

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, June 28, 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 7:20 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	Absent
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present

Also present were Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend, Attorney Frazier, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief John Pate, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Public Works Director Gary Richardson, 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 Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting held Tuesday May 24, 2016

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Approval of Minutes – continued:

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve minutes of the special meeting held Wednesday May 25, 2016.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Griffin.

Motion To Approve Carried.

E: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Dawn Worthington commented on the successful championship flight of the Mustang and the Pinto teams, noting that the Pinto's won the championship.

Ms. Gina Williams questioned the fifty-five million dollars that the Village is in the hole; she stated that using two attorneys is costing too much money; audits not done in years; questioned how supervisory employees in Parks & Recreation is still working, and asked if there are any programs that needs them; she asked why paint Riegel Farm when it needs to be closed, and that the Cable Studio should have someone running it. She stated that the Acting Village Manager has been in place for nine months, but has delivered nothing; we have had no bills payable for months. She also stated that a volunteer is taping the meetings, and asked if it is just for We The People, because we need it done for residents. She also stated that we do not need to bring back the animals, and they are probably all diseased.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that the Village has had a financial deficit for several years, since approximately 2005, and they are trying to find out what happened, and how we can fix it. She explained that we have no bills payable, because we have no money to pay for the numerous checks that have been approved, that are just setting in the office; we use the service of more than one attorney because of several different problems. She also stated that the audits have been completed through 2015, and once the Strategic Planning Meetings are completed we will have a direction to follow. She stated that the Village receives approximately 6 million dollars annually, but has been operating well above what was brought in.

Ms. Williams consistently interrupted Ms. Townsend during her attempt to answer her concerns.

General Public Comments Continued:

Trustee Payton called for Point Of Order and stated to the Mayor that the dialog between the Acting Village Manager and Ms. Gina Williams should not be allowed to continue.

Mayor Covington stated that she will hold a town hall in the near future.

Trustee Oscar Brown thanked Acting Manager Townsend for all that she has done to identify, and work on solutions to solving these problems.

Acting Manager Townsend commented that she is focused on trying to do whatever is necessary as Acting Village Manager to help this community survive. However, we cannot put together a strategic plan without numbers, but Riegel Farm will be painted by volunteers, and that she is aware that people who were laid off want their jobs back, however, the 2.5 million dollar loan will only help, and we need to realize that and stop beating up on each other.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that he has an 11 point action plan that he will pass on, on items that we must address. He read the Flyer, and encouraged residents to come out on July 30th to help restore and rebuild Riegel Farm, because we need to show our pride in our community; that portions of Riegel Farm is historic, and that we can control our own destiny.

Trustee Roudez stated that we must consider what we want to do with our community.

Mayor Covington stated that she had no knowledge of the flyer for the cleanup Riegel Farm project, and that staff should have taken care of the Farm.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to Mayor Covington stating that for the past three meetings, the flyer had been placed before the Board.

Ms. Laverne Williams commented that she has a complaint and is embarrassed at the way the plan commission's public hearing was run, and if they want her to resign she will do so. She stated that it is unfair for staff to make statements that were untrue, and that she feels that she approved a variance that was wrong, and she is disappointed at the process. She also stated that she does not feel that it is appropriate for the Board to call out and criticize residents.

Mr. Sasha Dushon commented on the lack of minutes being posted on the website.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that once the bills are up to date, the IT problem could be resolved, and the minutes and audits would be available on the website.

General Public Comments Continued:

Mrs. Debra Taylor commented that she wants accountability in written form and that she suggests that a Town Hall meeting is held soon, and that she would volunteer for things that make sense.

Trustee Payton commented that he does not have a problem with residents being concerned, but he does have a problem with residents being disrespectful. He stated that this is a business meeting held in the public, and that they are working to settle these problems that did not start in the last four years, but has been ongoing for almost 20 years. He further stated that no one has contacted him for information on the financial condition of the Village, and he has not seen Ms. Gina Williams at any finance committee meetings, and that a Town Hall Meeting should be a guide to direct the Board on the best way to proceed; that the voters elected 7 people, and 5 want to go in one direction, but 2 want to go another.

