

You will you set Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, March 11, 2014 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 7:07 PM.

Village Clerk Dee Jones announced that she had received a request from Trustee Oscar Brown to attend this meeting electronically. Clerk Jones noted for the record that a quorum of the Village Board was physical present.

Mayor Covington asked if there were any objections to allowing Trustee Oscar Brown to attend the meeting electronically. There were no objections noted. Clerk Jones attempted to reach Trustee Oscar Brown by phone, at the number that he provided on his request for electronic attendance; there was no answer to the phone call, and the Clerk was unable to leave a voice message.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Village Manager Linear, Village Attorney Steward Diamond, Police Chief Ed Bradley, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Finance Director Joe Jones, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Pro Paul Blockoms, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Community Relations Manager James Bell, 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

At the request of Village Clerk Jones, Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to table the minutes of February 25, 2014 to the next meeting.

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

Motion To Table Carried.

E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

E-1a: Elected Officials Report

Trustee Liz Williams read a letter from State Representative Anthony DeLucca that listed some of the things that he has done to assist the Village of University Park as our State Representative.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported on the success of the Municipal Clerks Of The South/Southwest suburbs Educational Summit that was held at the Chicago Heights West Country Club on March 6. She noted that presenters were there from the state's attorney's office, the Governor's office, Secretary of State's office, office of governmental affairs, Illinois gaming Board and a representative on conceal and carry. Clerk Jones stated that as President of this organization it is their attempt to bring presenters who will keep the clerks and their communities updated on new laws, trends, and other issues that affect municipalities. She invited the Board and Department heads to join her in April at their next meeting which will be held in Chicago Ridge, and the presenter will be Attorney Adam Lasker from the firm of Ancel Glink, and will be addressing the OMA (Opens Meeting Act) and the FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act).

E-1b: Village Manager's Report

Village Manager Linear reported on the progress on the road project from central to Cicero Avenue, and noted that we have yet to acquire 2 parcels of land that is necessary for that project; however that should be completed very shortly. He also noted that it has been approved by SSMMA to add to the project the area east of the tracks for construction from 2015 to this spring. He also reported that for the upcoming RECON convention in Las Vegas this May a group of communities would be joining together to share a booth and each would contribute \$2000 for this project.

Trustee Roudez referred to a previously approved amnesty for outstanding parking tickets, and asked Manager Linear for a status on that project.

Village Manager Linear responded that the Village Board would need to Set a new time for this to go into effect. By consensus the Board agreed that the time for the amnesty program would be from April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, and that he would contact the collection agency and let them know of the Board's decision.

Trustee Griffin commented on the problems at the Thornwood House Apartment Complex which included for the 3rd time within 2 weeks, and asked Manager Linear to draft a letter within the next few days to Thornwood house management.

Village Manager Linear responded that he is drafting the letter to the management and that he has also directed the Code Enforcement Department to actively pursue the problem an issue notices of violations where appropriate.

E - 2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported on meetings and events that she has attended since her last report, which included a meeting with the South Suburban Black Mayors last week; that IDES and IDOT would be going satellite for most of their service, she reported that she was a part of the search for a new superintendent for the school district. She also commented that there is a need for the doors to be opened in the town center location so that individuals posting the affordable health care are allow entering to assist residents in applying for healthcare coverage.

Mayor Covington voiced her concerns with the lack of participation at local events, and thanked GSU for the Outstanding Leadership Award she received at the Black Women Rock 2nd annual event.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Mr. Robert Travis reported that the Human Services And Special Events Committee had completed their events agenda for the upcoming year and it would include the Job Fair sponsored in conjunction with IDES on April 10, 2014; Men and Women's Health Fair on October 21, 2014, and that they are working on a new Carnival vendor for this year, and the date for the annual parade has been moved to August 2, 2014.

E-4: Reports of Other Officers

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress reported on the upcoming college tours that they would be taking the kids on, and noted that a health fair for kids 8 through 14 years old would began on March 22, 2014. She also reported that she had been informed by the State that they would receive 880 pounds of trout this year for the trout fishing contest and that March 28, 2014 is the deadline to sign up for this event. Ms. Childress also reported that The Parks And Recreation Department would host its 1st "Walk For Cancer Awareness" on April 26, 2014 beginning at the Coretta Scott King Magnet School, and that this event was created by the Junior Peer leaders to bring awareness to those who are living with cancer.

Reports of Other Officers – continued:

Community Relations Manager James Bell thanked Village Clerk Dee Jones for inviting him to attend the Educational Summit Of The Municipal Clerks, and noted that he was amazed at the information gathered at that meeting, especially as it relates to fraud against seniors. He also reported that 1st Baptist Church of University Park is holding “Worship On Wednesday” and affordable healthcare seminars beginning at 6 PM every Wednesday. He also announced the winners of the black history quiz which included 5 winners.

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.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan voiced her concerns that IT Director Deryl Bolton does not attend the Board Of Trustee meetings as is required of the Department heads; she questioned the continued use of Davis Staffing noting that we should look forward to a new company. She also thanked Mr. Bell for the newsletter, and applauded Village Clerk Dee Jones for her service and involvement in this community for so many years.

