

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, August 28, 2012 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 7:10 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Attorney Stewart Diamond, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief Melvin Davis, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Paul Blockoms, Fire Chief Charles Exner, Finance Director Gloria Gibson, 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 Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves to postpone approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Tuesday August 14, 2012 and the special/workshop meeting held Thursday August 16, 2012 to September 11, 2012.

Ayes:	Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown.
Nays:	None.
Absent:	None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

E-1: *Manager's Report*

Village Manager Linear reported that they are continuing to work on the Family Dollar project; the project is on schedule for a Fall, 2012 ground breaking. The agencies that they are spending a lot of energy with include: (1) The Attorneys who are providing the drafting of the contract related to this project. (2) The Developer who is building the store and (3) The Will County Highway Department who currently have jurisdiction over the section of University Parkway which includes the area the Board has designated for commercial development. He also reported that he worked with the Village Treasurer during the last couple of weeks developing appropriate duties for the position subsequent a legal review of relevant State Statues by the Village Attorneys and a review of the Village's current accounting environment.

Manager Linear also reported that the plumbing work has begun at the Kids Health Center, which is a major component of the renovation, and he will ask for a meeting of the renovation team next week to revisit the plan for completing this project. Additionally, personnel issues dominated a substantial amount of time over the past two weeks, and he will be seeking new leadership for the Public Works Department, and they have developed an advertisement for, and will be advertising for a Director of Economic Development.

Manager Linear presented Plaques of appreciation to Mayor Covington for her leadership in the building of the KaBoom Playground and to Parks & Recreations Director Keely Childress for all that she did to make that project a success.

Trustee Griffin asked to know the total deficit of TIF Funds and the General Fund, and asked to know if there is a solution and what is being done to resolve the problem. He also commented on the condition of the stream between Sandra Oaks and Brittany Woods and requested that the problem is addressed

Manager Linear responded that the TIF is a complicated process of things that have not been done properly since 2008 or earlier. He noted that he would have Public Works look at the area referenced by Trustee Griffin and would report back to him.

Mayor Covington commented on problems and allocations given to some TIF Companies that date back to 1998 or earlier that they are looking into.

E-2: *Mayor's Report*

Mayor Covington read a letter from U.S. Senator Durbin that she received thanking her for her attendance in a meeting with him.

Mayor Covington reported on a meeting that she and Trustee Oscar Brown attended in Berwyn with Governor Quinn where he announced the release of Disaster Funds that totaled one hundred million dollars with a portion going to University Park. She also noted that there are other communities that are working together who collectively received approximately three million dollars.

Trustee Roudez asked to know why only the Mayor was invited to meet with Senator Durbin, and not the entire Board of Trustees. Mayor Covington responded that Senator Durbin made the invitation only to the Mayor.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee Payton thanked everyone who participated in the Back to School Festivities and acknowledged the work that the Grand Marshalls Johnnie White and Robert Travis have done for this community for several years. He thanked Robert Travis and Roosevelt Martin for their efforts in bring the four day carnival to this Village; he thanked the Police and Fire Departments for coordinating the parade and apologized that the parade route had to be shortened and diverted due to the size of the parade and the lack of proper permits. He also noted that another Job Fair would be held at #90 Town Center on September 27, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with guaranteed job opportunities for qualified applicants, and that there would be approximately fifty companies involved; therefore, she stressed the importance that applicants bring several resume' and dress to impress. Trustee Payton reported that the carnival made \$1,800.00 for the village during the four days, and apologized that they did not have the tickets for the under privileged kids as they had hope to have.

Trustee Roudez thanked the Human Services & Special Events Committee and the Parks & Recreation Department for their work in the success of the carnival and festivities.

Trustee Griffin commented that HSSEC did a good job, but that he had a concern that there were no lights in or near the portable potties.

Trustee Williams commented that the Back to School festivities and the carnival were great, and she hopes the carnival will be back next year; She apologized to a resident who she states hates to hear Trustee Payton use the term "In the hood". She addressed comments made by with Trustee Payton at a previous meeting where he stated that graffiti was on the fence of his daughter's fence and that she, as President of the homeowners association did nothing about it. She stated that he did not notify her, nor report it to the police, and that she does not understand the attack of Trustee Payton on her at the meeting. Trustee Williams stated that the fence around the house had been replaced and showed the section of the fence referenced by Trustee Payton, and stated that it almost took a microscope to see the etching in the wood, and that someone else had to assist her to find the graffiti.

