

***Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, June 14, 2016 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 7:14 p.m.

***B. ROLL CALL***

|           |                       |                        |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Mayor:    | Vivian E. Covington   | Present                |
| Trustees: | Larry B. Brown        | Present                |
|           | Paula C. Wilson       | Present                |
|           | Milton C. Payton      | Present                |
|           | Keith J. Griffin      | Present                |
|           | Joseph E. Roudez, III | Absent (arrived @8:43) |
|           | Oscar H. Brown, Jr.   | Present                |

Also present were Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend, Attorney Lauren Glennon, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief John Pate, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve minutes of the special meeting held June 7, 2016.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Ayes:   | Trustees Larry Brown, Wilson, Payton, Griffin, Oscar Brown, and Mayor Covington. |
| Nays:   | None   |
| Absent: | Trustee Roudez.  |

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**Approval of Minutes – continued:**

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to approve minutes of the emergency meeting held June 9, 2016.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

***E: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS***

Ms. Deborah Taylor addressed the Board and voiced her concerns with the lack of customer service at Family Dollar; she asked Acting Village Manager Townsend if WUPC Tv 4 would be back on the air soon, and asked for status of the Golf Club. She stated to Police Chief Pate that their Home Owners Association would like to invite him out to address their concerns relating to squatters in their area; she thanked Trustee Griffin for his efforts in assisting them, and asked if there were any plans to get more residents out to the Village Board meetings.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that Family Dollar Store is a privately owned business, and the Village has no control over their employee. Relating to the Cable Studio she stated that it is on the list to come back, however, with the lack of full-time staff volunteers are needed; relating to the Golf Club she stated that there is action on the agenda tonight to address that issue.

Mayor Covington responded that relating to the Cable Studio she wants to turn it over to an all-volunteer run operation as it was done in the past.

Police Chief Pate responded that he is working on a schedule to attend meetings of all community organization.

Ms. Gina Williams thanked the Mayor for attending the softball game and throwing out the first pitch; she thanked Public Works for the grass cutting, and thanked Police Chief Pate for proactively addressing criminal activity; she stated she was glad to see Mr. Larry Wayne operating the video camera, and that she wants to see the Cable Studio up and running. She asked for status of refunds to individuals who had made deposits or paid for membership at the Golf Club; she stated that "We The People" have been illegally putting flyers in mailboxes, and that she wants to see another Town Hall meeting soon.

**General Public Comments Continued:**

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded stating that the Board has been holding strategic planning meetings every Tuesday, and the budget will be addressed next Tuesday, to hopefully shed some light on the financial status. She commented that everyone's cries are being heard and that some of the programs will come back; some will not. She reiterated the fact that the Village is broke. Relating to refunds at the Golf Club, she stated that they have been refunding deposits, and was not aware of any outstanding. She stated that individuals who had not received refunds should contact the Village Hall so that issue could be resolved.

Mrs. Marilyn Crockett addressed the Board and voiced her concerns over several items including whether Hickok Pool and Riegel Farm would re-open; status of the cityscape property which is an eyesore, dangerous, and deteriorates property value; she asked if the Mayor and Board are still receiving their pay, and stated that if we don't have the funds to pay for employee salaries, it does not seem appropriate for them to pay themselves, since the Mayor stated when she was running for re-election that if she was elected she would repeal the ordinance granting raises to elected official. She also asked if there were any plans to bring development along the I-57 Corridor, and if the Village would be selling the golf course.

Mayor Covington responded that she attempted to pass legislation to repeal the raises, but was voted down by the Board.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that the Village is not seeking to sale the golf course; that State Statute does not allow an increase or reduction in salaries of elected officials during their term of office. She explained the process for development along the I-57 Corridor where traffic count influences the process greatly.

Trustee Oscar Brown corrected the statement and Mayor Covington and stated that legislation was passed to repeal the increase of elected officials' salaries beginning with the next term. Relating to Riegel farm he stated that, and expressed the importance of residents coming together on July 30<sup>th</sup> to help restore and rebuild Riegel Farm.

