

**Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, January 14, 2014 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 7:01 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	Absent

Also present were Village Manager Linear, Village Attorney Steward Diamond, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief Ed Bradley, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Finance Director Joe Jones, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Golf Club Restaurant Manager James McCallum, Public Works Director Ross Burgess, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Cable Studio Manager Eddie Pearson, Community Relations Manager James Bell, 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 Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of a regular meeting held December 10, 2013.

Mayor Covington noted corrections and/or changes that she wanted under her report, and under general public. (Those changes were made, and are reflected in the corrected minutes of December 10, 2013).

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Larry Brown.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

## **E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

### **E-1a: Elected Officials Report**

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that due to recent changes in the election laws, beginning January 1, 2014, any 17 year old citizen who will turn 18 by the November 4, 2014 General Election is eligible to register and vote in the March 18, 2014 Primary Election. She stated that additional information is available on the Cook County and will County Clerk's websites.

### **E-1b: Village Manager's Report**

Village Manager Linear reported on the status of the Cityscape Property, noting that according to records that property is still in the hands of the prior owners. However, he is aware that there is a perspective buyer who is interested in rehabbing the property and making it rental units. In the meantime the Village will post violations, and place liens against the property. He also reported that they are looking at retailers for the downtown TIF District; they are working closely with the State Comptroller's Office relating to delinquent TIF audit reports, and hoping that the fines and penalties, if any will be minimal; the road project is on track, however due to the physical condition of Mr. Manilow there might be a challenge in getting the required signatures in a timely manner.

Relating to the audits, Trustee Roudez asked if the remaining TIF reports could be ready within the next 18 months; he voiced his concerns with the numerous potholes on University Parkway, especially east of central to the golf course.

Manager Linear responded that they are working aggressively with the new auditors to bring all of the audits up to date, and that they have presented to the Board tonight the audit report for 2009. He urged the Board to read the report, pay attention to the Manager's Letter and let him know of their concerns as soon as possible.

Trustee Williams asked for clarity on the Cityscape Property and noted her concern that if that property is turned into rental units, she feels that the property value in the surrounding area would go down. She asked if the Village can require the new owners to leave it as single-family dwellings.

Village Attorney Diamond responded that there is nothing that dictates that that particular piece of property cannot be zoned for rental use.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked Manager Linear if the timeline for the 2010 audits would be ready by the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in February, or by the end of February, and if the 2011 audits would be completed within 3 months.

Trustee Griffin asked for clarity on potential fines that could be imposed by the State Comptroller's Office for failure to file the TIF audits on time. He also voiced his concern with the three minute time limit being imposed on Trustees to make their comments, and stated that if there is no legislation that requires this he wants it to stop.

Trustee Payton responded that he feels that if a time limit is put on the public, they should also be on the Trustees. He also stated that Trustee Griffin brought forward an ordinance that he now violates with his disrespectful actions. Relating to the Cityscape Property he noted that the Village Of Flossmoor has an ordinance in place that limits the amount of rental property in specific areas.

Village Manager Linear responded that he and Attorney Diamond would look into this matter and report back to the Board.

Mayor Covington noted that even though the law allows for carrying concealed weapons they cannot be carried on Village property.

## **E - 2: Mayor's Report**

Mayor Covington reported on events in her schedule since the last meeting which included her attendance at the 1<sup>st</sup> session on the Comprehensive Plan, noting that December was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting followed by a meeting with the Plan Commission on January 8, 2014 and continued to the public earlier tonight. She noted that there were surveys distributed throughout the community and businesses and she urged that the surveys are completed and returned to the Village as soon as possible, because we only have until the end of this month to complete them. The surveys also are on the Village website; on December 30, 2013 The South Suburban Black Mayors extended the program for a few workers to continue; unfortunately the funds are limited, and they are waiting for the exact amount, but it appears that it may be only 3 per participating community. She also reported on her attendance at the Committee and Commission Celebration held at the University golf club and conference center on January 4, 2014, which gave them an opportunity to thank those volunteers who devote their precious time and expertise to this Village. Additionally she has attended an IDOT meeting, along with Robinson Engineers relating to the I 57 Interchange, and a meeting with South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association where they addressed issues relating to IDOT roads and transportation, she also reported that we have been granted funding for some projects, and hopefully she can continue to work with IDOT to provide greater assistance with these projects.

Mayor Covington reported on a conference call she was involved in into the White House on Capitalization of Discipline Initiative Educational Excellence for African-Americans, where they discussed this new compiled guideline procedure that all schools will use as guidance. This conference call included Department Of Education Mr. Duncan and the Civil Rights and the Justice Departments.

