for election services they would be combining some early voting election sites, and that University Park would no longer be used as an early voting site. She stated that residents in Monee Township could vote early at Monee Village Hall, and residents in Crete Township could vote at Crete Village Hall. Clerk Jones voiced her disappointment in the decision of The Will County Clerk and stated that she feels that this could disenfranchise our residents that could result in low voter turnout at the polls.

Clerk Jones also commented on the Stop The Violence Initiative-20/20 Vision For Jacob event that was held At University Golf Club this past Saturday, and stated that she was asked to accept a plaque from the founders of the event on behalf of The Village Of University Park thanking them for their support in this endeavor. She passed the plaque to the Board and the Mayor.

E-1b: Village Manager's Report

Village Manager Linear reported the position for a Restaurant Manager at the Golf Club had been filled and that Mr. James McCullen was on Board, and that they are still working to fill the position for Community Relations Director, Finance Accountant and Chief Of Police. He also reported that he has been in communications with the new auditors who indicated that work on the 2009 audits should begin September 26 and 27, 2013.

Mayor Covington stated that she wants a face-to-face with the auditors and the Village Board, and expect them to be able to give a status report on the finances of the Village.

Village Manager Linear responded that he would do that and that he would also have the financial quarterly report available in October; however, he does not feel that the auditors would have anything to report this early in the process.

Trustee Williams asked if tenants in the Town Center properties were paying rent as they are supposed to, and if not why are they allowed to stay? She posed a question to Village Treasurer Dilworth, and asked him if he had gotten the information he requested from the Finance Director and Village Manager.

Trustee Williams also commented on the lack of a quorum for meetings of the Golf Club Advisory Committee and asked Manager Linear if he was going to be a member, or if he would be resigning as he once stated he would; this would allow the appointment of interested members to that committee.

Responded to Trustee Williams comments, Village Manager Linear stated that most of the tenants are paying rent and that he has a spreadsheet that would show the activity today, some of those not paying rent or in the court process for eviction; others in violation of their rental agreements are being reviewed and will be addressed on an individual basis. Relating to his resigning from the Golf Club Advisory Committee, Mr. Linear stated that if it is in the best interest of the residents, and allow a space on the committee to guarantee a quorum, if this is the request of that committee he would resign.

Village Treasurer Dilworth responded to Trustee Williams, and stated that he had not gotten the online statement from the Finance Director or the Manager nor had he received the completed Treasurers Report.

Finance Director Jones responded that he had not been asked for an online bank statement; however there would be no problem in getting the information to the Treasurer.

Village Manager Linear responded to Treasurer Dilworth relating to the treasurers report and noted that it is the responsibility of the Village Treasurer to prepare that report; however, staff has always assisted in the compilation and preparing the report.

Trustee Payton asked Manager Linear to expound on Aqua's requests for certification support, and stated that he has the concern with the timing and the urgency in getting this information out to village residents, because he does not want us to miss an opportunity to bring better and softer water to this village.

Village Attorney Diamond explained the communication that he had received in reference to Aqua's filing of their petition and stated that he feels there is an anticipated cost to residents for areas in this petition requests that would not serve the Village of University Park; however after September 16, 2013 the ICC will file its report, and that he would recommend that after the Village refuse that report and determine that the certification area is appropriate then he will address the issue at that point. He further commented that he feels the area covered in the petition request covers an area much larger than what is needed to bring better quality water to University Park residents, but he does suggest residential support of a petition that brings better water and benefits to this village.

Village Manager Linear commented that Aqua delivered to the village for distribution to village residents approximately 3000 flyers that are in the process of being distributed, and that he too would like to see the village intervene, however, he does have some concerns on future cost for residents.

Mayor Covington voiced her concerns that by October 9, 2013 when the ICC renders its decision that the village could incur additional cost of making the mistake of not getting on board with Aqua now, and asked what are the benefits to village residents to support this petition.

Attorney Diamond commented that he feels this item should probably be on the next Board agenda.

Trustee Griffin commented that he does not like the fact that Aqua waited so long before coming to the Board and residents asking for support. He also asked to know the benefits that the village would get if they supported Aqua's petition.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that he had review the petition that Aqua had filed with the ICC and he understands why they want certain territories; he stated he has some concerns and would like to discuss this item in executive session tonight, however he does support better and softer water, but feel we should move cautiously through this process.

Trustee Larry Brown asked for status on the Cityscape Property, noting his concern with the safety and was patrolman in that area.

Village Manager Linear responded that that information had been given to Attorney Diamond and wants the PIN numbers identified they will begin the search for the owners of record.

Trustee Griffin commented that residents have been inquiring about, and they would like to see a rendering of the new proposals Hickok Bridge; he also asked if PK Catering is doing concession at the games.

Public Works Director Ross responded that he would email a rendering of the Hickok Bridge tomorrow. Parks And Recreation's Director Keely Childress responded that the Parks And Recreation's Department did not select the vendor; however, The Leagues Of Will and Cook collaborated with private vendors to do the concession and PK was their choice.