Mrs. Bettie Wayne asked to know why general public comments is on the agenda prior to the agenda items.

Village Clerk Dee Jones responded that at the request of, and complaints by some residents when General Public was on the agenda after legislative items, the agenda was amended to accommodate those individuals. However, residents are allowed to speak on agenda items while those items are being deliberated by the Board.

**General Public Comments Continued:**

Mrs. Gloria Brookins addressed the Board and asked if any ordinance had been passed to address public comments; she stated that the agenda is not on the Village website, and asked the Board what they plan to do to address the financial situation of the Village. She stated that there is a need for a Town Hall Meeting so that the residents can be fully informed of what is going on in our community. She stated that RoBo calls are made to announce other thing, and wonders why they were not made to inform residents of this critical situation. She further stated that the overgrown weeds around Riegel farm has caused allergic reactions for her and her family, and that this is a health and safety issue, and she wants answers and action.

Mayor Covington responded that she had a good meeting were some residents came and others didn't. However, she has spoken with Ms. Townsend about scheduling another Town Hall meeting, and that they are processing video recording of the Board Meetings to be put on YouTube.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that she appreciates the comments from Mrs. Brookins, and had spoken with her relating to the weeds, and that she and Public Works Director Richardson would again reach out to her on Wednesday to address a resolve on this issue. Relating to the financial situation she stated that we cannot fix what is wrong until we know what our fiscal financial condition is, and after June 21 we should begin to know how we can move forward.

Public Works Director Richardson responded to Mrs. Brookins relating to the grass cutting stating that during his tenure The Public Works Department is working as such, with only six people and limited equipment, they also are responsible for grass cutting at the golf club, I-57 corridor, and all of the Village property that that was previously contracted out.

Mayor Covington responded that under her watch things that were wrong were stopped, and stated that we need to come together and make our home with it should be.

Parks and Recreation's Director Childress thanked Public Works Director Richardson for his assistance and reported that around June 27<sup>th</sup> we should be getting some of the animals back temporarily, and she asked residents, the Board and all concerned to come out on July 30<sup>th</sup> to help restore Riegel farm.

Ms. Laverne Williams asked if the ventilation system at the Barn was in place; if the audit will be on the agenda for the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting; status of Project Ocean, and if the three public hearings could be aired on Channel 4.

Trustee Wilson asked if we can post the public hearings on the Comcast Channel.

Ms. Neely asked if the Fairway Estates playground is public or private; she voiced her complaint with the police department, stating that her calls are ignored, and she was treated this disrespect, and she asked if the Village will ever get a grocery store.

**General Public Comments Continued:**

Trustee Wilson responded that the playgrounds in Fairway Estates is sometimes public and sometimes private.

Police Chief Pate responded that he has spoken with Ms. Neely each time she has had complaint and he will evaluate the situation on Wednesday.

***F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

None.

***F-2: NEW BUSINESS***

***F-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings -An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Number O2016 – 05 Chapter 428, Section 428 – 10 (Fines And Bonds) (Commercial And Heavy Vehicles) Of The Village Code For The Village Of University Park, Cook And Will Counties, Illinois***

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve first, second, and third readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Griffin asked to know why the reduction in the fee.

Attorney Glennon responded that to avoid the possibility any future litigation due to the fact that some of our fees are higher than State and Traffic Codes, and there would not be an advantage to prosecute violators.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that we need to adjust and post signs informing the tonnage limits.

Public Works Director Richardson stated that new sign have been put at the entrances to the Village.

Police Chief Pate stated that the tonnage differs from I-57 to Governors Highway, and we do not have specific sworn officers for truck weight enforcement, however, with this amendment any sworn officer can write tickets.

Ayes: Trustees Larry Brown, Wilson, Payton, Griffin, Roudez, Oscar Brown and Mayor Covington.

Nays: None

Absent: None.

