

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, June 27, 2017 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 7:09 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Present
Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams	Present
	Paula C. Wilson	Present
	Theaplise Brooks	Present
	Curtis McMullan II	Present
	Milton C. Payton	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present

Also present were Village Attorney John Wise, Village Manager Amara Enyia, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Police Commander Deborah Wilson, Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor Neva Jenkins, and Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones.

Prayer was given by Pastor Hunt

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 Brooks moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting held June 13, 2017

Trustee Payton referred to page 8 of the minutes, and stated that since he was cut off by Mayor Covington during his statement, he wants the complete copy of his comments inserted into the minutes of June 13, 2017 which he had provided the Village Clerk, and would provide to the entire Board.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Brooks, McMullan, Payton, Oscar Brown,
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
Abstained: Trustee Wilson, and Mayor Covington.

Motion To Approve Carried.

E: General Public Comments

Attorney Gary Mueller addressed the Mayor and Board of Trustees and stated that at the culmination of his firm's representation of the Village, his office conducted an internal audit and discovered that they had been overpaid for services rendered therefore, he was returning to the Village a check in the amount of \$22,008.00.

Mr. David Sevier addressed the Board and voiced his concern that there is not enough finances to cover our current bills, and to hire a Village Manager at such a high salary, while reducing the salary of staff could create serious problem with the unions. He further stated that tax increase is not an option to get us out this financial deficit, and that the Village needs experienced management with a background in municipal government.

Mr. Keith Griffin addressed the Board and voiced his concerns with the misleading statements made by Mayor Covington in previous meeting relating to the qualifications of Acting Village Manager Townsend. He stated that Ms. Townsend kept the entire Board aware of everything that was going on. He further stated that he feels the position for the Village Manager be posted, and that the proposed salary for the new Village Manager is outrageous.

Village Manager Enyia responded that she was able to make a bond payment before it was missed and avoided a possible catastrophe, and that her interest is in moving the Village forward.

Mayor Covington commented on the qualifications of Acting Village Manager Townsend stating that during her previous years with the Village she simply set appointments, and made travel arrangements for the Board.

Mrs. Star Lawson addressed the Board and stated that she hopes we will all be on one accord. She voiced her concerns that salary of employee is out of control; that the salary in excess of \$140,000 for the Village Manager will put the Village further into the financial hole, and that the Board should not put the salary on the backs of taxpayers when we cannot pay workers compensation or have adequate insurance. He stated that she has nothing against Ms. Enyia, but this contract should be canceled.

Public Comments Continued:

Mayor Covington responded that she was not aware that the bills and insurance were not being paid, but Village Manager Enyia had gone to Hillcrest and took care of the matter and also saved the Village from a lawsuit from the fire pension Board.

Mrs. Bobbie Greer voiced her concerns with an article and information on next door relating to lack of police officers stating that one year ago the Board removed three full-time officer and four part-time officers. She stated that the Village needs more police officers.

Mayor Covington responded that she and Trustee Wilson were against the removal of the police officer and that she and Trustee Wilson volunteered their salary to pay for the salaries of the police officers, but no one else on the Board agreed. She further stated that she had secured free police service from Cook County, that the Board voted down.

Trustee Payton responded stating that in addition to the police officers that were laid off 22 other employees were also laid off, because we had no money, and the Board passed a TAW, and a TIF loan to keep the Village afloat, of which Mayor Covington was aware of, because Ms. Townsend kept the Board informed.

Ms. Phyllis Sanders voiced her concerns with the closing of the day camp stating that it was a life saver for her when her kids were young. She asked if there were other alternatives to closing the day camp because this closing showed poor planning and placed a hardship on parents who should have been given proper notice.

Village Manager Enyia responded that safety, transportation, an adequate facility and lack of proper planning led to her decision to close the day camp.

Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor Neva Jenkins stated that plans for the day camp were in place, that parents were informed of the safety concerns, there is a scheduled meeting of the camp parents for next Monday, and the parents will receive a prorated refund of the fees paid for the canceled day camp.

Ms. Gina Williams commented that in 2015 she stated that the Parks and Recreation department should be shut down. She stated that she applauds Manager Enyia for shutting the day camp down. However, bringing them to 90 Town Center was not a good decision, because the place was not clean and fuzz balls all over the floor. Ms. Gina Williams also commented that originally Trustee Payton was against the head tax now he talks about how it is a financial help. She further stated that Village Manager Enyia had all types of degrees and she wants Liz, Theo and Curtis to support the Mayor and approve the contract for Amara Enyia, because she worked hard to get them elected.

