

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday January 24, 2017 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:10 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend, Village Attorney Loren Glennon, Police Chief John Pate, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Public Works Director Gary Richardson, Deputy Clerk Jacelia Kelly, 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 Roudez seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting held January 10, 2017 as presented.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Motion To Amend Agenda Placement:

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to amend the order of the agenda by moving swearing-in of firefighters up on the agenda under the Mayor's report to before general public comments.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

Swearing-In Of Firefighters/Paramedics

Accompanied by Mayor Covington, Board of Trustees, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Fire Department Lieutenant Jeff Duhoski, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners Chairman Theo Brooks, Bobbie Greer, Cordell Clements, and family members of newly appointed firefighters/paramedics, Village Clerk Dee Jones administered the oath of office to Adam Sobieray – Hire date January 16, 2017, and Dalton Dobesh – Hire date January 23, 2017. Prior to the swearing in, Fire And Police Commissioners Chair Theo Brooks announced that the funds to hire these 2 new firefighters/paramedics was made possible through the efforts of Lieutenant Duhoski and members of the Fire Department in searching for, and applying for this grant through the Department of Homeland Security. He also noted that over the past year or so they had also applied for and received grants for fire department vehicles and equipment in excess \$1 million.

E: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. James Worthington, President of the University Park Baseball Association addressed the Board and asked if it was true that there was money recently allocated for baseball. He also voiced his concerns with the condition of the baseball fields and stated that the Pony Team will have to play in Park Forest because the ball field in University Park is not playable.

Mayor Covington responded stating that \$6000 for each youth athletic programs was allotted to baseball, football, and basketball.

Trustee Wilson asked if the funds from the Village will be used to repair the baseball fields.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that for the 2017/18 budget they will be looking to add A Funds Acquisition Specialist to write grants and lobby for funding for the Village.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that Trustee Oscar Brown's reference is from several recommendations from each of the Trustee who have met with the financial consultants, however none of the recommendations have been presented to you the Board for approval. She also stated that although the \$6000 for each of the youth programs is in the budget there are no guarantees that the funds will be available.

Trustee Payton stated that there were funds put in the budget as a result of a difference in the budgeted amount for insurance and the actual, approved cost of the insurance. He stated however that receipts must be presented to the Village for reimbursement of these funds.

Ms. Deborah Taylor addressed the Board and asked to know when would the answers be posted on the website or answers given to questions not answered at the Board meeting. She commented that she had filed a FOIA Request asking for copies of questions asked a previous Board, stating that she does not understanding why the answers have not given.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that the Board had not approved the resolution governing public comments, and that she was not aware of any questions asked at a Board meeting that responses were not given.

Village Clerk Dee Jones responded to Ms. Taylor noting that she had responded to Ms. Taylor's FOIA informing her that there were no specific dates, names of individuals who had submitted questions to be responded to at a later date, nor questions submitted. She further stated that most of the comments from the general public were comments not questions, and with the exception of one individual that Mayor Covington stated she would respond to, all of the comments were addressed at the Board meetings. To which Ms. Taylor informed her that she does not remember the names or questions but that she feels some questions still have not been answered.

Ms. Gina Williams voiced her concerns that the bills payable lists for 2016 are not on the website; that there is no cable studio or Village newsletter to inform the residents of what is happening in the Village; that payments made to IRH Consultants have been for more than 90 day, and she requested a list of payments made to that consultant firm, and to know how much was paid to Moses Mays and to know the relationship between Moses Mays and IRH.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded that the bills payable for 2016 were not on the website because we did not have the money to put them there, and that prior to a 90 day contract with IRH Consultants they were working on a month-to-month basis. She further noted that within the 90 day period the financial consultants will be reconstructing our financial reporting system and all of our finances will be transparent, that there is nothing to hide and that Moses Mays was paid for 2 months of consultant fees.

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1a: Motion Approving The Amended 2017 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule.

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve the 2017 amended calendar year meeting schedule.

Trustee Griffin suggested that all meeting scheduled at Village Hall be moved to either #70 or #90 Town Center Drive.

Trustee Roudez voiced his concern with the number of committees and commissions, stating that due to financial constraints as noted at the September 7, 2016 Strategic workshop the Board agreed by consensus to only 4 functioning committees.

Mayor Covington responded that at a Board meeting in 2015 some committees and commissions that had been eliminated were brought back by a majority of those voting.

Trustee Roudez suggested that a workshop is held to resolve this issue. By consensus of the Board they agreed to a workshop meeting on February 7, 2017 at 7 PM.

Motion To Table To A Workshop:

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to table this item to a workshop on February 7, 2017.

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

Nays: Trustee Wilson and Mayor Covington.

Absent: None.

Motion To Table Carried.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second & Third Readings – Ordinance Repealing All Provisions Of Ordinance Number O2016-28 Amending Section 250.07 (G) Of The Village Code Updating The Amount Of Compensation For The Appointive Office Of Collector Pursuant To New Federal Guidelines Effective December 1, 2016

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

F-2a: continued:

Attorney Glennon explained that the Village approved ordinance number 2016 – 28 amending the compensation for the appointive office of collector according to new federal guidelines that were to become effective December 1, 2016, and that since there was an injunction filed against this action she was asked to prepare this ordinance repealing the previous ordinance

Trustee Wilson asked if the collector is being paid the salary as approved in the ordinance that is being repealed.

