

**Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, September 26, 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 7:15 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Village Attorney John Wise, Interim Village Manager/Police Chief John Pate, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress, IT Director Deryl Bolton, 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 Payton moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to approve minutes of July 11, 2017, August 8, 2017, August 15, 2017, and September 12, 2017.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

## ***E: General Public Comments***

Mr. Keith Griffin voiced his concerns with the IRH report that showed \$14.7 million moved from the TIF accounts, and asked to know what happened with those funds; he commented that he hopes the Cityscape project goes out for bids, and that no taxpayer dollars is used for that project; he questioned the sewer and water rate increase, and thanked Trustee Payton was standing up for what is right.

Interim Village Manager Pate responded that the forensic audit is ongoing, and we should have a report by the end of December 2017. Relating to Cityscape, he stated that there has been no action on that project; relating to the sewer and water project he noted that there is action on the agenda tonight to file a petition to intervene with the ICC.

Mayor Covington responded that for 3 ½ years Aqua had advertised this rate increase, and that Trustee Wilson went door to door with CCC passing out literature in the past.

Trustee Williams stated that she and Trustee Brooks have sent petitions to the Illinois Commerce Commission in an attempt to stop this rate increase.

Mrs. Mary Truss commented that the people elected eight officials to take care of the Village business, noting that we do not operate under a Mayoral form of government. She voiced her concern that residents are not privileged with the full content of what is being discussed by the Board, and asked if the items could be read to the public before action is taken, and that the Board refrain from editorial comments.

Mrs. Star Lawson voiced her concerns that Mayor Covington states that she does not know about the \$14.1 million that have been moved from the TIF accounts; she reported on The National Black Caucus that she attended in Washington DC and stated that she would like to see the Village sponsor young people to attend these type of meeting. She also commented that she feels evidence of attending meetings should be shared with the public

Ms. Gina Williams offered her condolences to the family of Robert Davis; she thanked Police Chief Pate for the great job he is doing as Interim Village Manager; thanks to Katrina Johnson for her work with the tree situation and stated that she is tired of hearing about of \$14.1 million deficit, noting that Mayor Covington does not have it.

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

***F-1a: Motion To Approve The Settlement In Case No. 16 CV 11056 In The***

**Amount Of \$10,000.00**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to approve this item.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**F-2a: Motion Extending The Deadline For The Submission Of Resumes For The Village Manager Position To October 17, 2017.**

Trustee Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded the motion to approve this item.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**F-2b: Motion Authorizing The Interim Village Manager To Initiate The Process To Formulate A Request For Proposal For The Lease Or Sale Of The Hickok Aquatic Center**

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to approve this item.

Trustees Wilson voiced her concerns with the sale of this facility, and wants RFP only for lease.

Trustee Payton suggested that the Board look at both options.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to strike the word "sale" from this item.

**Roll Call on Amendment:**

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

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

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**Motion To Amend Agenda and Combine Reading of Items F-2c, F-2d, and F-2e:**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to combine readings of Items F-2c, F-2d, and F-2e:

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to approve resolutions listed as Items F-2c, F-2d, and F-2e: collectively.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

***F-2c: Resolution of the Village of University Park, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing And Approving A Resolution For General Maintenance Under The Illinois Highway Code For Section Number 12-00000-00-Gm***

**Resolution Number R2017-17.**

**F-2d:**     *Resolution Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing And Approving A Resolution For General Maintenance Under The Illinois Highway Code For Section Number 13-00000-00-Gm*

*Resolution Number R2017-18.*

**F-2e:**     *Resolution Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing And Approving A Resolution For General Maintenance Under The Illinois Highway Code For Section Number 14-00000-00-Gm*

*Resolution Number R2017-19.*

**F-2f:**     *Bills Payable (Paid & Payable)*

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to approve the following bills payable list of critical general operating expenses that the Village has occurred from September 13, 2017 through September 26, 2017. The following funds will be charged:

General Fund Account	\$153,625.79
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 17,088.28
Town Center Fund	\$ 98.16
Capital Fund	\$ 967.70
IRH Development	<u>\$ 4,370.15</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$175,182.38</u>

Trustee Wilson questioned the payment of \$6000 to the Youth Athletic Association for the University Park Lion Football Team and voiced her concerns with paying this bill without an approved budget, and stated that she feels some things should not be paid until the budget is approved, and that we should delay this payment until then.

**Motion To Remove Item From Bills Payable:**

Trustee Wilson made a motion to remove the \$6000 payment from the bills payable list. For lack of a second this motion failed to carry.

**Roll Call On Bills Payable:**

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

**Motion To Approve Carried.**

**F-2g: Motion Directing The Village Attorney To File A Petition To Intervene In Illinois Commerce Commission Docket No. 17-0259, Aqua Illinois, Inc.'s Proposed General Increase In Water And Sewer Rates For The Consolidated Water Division And Consolidated Sewer Division.**

Trustee Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve this item.