Mayor Covington also noted that on January 13, 2014 she spoke with the owner of the Family Dollar store regarding the staffing of that store and also attended a meeting of the South Suburban Airport Committee which was held at Governors State University

### **E-3: Committee & Commission Reports**

Trustee Payton reported that the next meeting of the finance committee would be Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at Village Hall from 7 until 8:30 PM. He also reported that the Human Services and Special Events Committee met this past Saturday, and asked Mr. Robert Travis to give an update.

Mr. Robert Travis reported that the committee would continue to hold such events as the Thanksgiving Dinner, the Carnival and the Coat Drive, and stated that he hopes next year funds will be allocated in the budget for these needed events. Additionally he stated that the HSSEC will present its agenda to the Village Board in the very near future.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that the next meeting of the Golf Club Advisory Committee would be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at the University Golf Club.

### **E-4: Reports of Other Officers**

Village Treasurer Dilworth reported that he has served as manager at a Family Dollar store in the past and he has noticed that the store here in University Park has already dismissed 3 managers, he stated that this normally indicates a decline in business; he also voiced his concern with the cracks that are in the newly paved streets in Fairway Estates. He asked Fairway Estates Homeowners Association President Paula Wilson to further address the matter.

Fairway Estates Homeowners Association President Paula Wilson commented that she is glad the road is done however, there are cracks and the streets ice over easily.

Parks and Recreation Director Keely Childress reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> basketball game of the season would be held on January 21 at the Crete Monee Dome. She thanked Ernest Roberts and Robinson Engineering for their assistance with the completion of the Hickok Bridge, and stated that the next phase of the project would be the sidewalks near the middle school.

### **E-5: Attorney's Report**

No report at this time..

### **E-6: Department Updates**

None

## **F. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Attorney Diamond reminded the public of the 30 minutes maximum allowed for public comments, and asked that they be mindful of the time limit. However, anyone who has signed in and not allowed to speak tonight would be 1<sup>st</sup> on the list for comments at the next meeting.

Ms. Laverne Williams addressed the Mayor and the Board and urged residents to complete the Comprehensive Plan Survey and noted that there are forms available tonight near the entrance door.

Ms. Sandra Warren addressed the Mayor and Board and voiced her concerns with the expenditure of funds for the GED program here in the Village, She stated that she has requested information on the number of participants and other data and noted that Prairie State College offers those classes and language classes for free, and that she feels the money could be better spent for snow removal and other things that benefit the community, not for a special class of people who did not get an education.

Trustee Williams responded that the students want to come here in the Village for these free classes, because some of the residents don't have transportation to go outside of Village.

Mr. Keith Rouse voiced his concern and disapproval of the fees charged by the current attorney and the proposal of a GSU Village Liaison, noting that he feels these funds could be used for other important projects. .

Mr. Robert Travis voiced his concern with the lack of participation of Village residents in community events.

Mrs. Mary Ann Griffin addressed the Mayor and Board and voiced her concerns with the display of attitudes, attack, lack of respect, and discerning things said to, and about Attorney Diamond at the last Village Board Meeting. She stated that she wanted to apologize to Attorney Diamond for the attack on his character that he endured at the December 10, 2013 meeting, where he was called a racist and other demeaning terms. She further stated that that law firm is deemed one of the best in the State and everyone knows that we must pay for what get.

Mrs. Debra Taylor addressed the Mayor and Board and commented on a letter that she sent to the Village voicing her displeasure at what was displayed at the December 10, 2013 meeting; she commented on what she feels was the lack of adequate snow removal at the last big snow, the rampage of gunshots and safety issues in the Russett Oaks Subdivision, and suggested that perhaps a safety zone camera could be installed in that area. She also stated that Trustee Elizabeth Williams is President of the Russett Oaks Homeowners Association.

**General Public Comments – Continued:**

Mr. David Sevier addressed the Board and asked if the Village could pass an ordinance to change the budget year from 12 months to an 18 months cycle. He gave an example of how that timeline would work.

Attorney Diamond responded that even though University Park is a home rule community he does not feel that what Mr. Sevier proposes is possible, and asked Mr. Sevier to put his proposal in writing and send it to him. However, he does not feel that a fiscal year is 18 months.

Ms. Annie Ward voiced her concern with the lack of adequate snow removal during the last snowstorm. To Trustee Oscar Brown she voiced her concerns with a letter sent to GSU by Attorney Diamond, and stated that she feels Attorney Diamond owes Mayor Covington an apology. She further stated that she wants an answer to why her request for employment at the golf course was not granted, and the position of restaurant manager was given to someone not as qualified as she was.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to Mrs. Ward stating that he does not apologize for the statement he made relating to Attorney Diamond, and the excellent services that they provide to this Village. He also stated that their law firm actually compiles the Municipal Handbook used by municipalities throughout the State. Nor does he apologize for his belief or support of the GSU Liaison Committee.