Trustee Wilson stated that five Trustees working together sounds like secret meetings are being held, and with a fifty-five million dollars deficit she has a problem with it. She questioned why the cable studio is not airing the Board meetings, and asked Mrs. Mary Truss why she is taping the meetings if she is not going to share them with the public. She also asked if there were any volunteers willing to video tape the meetings.

Mrs. Mary Truss responded that she is a forty-two year resident who uses her own camera to tape the meetings, and has invoices to prove that the camera is hers and not the Village.

Mrs. Debra Taylor stated that she did meet with Acting Village Manager Townsend and found the meeting to be productive. However, it could have been done in the public because everyone wants answers to the same questions.

Ms. Saunders stated that anyone with an iPhone android can get the app called periscope and stream the meetings live.

Mrs. Gloria Brookins addressed the Board and stated that there is no transparency, that the minutes and agendas are not posted on the website, and asked if residents would be allowed to send topics to be included in the town Hall meeting. She also asked Trustee Oscar Brown to explain his 11 point plan that he referenced.

Mayor Covington stated that she will pay for Robo calls out of her pocket to keep residents informed.

Village Clerk Dee Jones responded that the minutes are submitted to the IT Director, but he has informed her that due to lack of technical, and financial support, he has not been able to post the minutes. However, she stated that anyone desiring copies of the minutes could email her the request, and by return email she would send them to the individual.

General Public Comments Continued:

Acting Manager Townsend stated that everything that is being done is to educate the Board on every scenario to help figure out how formidable of a plan we can put together.

Trustee Payton stated that until the Board can be factual some information is not given to the public or the Board, because some confidential information is being leaked. He also stated that problems of concern is not just with the TIF but other taxing bodies.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson gave an update on the Boy Scouts, noting that her son is an Eagle Scout working on his second Eagle Award. She stated that they have partnered with New Faith Baptist Church, and asked the Board and community to take orders to support the Boy Scouts. She also stated that there is a desperate need for residents to attend the 201U school Board meeting because they are trying to take slots away from the Coretta Scott King Middle School.

Jarrett of Billy Casper Golf gave an update on the progress at the golf course, noting that bank account has been opened; they are cleaning and irrigating the golf course; our IT Director has been a great help; they are working at getting the greens back in shape; looking to obtain the liquor license, looking at candidates for the general manager, and adjusting the budget to prepare a thirty day plan. He further stated that July 15th is the target date to begin the Press releases.

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings -An Ordinance Adopting Prevailing Wage Rates To Be Paid To Laborers, Mechanics And Other Workers Performing Construction Of Public Works For The Village Of University Park.

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve first, second, and third readings of this ordinance.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Griffin.

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2016 - 15.

F-2b: Resolution of the Village of University Park, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing Signatories To The Accounts Maintained At Midland States Bank, Joliet, Illinois.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Griffin.

Motion To Approve Carried

Resolution Number R2016 – 21.

F-2c: Bills Payable

No action taken on this item.

Acting Village Manager Townsend stated that there would be no report on bills payable until the process of the \$2.5 million loan is complete. She stated that she is in the process of putting together critical needs payable list.

Mayor Covington stated that she wants a list of all employees that were laid off.

Trustee Payton responded that the Board is the policymakers, and they need to stay on the balcony and allow the Village Manager to manage and provide guidance to the Board.

Trustee Wilson asked to know what ordinance verified the statement that the Village Manager is allowed to pay bills without Board approval.

Attorney Frazier explained the managerial form of government and the authorization of the Village Manager to pay the bills and manage the day-to-day operation.

Attorney Mueller also expounded on the managerial form of government and the authorities of the Village manager.

G- 1: MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Covington gave no report.

G-3: REPORTS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Oscar Brown reported on and encouraged the residents to come out on July 30th to help rebuild and restore Riegel Farm.

Trustee Larry Brown reported that the EastCom Telecommunications Center would be moving from Crete to Lincolnway in New Lennox; 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 gave no report.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:28 PM.

Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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