Committee & Commission Reports – continued:

Trustee Payton stated that his granddaughter saw the graffiti etched in the fence, and he did not think it was a big deal; however, he brought the issue up at the Board meeting because he was angered that Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin and Roudez wanted to repeal the ordinance that authorized the agreement with the Cook County's Gang and Narcotic Task Force, and to show that there is a need for their assistance.

Trustee Williams responded that whenever she sees something that is wrong, she calls the Chief of Police and discusses the matter.

Mayor Covington commented on the large amount of graffiti at the Metra Station.

E-4: Reports of Other Officers:

Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress thanked the HSSEC for allowing that department to participate in the back to school festivities, and thanked Home Depot and Lowes for the numerous supplies that they donated and brought to the new playground and helped with games for the kids; she thanked those who participated in the 5 on 5 basketball and the kids at play projects. Director Childress complimented Laquon Treadwell, a senior at Crete-Monee High School for his accomplishment both on and off the football field, noting that Treadwell is #1 in the State and is being recruited by many colleges and universities, and has been selected to play in the Under Armour All American game in Orlando, Florida in January, 2013. She also reported that the University Park Lion Alumni Flag Football would be held September 29, 201 beginning at 3:00p.m.

Golf Club General Manager Paul Blockoms reported that on August 20th Leah Hope of ABC Channel 7 was at the University Golf Club to get reactions about Augusta National Golf Club's decision to finally admit two women into the once male only golf club; he reported that Ms. Hope gave exposure to the golf club and interviewed members of the Women's Golf Association of University Golf Club including Village Clerk Dee Jones. Others featured were Women's Golf Association President Carole Jamison and members Geraldine Tyler and Anita Odoms.

Finance Director Gloria Gibson reported that she is in receipt of and review of a draft of the 2009 Audit; they are looking at proposals of new auditors, and that copies of the 2012-13 are available at Village Hall.

Reports of Other Officers - continued.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that October 9th is the last day to register to vote in order to participate in the November 6, 2012 General Presidential Election. Voter registration is available at Village Hall and Parks & Registration Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and there are several Deputy Registrars at other locations throughout the Village. She gave the requirements for registering to vote, and urged new residents to register and for those who have moved to re-register.

Mayor Covington reported that she would be having mediation training for employees in the near future.

E-5: Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Stewart Diamond reported that he is working on the problems with TIF allocations, disbursements and entitlements, and that he has found that most of the TIF Agreements were geared toward the property owner; He is looking at the TIF'S to see if payments were made properly. Relating to the Town Builder Studio Project Mr. Diamond stated that he is working to get the best deal for the Village, and that Mr. Louthen has asked for a ninety day extension to purchase the land. Relating to the Family Dollar Project he reported that they are looking economic help for the developer, and that the issue relating to jurisdictional transfer of University Parkway is on the agenda later to assist in that project.

Attorney Diamond commented on changes relating to public comments and stated that they are intended to try to get the Board meeting moving in a more orderly manner, therefore, we are asking those wishing to make public comments to sign up on the sign-in sheet; limit comments to thirty minimum with three minutes per person.

Trustee Williams asked if the Village has lost the \$250,000.00 Escrow that was put up in the Town Builder Studio Project, and if it is illegal to transfer TIF Funds to General Funds.

Attorney Diamond responded that the village has not yet lost the \$250,000.00, but the Village did pass a resolution that gave specifics that governed the escrow funds. Relating to transferring TIF Funds to General Fund he stated that TIF Funds must be used for TIF eligible projects, and the municipality cannot transfer TIF Funds to supplement the general fund without the transfer being for eligible.

Trustee Williams asked if the entire Board should know if the aforementioned transfers were taking place, and if any of those types of transfer had been made in the last two years.

Mayor Covington responded that the Village owes some companies as far back as 1998, with as much as four million dollars to Applied Systems and some other companies.

Finance Director Gibson commented that the Finance Department is working with the attorney on these issues, and noted that two companies TIF agreements have expired, but the Village still owes them money; however, she is looking at disbursement of the funds.

Mayor Covington commented that the Finance Committee meetings are open to the public and at those meetings most of the financial issues are discussed.

F. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Rose Mary Nettles voiced her concern relating to the workshop held earlier tonight and attempts of some Trustees to repeal the Agreement with Cook County for services to help with our gang and drug problems. She stated that she agrees with Art King and James Harris that if the services are free, why not use both Will and Counties, and that she could not understand the reason for the attempt to repeal the ordinance, because it is better to be pro-active than re-active.