Acting Village Manager Townsend responded no.

Trustee Payton asked if enforcement of the previous ordinance could be put on hold until the litigation is complete, and that we keep the original ordinance. He also suggested to Amend this ordinance to 1st and 2nd readings tonight.

Motion To Amend Main Motion:

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to amend to, and approve 1st and 2nd readings of this ordinance with the objective to bring back for third reading with all references of the federal guidelines removed.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2b: First, Second & Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing Revisions And Amendments To Part 10 – Streets, Utilities, And Public Service Code, Title 6 – Other Public Utilities, Chapter 1062 – Alarm Monitoring Service

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded the motion to approve first, second, and third readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that he would like to see this information on our website so residents could be aware of this action.

Public Works Director Richardson stated that this ordinance would have no effect on our Residents, but is intended to allow the Village to have more than one service provider.

Motion To Amend Main Motion:

Trustee Wilson made a motion to amend this to 1st and 2nd readings. However, for lack of a Second this motion failed.

Roll Call On Main Motion:

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2017-01.

F-2c: First, Second & Third Readings – Ordinance Amending Section 660-11 Of The Village Of University Park Code Of Ordinances Adopting Civil Penalties For Cannabis And Drug Paraphernalia In The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois

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

The Board discussed some concerns relating to some of the language in this ordinance.

Police Chief Pate commented that this ordinance was brought forward because our Code is out of compliance with State Code relative to marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Motion To Table To Workshop:

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

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

Motion To Table to Workshop Carried.

F-2d: Motion Directing The Village Attorney To Notify Direct Energy Of No Valid Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And Direct Energy

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

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

G. Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington submitted the following report: I apologize for the Technical difficulties we encountered last week.

Robinson engineering what plans do we have to pay them? They stated that their payments are reimbursable. If that is the case we need to pay them and keep moving forward. We would like them to start on our local streets being repaired.

The consultants list of duties and are they working on site? When will the auditors return?

We have a civility ordinance that has been violated. Maybe it needs to be re-visited.

BE BETTER NOT BITTER.

January 4, 2017

EastCom meeting 3rd and they spoke on the new facility that is being built. Mayor Eisenhorn will be speaking on it at our next board meeting to give update the President of our Executive Committee

January 10, 2017

Transportation meeting. There are funding available currently that was left over and I sent an email to Johnna, Public works and our Engineers to address as soon as possible. It was also given to the SSMA.

January 16,

Thank everyone for making the collative effort in our Village working together for one purpose. The Martin Luther King Program Hosted by Ms. Sheryl Harper-Jones (President, GSU, Pastor Williams from 1st Baptist Church, UP Library and University Park for a successful event. We are planning to keep this collaboration going throughout the year. Hopefully, the other churches will join us.

January 19th 2017

SSMMA meeting introduced the new replacement for Mr. Ed. Pasel, Mrs. Krist DeLaurentis She stated she has plans to work as hard if not harder to make sure that our Towns were given all and any opportunities that everyone one. She has set up a schedule for meeting the mayors.

Ms. Irma Holiday responded that they work off-site at a secure location for all of the Village documents.

REPORTS OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Larry Brown reported that the 911 Board would have a new communication center within the next year, and that all municipalities must have An Intergovernmental Agreement in place by January 31, 2017 in order to be a part of this new communication center. Therefore, the IGA must be passed or the Village will need to find an alternate plan for our communication services.

REPORT OF ACTING VILLAGE MANAGER

Acting Village Manager Townsend read a written letter of thanks from the Vistas Home Owners Association thanking Public Works Director Richardson and his staff for their work. She turned over the remainder of her time to IRH.

Financial Consultant Ed Lamar Rogers commented that they are not the enemy, that they are not connected with Moses Mays. He gave a brief bio of himself and Ms. Irma Holloway. He stated that they signed a legal contract with the Village of University Park to guarantee that they do what they agreed to do, and gave an overview of the team they have in place to get the job done. Mr. Rogers strenuously stressed the importance that the slanderous attacks on them ceases or they would be forced to take legal action against the perpetrator. He referred to the monthly report given to the manager and Board of Trustees which show in details the work accomplished since they began with the Village which included: reconciliation of bank statements for 2014 through December 31, 2016; work on the general ledger; check register; cash receipts; voided checks and audits of TIF accounts from May 31, 2014 through May 31, 2016.

IRH President Irma Holloway reported that they have been working diligently to get our financial records up to date, noting that our financial records were in a mess.

Trustee Wilson ask to know what accounts have been reconciled.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if IRH had any contact with the FBI, and if deposed, how would they respond.

Mr. Rogers responded that they have had no contact with them the FBI. However, if They were subpoenaed they would comply as anyone else would.

Acting Village Manager Townsend commented that all of our documents are being reviewed by the FBI.

Mr. Rogers stated that the Board has an open invitation to come by their office to review the process.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if they had found an additional eight more bank accounts

Mr. Rogers responded that doing their review they discovered eight more Accounts that brings the total to 80 accounts

Trustee Payton commented that he feels the firm has taken on a big challenge to be completed in a 90 day period.

REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS, and COMMITTEES

No reports given.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

None noted.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to move into executive session for purposes of litigation, pending or eminent at 9:10 PM.

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

Motion to Approve Carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:37 PM and resumed the regular meeting with nothing to report out.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:38 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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