***Motion To Approve Carried***

***Ordinance Number O2016-14.***

**F-2b: Resolution of the Village of University Park, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing The Execution Of a Qualified Management Agreement With Billy Casper Golf, LLC, For The University Golf Club & Conference Center**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve this resolution.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that due to the amount of the allowed contract price being out of line with our established ordinance, he would like to amend this resolution.

**Motion to Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to amend this resolution as follows: Strike and Replace from section 3.1 (b) of the Qualified Management Agreement the words Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and replace with Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00); and the same for section 3.3 (b) as mentioned above.

**Motion to Amend the Amended Motion:**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to amend the amended motion and correct a typo on page 5 section 3.32, 2017, and remove door charge.

Trustee Wilson referred to page 9 relating to IT issues, and voiced her concerns that there may be additional fees involved if our system is not compatible. She asked if our system is compatible with Billy Casper's system, and the approximate cost to upgrade our IT System.

Jarrett responded that the cost, if necessary would be approximately \$12,000.00 and he would be meeting with our IT Director on Thursday.

Acting Village Manager Townsend stated that if it is a priority to open the seventy-five thousand dollars upfront investment is on the critical list of bills to be paid.

Ms. Laverne Williams stated that she feels the Treasurer should be involved in these financial situation.

Jarrett responded that they would do nothing with our IT equipment without consulting our IT Director.

Ayes: Trustees Larry Brown, Wilson, Payton, Griffin, Oscar Brown and Mayor Covington.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Trustee Roudez.

**Motion To Approve Carried.**

**F-2b – continued:**

**Roll Call on First Amendment:**

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**Roll Call On Main Motion As Amended:**

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Resolution Number R2016 - 19.**

***F-2c: Resolution Of University Park, Cook And Will Counties, Illinois Authorizing The Transfer Of Certain Bank Accounts To, And Authorizing The Establishment And Renaming Of Bank Accounts At, Midland States Bank, Joliet, Illinois***

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

Trustee Wilson asked to know why we were changing banks.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that a month ago the Board attempted to get a 2.5 million dollar loan from Old Plank Bank. However, we did not get that loan, and this is the same process to transfer to Midland bank. She further stated that she had just been notified that we were approved for a loan from Midland Bank for the \$2.5 million.

Mayor Covington stated that she wants to bring back this item later to change the signatory schedule.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Resolution Number R2016 - 20.**

**F-2d: Bills Payable (Account Aging Report)**

No action taken on this item.

**G- 1: MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Covington extended her prayers to residents Robert Travis, Mary Williams, and Mary Truitt who are experiencing medical challenges. She reported on her meeting with Congresswoman Robin Kelly, and her CDC Meeting in Joliet and stated that she was guaranteed one million dollars grant.

**G-3: REPORTS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Oscar Brown reported that "We The People" organization is not a Village sponsored organization, but they would be hosting a Juneteenth celebration on June 19<sup>th</sup> here in 90 Town Center Drive; he encouraged the residents to come out on July 30<sup>th</sup> to help rebuild and restore Riegel Farm.

Trustee Larry Brown reported that the EastCom Telecommunications system would be moving from Crete to Lincolnway in New Lenox; at the G30 Summit meeting they chose a Director of the Communication Center. He also stated that the Village has an unpaid bill of \$89,000.00 due to EastCom Dispatch Center.

**G – 2: REPORT OF VILLAGE CLERK**

Village Clerk Dee Jones offered her condolences to resident Kari Boykin in the loss of her father, and stated that she is glad that the contract with Billy Casper was approved, and that she would like to be one of the first to tee off when the golf course opens.

**H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to move into executive session for purposes of (Litigation – Pending/Eminent Litigation Against, Affecting, Or On Behalf Of Public Body; And Personnel - Appointment/Employment/Compensation/Discipline/Dismissal Of An Employee/Lease/Sale Of Municipal Property) at 10:25 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 11:19 with nothing to report out.

***J. ADJOURNMENT***

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 11:20 PM.

***Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.***

*Respectfully Submitted,*

---

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