Mr. Milton Mighty commented on recent break-ins at the Metra Station; passed out an article from the newspaper relating to help with gangs and drugs in Chicago and Cook County and stated that the Village of University Park needs help and should accept it.

Mrs. Gloria Barnett-Brookins commented that she is a 30+ year resident of the Village; is the Chair of, and has worked with the Board of Fire & Police Commissioner for 8 -10 years, and she applauds the HSSEC for bringing the carnival back, noting that it showed good spirit and took her back to years ago where parent and children were together and enjoyed the events. She stated that she did not attend the last two Board meetings but viewed them on TV, and that she was dismayed at the way the Village was portrayed, because it appeared that University Park is a drug and gang infested community when our crime statistics do not bear that out. She asked the Board and residents to be careful what we say, and noted that in prior years we had members of our police department deployed to the Will County Task Force.

Mrs. Norma Scarborough voiced her concern with past and current administration with problems with Mrs. Morgan that she does not understand; however, she would suggest that the form a group for the youth under the umbrella of the Park & Recreation Department to work with the guidance of Ms. Mille in the various beautification projects that she has already been doing, but they must be done decent and in order.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that he supports Mrs. Morgan and does not see why she should not continue to do what she has been doing.

General Public comments- continued:

Mayor Covington stated that she does not oppose the idea, but she wants to see credentials and background checks must be run on anyone who works with our children.

Mr. Lester Scarborough thanked the Fire Department for their outstanding assistance during his recent illness.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan commented that she is comfortable with the protection that we receive, but questions the fear tactics used by Mayor Covington relating to possible terrorist attacks, and is concerned that Mr. Townsend was fired after he was released from the hospital. She asked to know if there is any empathy or sympathy for others, and stated that these practices just add to the unemployment roles

Ms. Deborah Stroud addressed the Board and public and noted that the Senior Fund Day would be held August 29th at #90 Town Center from noon to 4 p.m. where this year the menu will feature a Taste of Cultures which would include Asian, African/Soul Food, Hawaiian, and other ethics dishes. She invited the Board, Staff and residents 55 and older to come out and participate. She also commented on the experience had in the 10 week Citizen's Police Academy and presented a plaque depicting the logo for the academy that she had made to Officer Glowinski as the next coordinator for the academy.

Mayor Covington stated that she would pay to have the poster put on a wooden plaque for the police department.

G. DISCUSSION AGENDA

G-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G-1a: First Reading – An Ordinance Amending Title Four Of The Administration Code, Chapter 210 "Board Of Trustees" Section 210-01 "" Standing Rules", Subsection (B), Specifically Standing Rule Two

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves first reading of this ordinance.

Attorney Diamond commented that this ordinance only referenced Standing Rule Two, however he can put suggestions from the Board into ordinance form to address other items in the Standing Rules to bring them into conformity with State Law and address concerns of the Board, and bring the item back for second reading at the next meeting.

Roll Call on G-1a:

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

Motion Carried To Approve.

G-1b: Motion To Direct The Village Manager To Investigate The Selection Of A New Prosecuting Attorney To Serve The Village Of University Park

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves this motion.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that he thought that issue had been resolved, and asked to know what is actually going on.

Mayor Covington commented that after the executive session she thought the Board agreed that it would not be economically feasible to replace the current Prosecutor.

Trustee Payton asked Prosecutor Bruce Adelman to present to the public and give his length of service and explain the missed court calls.

Prosecutor Bruce Adelman commented that he began his tenure with the Village in August, 2011, and that when he took over, he did not receive any information or schedule of locations for court calls from the previous prosecutor; therefore, he missed a couple of court calls. He stated that he has only missed one court call during the calendar year. On occasions when he cannot make it to court he always sends a replacement, which is acceptable practice. Relating to his fees for service, he stated that the previous prosecutor's bills ranged around \$5,000.00 per month, and his range between \$2,000 to \$3,000.00 per month which is a vast saving, and that his conviction rate is 100% based on the preponderance of evidence of cases that he tried in court.

Trustee Payton stated that he does not understand the reason for the proposed action and asked Attorney Adelman to explain his relationship with prior Village Attorney Tomic.

Prosecutor Bruce Adelman responded that while he, Attorney Tomic, and six other attorneys shared suites in the same building and shared common expenses, they were not involved professionally and were not partners. He asked the Board if any of them had shared their concerns of his performances with the Village Manager or Chief of Police.

Mayor Covington stated that if this ordinance passed she would veto it.