Public Comments Continued:

Trustee McMullan responded that he loves Ms. Gina Williams as a person, but his decision and vote will be what is best for the Village.

Trustee Elizabeth Williams responded that there are lots of things needed in the Village such as police officers, streets that needs to be repaired, and while Manager Enyia is very talented, but the Village does not have the money to pay the salary she is requesting.

Ms. Bernice O'Brien commented that Mayor Covington and Trustee Wilson offered to give up their salaries to keep the police officers when the other Board members did not, and that she has witnessed disrespect for the Mayor. Relating to the closure of the day camp she stated that her granddaughter was enrolled in the program and she never saw anything wrong with the day camp and she wants to see it reopened, and that she feels the new Village Manager is well qualified and experienced, and if she gets the salary she is requesting she would still be underpaid.

Mrs. Bridget Franklin stated that she shares the concerns of Bobbie Greer with the lack of police officers, but she thanks the Police Department for their service, protection, and additional coverage at their events, and noted that the police officers are overworked and underpaid. She also commented on the condition of the streets with the potholes, stating that she had to spend \$183 to get her car fixed after hitting a pothole. She stated that they would host a community service cleanup with the kids this Saturday from 11 AM to 1 PM with a picnic to follow with free fun and games; that the BB were going to the playoff this week, and the sixth-graders start tomorrow at Craig Park, and they are looking for donations for prizes. She stated that there were over 100 youth at the free camp.

Report Of Village Engineer

Village Engineer Ernest Roberts of Robinson Engineering gave an update on projects that they have been involved in since 2011. He stated that the target date for completing University Park Parkway was June 30, 2017; that the traffic signal at Governors State University is up and operational; that the project is a 100% improvement to the Village. He urged residents to contact our state officials to pass the budget so that road projects can continue.

Trustee McMullan commented on the traffic builds up at Governors Highway in University Park Parkway and asked if there were plans to address that problem.

Mr. Roberts responded that they are working with IDOT to move the project forward. Other items and projects include final plans of the RTA sidewalk construction is set for September 22, 2017 depending on budget and funding of Village portion, noting that this is a CMAP funding project; the CDBG Grant sewer replacement project in the Sandra/Blackhawk area is scheduled to start shortly, and they are looking to cut from \$40-\$50,000 from the planned Village portion.

Mayor Covington commented that she sits on the transportation Board of Will County where she has secured a \$1 million grant of the Cicero project.

Mr. Roberts commented that this is the first time that Will County has approved a local project, and that the University Park Parkway was a University Park project, and not a project of Governors State University, and now they are looking to finish phase 3 of the project.

Mayor Covington commented that Public Works Director Richardson has bought the machine to fix the streets, but she does not know what is going on with the street repairs.

Q and A With The Village Managers

Ms. Bernice O'Brien stated that a list of daycare participants were given on Nextdoor, and that Mildred Morgan and Ms. Bell had made phone calls to the parents regarding closing the day camp.

Village Manager Enyia responded that she has noticed concerns with the social media, that they had plans in place to share information with the parents and that she is putting a policy in place to address social media.

Pastor Charles Floyd stated that there are lots of lies put on Nextdoor relating to the qualifications of Manager Enyia, and asked her if she has a law degree, and if she is a lawyer who has passed the bar.

Village Manager Enyia responded that she is a lawyer, but she does not try cases.

Ms. Gina Williams came to the podium and stated that David Sevier had threatened her.

Ms. Bernice O'Brien referred to the proposed salary of Manager Enyia and asked for clarity.

Village Manager Enyia responded that she does not have a contract and is not receiving a salary; that the proposed salary was on a six month basis to renegotiate a lower salary after that time, and that her compensation would not include any benefits, and that the Village deserves more than what it has been getting.

Mrs. Star Lawson asked Manager Enyia in the reported salary in excess of \$140,000 is correct, if she would be in full time Manager, stating that her concern is that the Village cannot afford the salary requested, and asked to know what could the Village Manager bring to the Village of University Park to give some level of comfort and enjoyment. She stated that she appreciates the accomplishments of Manager Enyia, but the Village cannot afford her requested salary.

Trustee Payton commented that the requested salary is more than any previous Village Manager noting that the salary for Linear was \$120,000; Bola Delano salary was 107,000 and Johnna Townsend salary was \$85,000 with three months without pay.

Village Manager Enyia responded that this Village needs a vision of what leadership should be, and that we cannot give a vision being broke, but difficult decisions must be made.