Reverend Reginald Williams, Jr. Pastor of the First Baptist Church of University Park along with members Eric and Karen Haskell addressed the Board and commented on a recent shooting in the Village where the son of Mr. and Mrs. Haskell, and another young person were shot. He challenged the Village to stop the violence by making our kids a priority. He asked that the Village, when looking at its budget allow for funds for a recreational center or facility that would address the needs of our older young adults.

Mayor Covington stated that during this past summer she had 36 youths working here in the Village, and that she wants to work with the churches to address the needs of our young people, and if necessary, until other resources are found Number 90 Town Center could be used as a recreational center. She also voiced her concern that we do not use a police blotter that will inform our residents of crime in our community.

Trustee Roudez responded to Pastor Williams that there is a Technical Resource Center that has been in the works for some time and now feels this is the time to bring the project back and complete it. He vowed to work with Pastor Williams and other interested parties to help stop the violence.

Trustee Payton responded that he previously presented a budget to the Village Board that included academic, technical, music, and other mind building programs for our kids benefit and he wants to bring them back to the table at a meeting.

**General Public Comments – Continued:**

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that he agrees with Trustee Roudez, and that he will now focus once again on the Technical Resource Center, and that he feels that the new employee expense tax could help with the funding for completion of that center for our kids.

Police Chief Bradley asked the Haskell's to sit down with him to discuss the issues of their concerns. He also stated that he commends those kids who do the right thing, and feels that it is necessary that we recognize the good things as well as focusing on the bad things.

Mr. Eric Haskell commented that this community must come together, stop bickering among themselves and protect our future leaders, our young people.

Ms. Chere`se Williams commented that she feels that there is need for the GED classes in the Village of University Park, and commends Trustee Williams for taking the lead in this endeavor.

**G-1 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**G-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**G-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings - Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And The Will County 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System Board For The Funding Of A 9-1-1 Surcharge Reallocation**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of this ordinance.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

**Motion To Approve Carried \_ Ordinance Number O 2014 –01.**

**G-2b: First, Second And Third Readings - Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract For Electrical Services For One Year With Hudson Energy Services, LLC**

**G-2b continued:**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to table this item to the Legislative and Operations Committee.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin, and Roudez.  
Nays: Trustee Payton, and Mayor Covington.  
Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

***Motion To Table Carried.***

**G-2c: Resolution Approving Right-Of-Way Purchases For The University Parkway Project Between Central Avenue and Governors Highway**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves this resolution.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried* Resolution Number R 2014-01.**

**G-2d: Resolution Confirming The Assignment Of The Village Manager To Negotiate For Roadway Easements**

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve this resolution.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried* Resolution Number R 2014-02.**

**G-2e: Motion Approving The 2014 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve this meeting schedule.

Village Clerk Dee Jones noted that the schedule time listed differs from the actual meeting time for the Golf Club Advisory Committee. She noted that currently they are scheduled to meet at 7:30, however, they are looking at changing that to 6 PM.



Trustee Payton asked if the quarterly finance update meeting should be listed on this calendar. The consensus was that since there is no specific date those meetings would be called. He also stated that the finance committee wants to change their meeting date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7 until 8:30 PM at Village Hall.

**Motion to table:**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to table this item to the next regular scheduled meeting.

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

***Motion To Table Carried.***

**G2f: Bills Payable**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion that the Board approves the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park as incurred for the last four (4) weeks from December 10, 2013 to January 14, 2014.

The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$315,645.76
Road & Bridge Fund	\$5247.75
Town Center	\$8190.86
Golf Course Fund	\$57,752.88
TIF III	\$45,200.00
TIF V	<u>\$286.34</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$432,323.62</b>

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**G-2g: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Establishing The University Park Village Board Liaison Committee With Governors State University**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of this ordinance.

**G-2g - continued:**

Mayor Covington commented that GSU has a consortium that meets on a regular basis, and she does not know why no one, to date has participated in those consortiums.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin, and Roudez.  
Nays: Trustee Payton, and Mayor Covington.  
Absent: Trustee Larry Brown.

***Motion To Approve Carried***

***Ordinance Number O 2014 – 02.***

***G-2h: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Amending Title Four Of The Administration Code, Chapter 210 “Board Of Trustees” Section 210-01 “Standing Rules”, Subsection (K), Specifically Standing Rule Eleven***

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of this ordinance.

Attorney Diamond explained that a Mayor Pro-Tem is only used when the Mayor is incapacitated and unable to perform their duties. When the Mayor is in the area, running late, or absent from a meeting, the normal practice is to appoint a Temporary Chair for that meeting. He noted that the appointment of a Mayor Pro-Tem gives those individual full statutory powers to perform as the Mayor.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

***Ordinance Number O 2014 – 03.***

## **H. BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGER COMMENTS**

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

## **J. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board move into executive session for purposes of personnel at 9:25 PM.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:41 with nothing to report out to the public.

## **K. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:42 pm.

***Motion to adjourn carried by unanimous voice vote.***

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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

/drj