Trustee Brown asked that he be added to the list to give testimony before the Illinois Commerce Commission on this matter.

Mayor Covington asked that all residents contest this rate increase by Aqua.

Trustee McMullan stated that we need to fight this 43% rate increase.

Trustee Williams stated that she and Trustee Brooks had been working with the attorneys to file this petition.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Brooks.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**G. Reports of the Mayor, Board of Trustees, Clerk, Manager, Appointed Officials, And Committees\Commissions**

**G-1: *Reports Of Appointed Officials***

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress thanked everyone for their prayers and support during her illness, and reported that they are organizing outdoor recreational programs for our youth, and Adult Card Game Club and Fitness Program for adults that will be held at Thornwood House every Tuesday and Thursday beginning October 2, 2017; SNAP will begin on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM until 1 PM; she met with the Director of Will County Senior Services, and they are looking for space in the Town Center; Catholic Charities is looking to hire University Park residents to work in that program. She encouraged the community to pray and stand strong with the Davis Family and the five kids he left behind.

IT Director Deryl Bolton reported that Comcast is looking to do a feasibility study of the fiber lines between Comcast and the cable studio; he is in the process of redesigning the Village website and should have the template with a mobile app within the next week that will include a voice over IDS System that should be available October 14, 2017, and that he is finalizing printer and computers upgrades with Dell.

Mayor Covington commented that she talked with Terry, one of the bosses of Comcast when she was in Washington DC and she can call him to expedite the time for the feasibility study.

Interim Village Manager Pate commented that once Director Bolton has completed his updates he will call to a workshop to show the public how to navigate the website and new features.

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios reported that he is working with the transfer of the 911 dispatch center; they are beginning negotiations of the Firefighters Union Contract; they received a grant of \$100,000 to purchase equipment that they will use to purchase radios for better communication between University Park and other communities. He also reported that they have applied for two other grants that are pending since 2016, and that he and Police Chief Pate are looking at a platform for social media.

Police Chief Pate reported that the Police Department is looking to use the \$30,000 grant for addressing going paperless, therefore that \$30,000 can go back into the budget. He also reported that the public works department and the contractor have started removing trees in the most vulnerable areas of Amherst, Mission Drive, Sandra Dr., Union Drive, and Blackhawk, noting that more than 25 trees have been removed, and he is looking to contract with MFT for funding to cut down more trees. He also reported that the third reading of the budget should be completed next week; that IRH is working to get the 2016 Audit done, and he would like to bring the 2015 audit before the Board for approval rather than re-do the whole process.

Interim Village Manager Pate reported that he and Public Works Director Richardson met with MFT who agreed to forgive millions of dollars that the Village owe, and they were given instructions on how the reporting process should be done. He also reported that he has sent the information to the Board of Trustees relating to their interests in submitting RFP to Amazon to locate in the Village of University Park.

Mrs. Star Lawson asked to know if it is true that Applied Systems had filed a lawsuit against the Village, if so she asked to know the reason.

Village Attorney Wise responded that a lawsuit was filed last Friday alleging lack of paying TIF reimbursement.

Interim Village Manager Pate responded that he cannot say whether or not the suit is valid, since it was just filed on Friday.

John Lindbloom stated that IRH is focusing on Applied Systems TIF and they are looking to have the audit done by the end of December.

**G-2: Report Of The Board of Trustees**

Trustee Wilson offered her condolences to the family of Robert Davis; she reported on the School Board meeting held earlier today stating that University Park residents need to get involved because there appears to be attempts to eliminate people of color; she voiced her concern with the price difference of gas at the Speedways in University Park being higher than in Crete, noting that she contacted the company and is awaiting an answer, and she proposed a protest if we do not get a response within two days. She also reported that she will be working with Ms. Katrina Johnson and Public Works Director Richardson to get the message out.

**G-3: Report Of The Mayor**

Mayor Covington reported on meetings and events she has attended and participated in since the last meeting which included The National Black Caucus in Washington, DC where she sat on a panel recognizing Madam C.J. Walker; she attended the graduation of Police Chief Pate, who graduated at the top of his class; she visited the Leukemia Research Foundation; attended a meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana along with Mayor Nutter and other Mayors, where they discussed bringing a program for a Youth Town Hall meeting to the Village. She thanked Neva Jenkins for the work she did while Director Childress was out. She noted that all of the meetings she attends are at her own expense. Mayor Covington also apologized for the behavior of Treasurer Dilworth at the last meeting, and stated that in previous years Treasurer Dilworth had not been allowed to do his job.

**H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

None noted.

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee McMullan moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to move into executive session for purposes of litigation (pending & probable) at 9:12 pm.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Brooks.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

The Board returned from executive session at 9:34 pm with nothing to report out.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee McMullan moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:35 pm.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Dorothy R. Jones, MMC  
Village Clerk*