Mayor Covington voiced her concern with the lack of information on the status of this village being shared with her and the Board, and that she wants the Village Manager to tour the village on a weekly basis and report back to the Board.

Village Treasurer Dilworth stated that the Treasurer's report for the last 2 years has been prepared by the finance director and that he as Treasurer reviews it, and signs off. That he works for the Mayor and Village Board, and does not work for, or report to the Village Manager.

Village Manager Linear responded that the village ordinance that Mr. Dilworth had input calls for the Village Treasurer to compile that report.

E - 2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported 2nd Congressional District Congresswoman Robin Kelly would be at 1st Baptist church in University Park on September 16, 2013 to speak on the Affordable Healthcare Act; that she appeared on the panel at GSU relating to the dangers of Texting While Driving; she congratulated and thanked members of the Senior Citizens Committee for such a fantastic Senior Fun Day. She also reported on meeting she has attended relating to the Iliana Tollway, stating that we need to get on board and support this project. She also noted that the I 57 interchange is moving on schedule, and that she appeared earlier today on Channel 9 for an interview.

Trustee Roudez asked Mayor Covington the status of her fingerprinting for the video gaming.

Mayor Covington responded that her fingerprints were already on file, and that she was told that she does not need to be re-fingerprinted; however, she feels that the village manager should be a part of this gaming board.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Parks And Recreation Director Keely Childress reported that she had set up meetings with 3 play ground companies in an effort to obtain quotes for the play ground And Fairway Estates.

Senior Citizen Committee Chair Debbie Stroud addressed and thanked the Mayor and Board of Trustees for their support of another fantastic senior fun day; she thanked all of the seniors who prepared such delicious dishes and thanked all of the contributors and the participants.

Human Services And Special Events Chair Robert Travis reported on the next 3 upcoming events being sponsored by HSSEC which would include: a coat drive on December 7, 2013; Thanksgiving giveaway on November 21, 2013, and the tree lighting on December 14, 2013. He also asked if the HSSEC would once again be receiving the \$10,000 donation, and stated that he would like to see the funds donated from Comcast go toward cable studio needs.

Mayor Covington responded that 8 years ago an anonymous contributor from the industrial Park began giving \$10,000 a year to her committee HSSEC, and stated that the funds were not to go into the general fund but to be used only for human services and special events.

Trustee Payton appeal to the viewing audience and residents that HSSEC is asking for donations of new or gently used coats or monetary contributions for the annual coat drive. He also reported that the Educational Advisory Committee at its 2nd meeting and that at their next meeting they are looking at goals and objectives. He also announced that the finance committee would not meet on the 3rd Monday of this month but would meet on September 23, 2013.

E-4: Reports of Other Officers

None noted.

E-5: Attorney's Report

No report at this time..

E-6: Department Updates

None

F. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attorney Diamond reminded the public of the 30 minutes maximum allowed for public comments, and asked that they be mindful of the time limit. However, anyone who has signed in and not allowed to speak tonight would be 1st on the list for comments at the next meeting.

Ms. Laverne Williams asked if the village would be having a seminar on Aqua's request for support from the village residents and their petition filed with the ICC; she also reported That the American Planning Association has identified 2 grants for University Park to help write A Comprehensive Plan, and she asked to know whose responsibility is it to prepare the Treasurer's report.

Responding to Ms. Williams, Attorney Diamond stated that the item relating to Aqua would probably be the agenda of September 24, 2013; however, the Board has made no decision at this point.

Finance Director Joe Jones responded that he was told that the Treasurer prepares the Treasurer's report; however, he realizes that the Treasurer would need help from the finance Department and that he is willing to provide.

Mrs. Marilyn Crockett stated that she had to concerns that she wanted to bring to the attention of the Board which included the condition of the Cityscape Property which is an eyesore and poses a danger to the community. Her other concern is the debris and weeds around the new Family Dollar Store, which does not look like a dollar store in any of the community that she has seen; she asked that the village look into this situation.

Trustee Payton asked If the path from Family Dollar Store to Thornwood House could be paved.

G-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G-1a: Second and Third Readings - Ordinance Ratifying A Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And The Illinois Fraternal Order Of Police Labor Council

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Roudez 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 – 34.

G-1b: First, Second and Third Readings – An Ordinance Amending The Method By Which Persons Are Appointed To Boards And Commissions

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board tables this item.

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 Table Carried.

G-2: NEW BUSINESS

G-2a: *First, Second And Third Readings - Ordinance Authorizing The Parks
And Recreation Department To Purchase A New Scoreboard For
Lions Field At Palmer Park.*

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.

Mayor Covington concurred with the actions of the Board.

Motion to Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O 2013 – 35.

G-2b: *Resolution Adopting A Citizen Participation Plan in support of the
Illinois “IKE” Disaster Recovery Program (IDRP)*

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin 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 –23.

G-2c: *Resolution Adopting Policy Protecting Individuals Engaged In
Nonviolent Civil Rights Demonstrations.*

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin 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 –24.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/drj