

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, July 11, 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 7:11 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, Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor Neva Jenkins, 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 Payton moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to table minutes of June 27, 2017

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Table Carried.

E: General Public Comments

Mr. Keith Griffin addressed the Board and voiced his concerns with the illegal dumping of garbage by Trustee McMullan and his family members; he asked to know why the Village attorney did not attend the court hearing relating to the Clorox Lawsuit; he asked Mayor Covington why she had not signed off on the Hot Box equipment that was approved to fix the potholes in the streets; he also commented that the statement of Mrs. Bobbie Greer at the last meeting was a false statement when she stated that the Village fired seven police officers, he noted that there was not money in the budget to accommodate the hiring of those officers.

Mrs. Bobbie Greer addressed the Board, and reaffirmed her statement that police officers were cut, and stated that Parks and Recreation's is still operational, but if she had a choice between additional police officers and the Parks and Recreation department she would choose police officers; she questioned the lack of free activities for Village resident, and stated that the Village needs to enforce ordinances relating to noise and parking.

Attorney Wise responded to Mr. Griffin stating that he would check with the firm that was handling the case.

Mayor Covington responded that police officers were cut, and that the Cook County Sheriff's Department had offered to give free police service to the Village to help combat our crime situation.

Mr. Eugene Lawson addressed the Board and stated that he was speaking on behalf of public works employees and their concern with the lack of workers compensation and insurance benefits.

Mayor Covington responded that she was not aware of the lack of insurance until the insurance companies contacted her.

Village Manager Enyia responded that she is looking at other insurance companies for coverage. However, due to our track record with claims and lawsuits the premiums are extremely high, but she is setting up workers liability workshop to show that we making attempts to rectify the situation.

Ms. Bernice O'Brien reported that the Town Hall meeting would be held on August 19, 2017 here in 90 Town Center Drive, and noted that brochures relating to crime is available in being distributed tonight.

Ms. Addie Brooks voiced her concerns with the ash trees on the 600 block of University Park, and asked to know what could be done to remove those trees.

Public Comments Continued:

Public Works Director Richardson responded that the tree referenced is on private property, however would check with our code enforcement department for a resolution.

Ms. Jeannie Vance addressed the Board and announced that the Illinois Flame Track Team qualified for the Michigan Junior Olympics which would be held on July 28th through August 2nd. She stated that they are soliciting funds from the Village residents and Board to help fund the trip. Additional information can be obtained by calling them at (708)983 – 4972.

Mrs. Bridgett Simmons thanked all those for their support at the picnic and clean-up last Saturday.

Q and A With The Village Managers

Village Manager Enyia reported that she is moving into a phase with Village staff to address policy or lack thereof for accountability of department heads where daily and weekly reports will be given; she is working with public works to address potholes and the dead tree situation; the IT Director is looking at an updated software application to file complaints or make comments by using cell phones or online, which would save the Village money. She further stated that she is looking to set up Risk Abatement and Insurance Workshops. Relating to our budget and finances she stated that there is a lack of department responsibility for their budgets and keeping track of income and expenditure; she is also getting a handle on our legal fees by having regular meetings with the attorneys which she will report to the Board of Trustees.

Police Chief Pate reported that the Public Safety Forum would be held on August 5, 2017 from 11 AM to 2 PM where the residents are invited to give their input, and from those concerns he will develop a strategic safety plan for the Village moving forward.

Ms. Sandra Heard asked Manager Enyia if she has a timeframe for implementation of the programs and software that she referenced in her report, and if the status of legal matters would be given to the finance committee and the general public.

Village Manager Enyia responded that it takes time for the risk abatement insurance workshops, and that the IT Director would make a presentation at the August meeting, and staff is on Board to make manual reports until the software is in place. She also stated that legal fees will be put in the budget and given to the finance committee.

Ms. Debbie Stroud stated that she would like to meet with Village Manager Enyia, but was having difficulties, and asked to know the process.

Village Manager Enyia responded that staff would take the information and she would get back to the individuals.

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1a: 1st, 2nd, & 3^d Readings – Ordinance Of The Village Of University Park Will And Cook Counties, Illinois Authorizing The Execution Of An Employment Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And Amara Enyia For Services As Village Manager.

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Brooks seconded a motion to approve this ordinance.

Trustee Brooks voiced his concerns with this contract that is before the Board for action, stating that this contract is not what the Board discussed and offered, which was a good contract.

Mayor Covington commented that the contract went to Attorney Wise for inclusion of the changes that the Board specified.

Attorney Wise explained the calculations of the compensation package of \$85,000 salary plus 43.3% of the salary for insurance and pension that Ms. Enyia would not be utilizing, which totaled \$126,000.00.

Trustee Wilson stated that the Acting Village Manager received \$121, 805, 00 in salary and compensation.