G-1b – continued:

Village Attorney Diamond informed the Mayor that she could not veto action taken on this item; however, the decision of replacing him would be for the Village Manager to make.

Mayor Covington stated that since the decision is for the Manager to make, that Trustees should allow him to handle the situation, because she feels that firing people for no reason is disgraceful, and that Trustees should stay in their lanes.

Village Manager Linear asked for clarity on this motion, and whether he must investigate, or hire a new prosecutor.

Prosecutor Bruce Adelman thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them again and for the time that he has served the village, and referred to his contract that states includes a 60 day notice for dismissal, and asked if he would get the 60 days notice or if this action would immediate.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin, and Roudez.

Nays: Trustee Payton and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

Motion Carried To Approve.

G-2: NEW BUSINESS

G-2a: First Reading – Ordinance Providing For The Addition Of University Parkway (Formerly Exchange Street) (CH49) From The East Right-Of-Way Of CH48 (Old Monee Road) To The West Right-Of-Way Of CH53 (Western Avenue), In Its Entirety, To The Village Street System Of The Village Of University Park, Will County, Illinois

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves first reading of this ordinance.

Trustee Griffin asked if this action would be a remedy to unblock efforts of Will County to hold up the Family Dollar Store project.

Manager Linear explained that currently Will County has jurisdiction of the 1.6 miles of road on University Parkway from Western Avenue to Monee Road and control the issuance of permits for the Right of Ways that are need to move the Family Dollar project forward, and this would eliminate control of Will County.

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

Nays: Trustee Oscar Brown.

Absent: None.

Motion Carried To Approve.

G-2b: First Reading – Ordinance Authorizing The Duties Of Village Treasurer

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves first reading of this ordinance.

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

Motion Carried.

Dilworth thanked the Board for approval of this ordinance, and stated this would allow him to work with the Finance Director and Village Manager to get things done.

G-2c: Bills Payable

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park has incurred for the last two (2) weeks from August 14, 2012 to August 28, 2012. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 144,717.23
Road & Bridge	\$ 4,047.47
Town Center Fund	\$ 84.00
University Golf Club	\$ 105,584.64
Capital Project Fund	\$ <u>720.17</u>
Total	\$367,200.60

Trustee Griffin referred to check numbers 77402 for \$692.00; 77391 for \$3800.00; 77353 for \$1,793.37 and 77450 and asked for clarity.

Golf Club General Manager responded that #77402 for \$692.00 was to have the perimeter locks replaced; 77391 for \$3800.00 to Coca Cola; 77353 for \$1,793.37 to Pepsi Cola, because they switched from Pepsi Cola to Coca Cola and owed Pepsi for invoices dating back to May.

Trustee Griffin asked if they could not negotiate a deal with either of those companies and get some special incentives.

Parks Director Childress responded that some of the invoices from Pepsi Cola included products for Parks & Recreation.

Trustee Larry Brown referred to the charges from Attorney Diamond and stated that he has concerns with charges of \$30,000.00.

Bills Payable – continued:

Attorney Diamond responded that he sent the invoices to all members of the Board, and no one contacted him; however, the charges reflect several serious projects that they have been asked to work on, and that no one contacted him before the Village agreed to put up \$250,000.00 in Escrow for a project without competent counsel. He stated that they attempt to give fair and equal representation to all; his hourly rate is less than that of the Prosecutor but the hours and work is much greater, and is proud of the work that he does, and does not apologize for the charges and would understand if the Village decided that they cannot afford his services.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that he was not questioning the work, but his question is why has the bill not been paid; that he was not attacking Attorney Diamond and would like to see the Board enter into a contract with them, because he appreciates what they are doing, and would like to see who initiated some of the charges.

Trustee Roudez referred to page 3 – American Express and asked to know who the card holders are.

Finance Director Gibson responded that the card holders are the Mayor, Village Manager and IT Director Bolton.

Trustee Payton commented that he feels that the charges of the attorney are justified; however, he has concerns with the process used in obtaining the attorney with no consideration of budgetary constraints. He also knows that Attorney Diamond will save the village money in the long run.

Mayor Covington commented that she too had several questions relating to bills payable; however, she directed her concerns in writing to the appropriate individuals rather take up time at the meeting.

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

Nays: Trustee Oscar Brown.

Absent: None.

Motion Carried To Approve.

I. BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGER COMMENTS

J. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

K EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board move into executive session for purposes of Pending Litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the public body and Personnel for appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of an employee at 10:15 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 11:45 p.m. with nothing to report to the public.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 11:46 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted

*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk*

/drj