Trustee Wilson stated that according to the 2016 budget the last Acting Village Manager made \$11,500 per month, and previous Village Manager made \$138,000 and that now is time for change, and this might be the last chance for the Village.

Mrs. Bridget Franklin asked if monitoring could be done of apartment complexes to limit the number of tenants with vouchers.

Ms. Cher`ese Williams commented that for years her mother, Trustee Williams has advocated for an overpass at University Parkway & Governors Highway, and asked the Manager if she could look into funding to get that done. She also commented on grants available for bike paths and walk paths.

Manager Enyia responded that she is prioritizing with the Village Engineer those project concerns.

Mrs. Gloria Brookins commented that she attempted to make an appointment with the Village Manager and was told that the Manager would meet with residents on Mondays, she asked if that was true, because she has been waiting for two weeks and has received no response.

Manager Enyia responded that yes that is true and she has set aside slots of times to meet with residents, and the Q and A portion of the agenda is her attempt to discuss resident concerns.

Mr. David Sevier asked Manager Enyia if she had experience working with Village Boards, parliamentary procedure, and training, and asked what did she see as the three most pressing issues for the Village.

Manager Enyia responded that she has worked on nonprofit Boards, and most pressing issues are getting a handle on Village finances, adequate staff, limiting liabilities, charting path to bring something new, and to bring economic development.

Mrs. Debra Taylor asked to know how much has the Village saved in the month since Manager Enyia has been in office.

Mayor Covington responded that she has saved the Village \$7000 in attorney fees, saving of \$1800 in IMRF, taking on some of the duties of IRH which is a big saving, and she can call her at any time and get an answer, and she has the ability to negotiate with anyone.

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1a: Resolution of The Village of University Park Will and Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement between the Village Of University Park and Amara Enyia for Services as Village Manager.

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded motion to table this item until after the executive session

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Wilson, Brooks, McMullan, Payton, Oscar Brown, and Mayor Covington.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Table Approved.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second, and 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 Wilson moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to approve first, second, and third readings of this ordinance.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Wilson, Brooks, McMullan, Payton, Oscar Brown, and Mayor Covington.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2017-14.

F-2b: Motion To Approve The Appointment Of Mr. William Hooks To The Board Of Fire And Police Commissioners For A Partial Term That Shall Expire On June 26, 2019.

Trustee Brooks moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to approve this appointment...

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Wilson, Brooks, McMullan, Payton, Oscar Brown, and Mayor Covington.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

Accompanied by Mayor Covington, Trustee Brooks, and members of the Board Of Fire And Police Commissioners, Village Clerk Dee Jones administered the Oath Of Office to Mr. Hooks.

G. Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported on meetings and events she had attended and participated in since her last report, which included a ribbon cutting on June 10th at Balmoral Park in Crete where Jim Garrett of South Suburban Mayors And Managers reported that due to this event, all hotels in the South Suburban area were booked, noting that this was a great opportunity for the entire Southland to profit from the opening of businesses and economic growth; Rich Township President Tim Braford hosted a Governors Forum where all candidates for governor were invited to participate, and there were over 400 people in attendance; She and Village Manager Enyia met with IRH; she attended a meeting with SRBM candidate Kennedy that was hosted by Hazel Crest President Alsberry; Mayor participated in her weekly legislative call, the AAMA emergency call relating to the Hate Bigotry March of Muslims.

Mayor Covington reported that she is looking forward to our town hall meeting, and that the committee has been formed. She also reported on meetings she attended on Wednesday in Oak Forest where State Comptroller Mendoza was the speaker who informed them that due to the lack of a budget being passed the state of Illinois bond value will be classified as a Junk Bond rating. She also reported that Aqua is looking for a committee to put together a Community Advisory Panel regarding the pipeline project. This community advisory panel will be comprised of University Park committee members and leaders that will become an integral part of the system improvement planning process, where the goal of the group is to provide insight and feedback that will help Aqua to improve service and communication within the community. They are looking for 10 – 12 individuals.

Reports Of Trustees

No comments made.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Village Clerk Dee Jones noted that during the month of July, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee is scheduled for July 4th since there is only one meeting during the month of July and August.

Mayor Covington asked if the Board had objections to moving that meeting to the second Tuesday in July since the first Tuesday is a legal holiday. There were no objections from the Board.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to move into executive session for purposes of personnel at 9:35 pm.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Wilson, Brooks, McMullan, Payton, Oscar Brown
and Mayor Covington.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 12:11 AM June 28, 2017 with nothing to Report.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Williams seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 12:12 AM June 28, 2017.

Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy R. Jones

Dorothy R. Jones, MMC
Village Clerk