Trustee Brooks commented that the Village Manager was only in the office 15 of the 61 days since her appointment, and he feels the Village Manager should be on site when needed. He also stated that there was no transition between the Acting Village Manager and the new Village Manager as it should have been, and stated that salary and attendance are sticking points with him.

Mayor Covington commented that the previous Manager was not in the office on a 9 to 5 basis, and stated that she does not want to table this item, and she begs the Board to approve this contract. She further stated that the Village brought in IRH Development, and Manager Enyia is an attorney who can take on some of the responsibility and decrease costs, but we cannot afford to lose her.

Village Manager Enyia responded that the remarks were well received, and that she made attempts to transition, but received no cooperation from the Acting Village Manager; she stated she has been in constant communication with Mayor Covington, and supplied talking points to the Board for addressing the media relating to shootings in the Village.

F-1a: continued:

Manager Enyia stated that she has attended meetings in Warrensville, Hinsdale, and Steger, and participated in settlement conferences, and stated that no other previous Manager could do what she does. She asked the Board to judge her for effectiveness and not attendance, stating that her goal is to empower Department Heads and hold them accountable, and she would judge her staff by deliverables, and not how long they sit at their desk. She also stated that she conceded on benefits, and that the Village needs a Board to support them, and someone with expertise and is vested in this Village.

Call The Question:

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to Call The Question on this item.

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

Motion Carried.

Roll Call On Main Motion:

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

Motion Failed To Carry.

Trustee Wilson asked if this item could be discussed in an executive session and reconsidered.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second, and Readings – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 808, Section 808-01, Of Chapter 808, Of Title Two, Of Part Eight of the Codified Ordinances of the Village Of University Park, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois, Prohibiting the Sale of Individual Containers of Beer Of Less Than Twenty-Four Ounces in Volume

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Brooks 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 O2017-15.

F-2b: Motion To Approve The Settlement In Case No. 15 CV 8673 In The Amount Of \$180,000.00.

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Williams seconded a motion to table this item to after the executive session.

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

Motion To Table Carried.

G. Mayor's Report

Proclamation Honoring Mr. James W. Harris

Trustee Wilson read the proclamation presented to Mr. James W. Harris on July 7, 2017 proclaiming July 7, 2017 as James W. Harris Day in the Village of University Park. The proclamation was presented to him at his farewell event on July 7, 2017.

Mayor Covington reported that she has been very busy with meetings and events, and thanked the volunteers who are working on details for the Town Hall meeting.

Reports Of Trustees

Trustee Brooks reported that since there is no money in the budget for police and fire testing, he stated that he would like the Board to take action to extend the Eligibility List for the police applicants on the expired list. He also stated that he would like to see contact with the Illinois Commerce Commission on the rate increase proposed by Aqua Water Company.

Trustee Wilson reported that the Town Hall Committee is finalizing the details for the Town Hall Meeting which will be held on August 19th, and asked residents to take the flyers and complete the questionnaire.

Report Of The Village Clerk

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that official badges for the newly elected Trustees had been received, and she distributed them to Trustees Williams, Brooks, and McMullan. She also congratulated Coach Donzel Franklin and his staff, teams, and volunteers for the fantastic job they did in cleaning up the Village this past Saturday, and noted that she was at the park early in the day and also contributed to the efforts.

Reports Of Appointed Officials

Village Treasurer Dilworth reported that most of the statements made by Trustee Payton were inaccurate. He stated that he worked at Walgreen for over six years where he had \$500,000 in sales, and managed a budget of \$16 million. He also stated that he will work with Dr. Enyia to address Village finances, stating that the Village books have not been closed since the last finance director.

Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor Neva Jenkins reported that she had a good weekly meeting with Manager Enyia, and that reimbursements to daycare participants for the cancellation of the Day Camp have been prepared, and they are looking for locations for other programs.

Police Chief Pate reported that this has been a trying month for the Police Department. He thanked his staff and residents for leads in the recent shootings. He stated that the services provided were in partnership with the Will County Sheriff's Department who provided additional patrolling. He also stated that the Police Department is motivated to providing safety for this community; he is working on attempts to resolve ordinance violations by residents before ticketing, and that He and Deputy Fire Chief Chellios are working on plans to utilize the grant they received to obtain a communication system that would allow them to open up communication between University Park and other Police Departments. He further stated that crime is also rampant in surrounding communities.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

None noted.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Brown seconded a motion to move into executive session for purposes of personnel and litigation at 9:45 pm.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 11:40 and took the following action:

F-2b: Motion To Approve The Settlement In Case No. 15 CV 8673 In The Amount Of \$180,000.00.

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Brooks seconded a motion to approve this motion to settle this case.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Williams seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 11:41 PM

Motion to Adjourn Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dorothy R. Jones, MMC
Village Clerk*