Mrs. Paula Wilson commented on the desire of Trustee Williams to have an overpass on University Parkway at the railroad crossing and noted that the plan Commission was informed that this would be approximately 30 years in the making; she commented that they would like to see a Police Blotter to inform residents of crime happening in this community, and that she would like to see the Village Board bring back Cook County Sheriff to help deal with the crime in our community.

Mr. Keith Rouse commented on the random crime in our community and noted that a look at the neighborhood crimes throughout the country shows that University Park is 13% safer than any of the other communities surveyed. He also noted that in 2010 The Village Board repealed an agreement with the Cook County Sheriff for assistance and asked that the Board reconsider that decision. He also noted that the Village needs programs to work with kids 18 years and older, and look at bringing a recreation center and a drug prevention program.

Mr. Robert Travis commented that he would like clarity on the letter that Trustee Williams read earlier from State Representative DeLucca, and that he would like to see a workshop relating to Committees and Commissions. He also asked the Board to slow down in its decision-making.

Ms. Annie Ward addressed the Board on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Committee and asked if anyone from the Village had contacted the Village of Park Forest to tap into their water system to bring better water to this community. She also questioned the use of a temporary agency for hiring and the use of Fact Finders to do background checks and stated that we need to hire a Human Resources Director to deal with hiring matters, and asked whether or not we enforce the truancy law.

Village Attorney Diamond responded that it would not be cost-effective to tap into Park Forest because the Village does not own the infrastructure and that Aqua owns all the right to the pipelines.

Mrs. Mary Alexander-Griffin commented on Trustee Griffin's response to a letter written by Mrs. Debra Taylor that she took to Village hall and gave to the clerk at the window and asked that it be placed in the mailbox of each elected official, and was later informed that most of the Board never received this information. To Mayor Covington she stated that she feels that the Mayor's "lack of respect" statements is not due to her being a female, but because of her lack of respect for others, and she asked that the Mayor stop using the language of black men against a black woman. She also thanked Mr. Bell for a readable, informative newsletter.

Mrs. Debra Taylor commented on her letter to the Village Board regarding the discord and disrespect that she viewed at the December 10, 2013 Board meeting stating that the meeting itself was embarrassing.

G-1 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

G-2: NEW BUSINESS

G-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings - Ordinance Determining The Prevailing Rate Of Wages In The Locality Of The Village

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

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

Motion To Approve Carried _ Ordinance Number O 2014 -06.

G-2b: First, Second And Third Readings - Ordinance Correcting A Typographical Error In Ordinance No. O2013-39, "An Ordinance Adopting An Employer's Expense Tax"

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve this ordinance.

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

Motion To Approve Failed.

G-2c: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Readings – Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. O2013-34 Adopted On September 10, 2013 To Correct A Numbering Error

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to table this ordinance.

Village Clerk Jones explained that this ordinance would only make a correction to the ordinance number and not change any portions of the legislation. She emphasized the fact that the same ordinance number was given to 2 different ordinances.

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to rescind his motion to table.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Roll Call On Main Motion

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O 2014 – 07.

G-2d: First Reading - An Ordinance Making Amendments Regarding Advisory Boards And Commissions

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve 1st reading of this ordinance.

Trustee Griffin commented that he wants to leave public works Committee in.

G-2d - continued:

Attorney Diamond explained that there are a number of listed Boards, Committees, and Commissions that have been abolished previously but left in the chapters, and that this legislation would change those and list only those active codified Boards and Commissions and dictate change in duty of personnel for certain events.

Mayor Covington commented that the reason some Committees are not meeting is because her appointments were voted down, and she wants letters to go out to the volunteers letting them know of this action, and she does not feel that department heads and personnel should be doing the work of volunteers.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that he wants a workshop on this matter and that the Board needs to re-energize our Committees and Commissions and let volunteers be a part of this community.

Trustee Roudez commented that this matter was discussed at a Legislative And Operations Committee meeting approximately 3 months ago, and they have received no response or interests from Committee and Commission members.

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

Motion Failed.

G-2e: First Reading - An Ordinance Amending The Village Code Relating To The Plan Commission

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to combine readings and approval of items G-2e and G-2f.

G-2f: First Reading - An Ordinance Amending The Code Of Ordinances By Deleting Chapters From Part 12, Planning And Zoning

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

Motion To Approve 1st Reading Carried.

G – 2G: Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of A Binding Proposal For The Operation Of A Village Post Office At 4 Town Center

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to table and refer this item to the Legislative And Operations Committee.

Mayor Covington stated that she feels that this Postal Service would be something essential for the residents and asked to know why this item was being table.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustees Oscar Brown, and Payton.

Motion To Table And Refer To Committee Carried.

G-2h: 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 two (2) weeks from February 25, 2014 to March 11, 2014.

The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$780,124.21
Town Center	\$5,951.06
Golf Course Fund	\$39,013.34
Motor Fuel Tax	\$30,077.27
Capital Project Fund	<u>\$62,290.04</u>

Total \$917,455.92

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustees Oscar Brown, and Payton.

Motion To Approve Carried.

H. BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGER COMMENTS

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

K. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:04 pm.

Motion to adjourn carried by unanimous voice vote. Trustees Oscar Brown and Payton were absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/drj