

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, November 25, 2014 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called the meeting to order at 7:08 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	Absent (arrived @ 7:23)
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Attorney Felicia Frazier, Police Chief Ed Bradley, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Golf Pro Paul Blockoms, 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 Griffin moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 28, 2014.

Mayor Covington commented that she did not see in the minutes where Trustee Elizabeth Williams asked to know when the last increase in compensation for elected officials was given, and that Mayor Covington stated that she would not accept the compensation, but would give it back to youth program.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Roudez.

Motion To Approve Carried.

E. REPORTS OF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

E-1: Reports of Elected Officials

Trustee Griffin directed his questions to Trustee Payton relating to the Kids Health Club, and asked to know why they did not follow procedural plans and have licensed architect or engineers draw up the plans rather than have an unlicensed volunteer do the job?; why they did not go out for bids; what was the cost, and if the contractors used were licensed.

Trustee Payton responded that unlike Trustee Griffin, they did go out for bids for electrical and plumbing work, and that he worked with volunteers and Mr. Robert Travis who is a mechanical engineer in an effort to save taxpayer dollars. Additionally, they worked with the public works department in an attempt to get something done for our kids, and the kids health club was also designed as a warming center, afterschool study, senior activities and learning center. He stated that they did not spend \$42,000 for architectural plans, as was done for the Technical Resource Center, a facility that had no budget. He further stated that Trustees Oscar Brown, Elizabeth Williams, Roudez and Griffin approved a contract for \$198,000 to someone who could not even provide a performance bond, which he feels is questionable, and they did not have JMA Architects sign off on the proposed plans from the contractor.

Trustee Larry Brown commented on grants that have been brought to our attention from our engineering firm and asked Val Williams of Robinson Engineers to give an update.

Ms. Williams gave a synopsis of the DECCO and other grants that are available. Relating to CDBG Grants she commented that in 2011 we submitted applications, and it was determined that we were not a priority for funding, because University Park is considered an affluent community, therefore we could not meet the 51% criterion, and in order to meet that criteria, or show that a large percentage of our population are seniors and low income, the Village needs to go door to door and conduct a survey as soon as possible, because the announcement is in March, with the awards in May 2015. However, she is looking at storm and water systems grants for the area on Burnham Drive to Thornwood, and also into CDBG funding if surveys are completed timely.

Trustee Larry Brown asked Manager Linear to follow up with Ms. Williams on this project.

Mayor Covington stated that she is on the CDBG Committee in Will County with Larry Walsh, and that certain grant information became known to her today that she passed on to Ms. Williams.

E-1: Village Manager's Report

Village Manager Linear reported on several items including Phase 1 reconstruction of the University Parkway Reconstruction Project. He reported that the Village has received confirmation from SSMMA that IDOT has earmarked \$4 million for the reconstruction of University Parkway from just East of the railroad tracks to Crawford Avenue. The project normally is funded 80/20, however Will County has agreed to give the Village credit for 10%, therefore the Village will only be required to pay \$400,000 of this \$4 million project, and construction is scheduled for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. He also reported that a substantial amount of TIF funds have been deposited into the Village's Special Tax Allocation Fund and that disbursements have been completed for 8 of the 11 companies scheduled to receive reimbursements from these funds.

Manager Linear Gave An Update On The Status Of The SSMMA Enterprise Zone Designation for targeted areas within our COG, and noted that our group of municipalities include University Park, Matteson, Monee, Park Forest, and Richton Park. He stated that the Enterprise Zone is designed for the State of Illinois to provide economic benefits to companies looking to be build or expand within the State, and that incentives include no sales tax on building supplies and other benefits. He also reported that the Auditors have completed the field work for the 2011 financial statement audit, and that the report is currently available in draft form. That the Auditors have committed to begin the fiscal year 2012 audit at the conclusion of the current project. He noted that Village Staff and the Auditors continue to keep the State Comptroller's Office apprised of our progress, and they have registered no objections. He reported on meetings and conferences that he has attended including the National League of Cities, meetings with the Mayor, members of the Village Board, and developers for both commercial and residential development, and that he is currently drafting a memo to the new Village Law Firm discussing open items which will require their attention, and he will share that memo with the Mayor and Board of Trustees.

Trustee Oscar Brown thanked the public works department for the rapid response and removal of the recent snow.

Trustee Payton asked Manager Linear for a status on the complaints of lights out on Circle Drive that have been out for a year; information that he requested on who will be impacted on the fenced trash bin ordinance, and his request for a profit and loss statement on garbage collection.

Village Manager Linear responded that they have engaged the services of Western Electric to assist the Village in replacing lights that our public works department could not handle, and that he encourages our police officers to inform the public works department of lights that are out, that they see while patrolling at night. He apologized for the delay in getting the trash bin information to Trustee Payton in a timely manner.

Trustee Payton referred to a previous meeting where there was a debate on the compensation of elected officials, and stated that that portion of the meeting was missing from the video that was shown, and he feels that is a violation of the Open Meeting Act and he wants an independent investigation by perhaps the State's Attorney. He also asked if the position held by Dana Barnes in the Community Relations Department was advertised or budgeted, or if a new position was created. He stated that we currently owe our previous Attorneys in excess of \$226,000 and that he never got an answer on his question of the selection process for hiring the Village attorney, and that the law firm of Ancel Glink billed the Village \$678,933.11 as of October 14, 2014.

Village Manager Linear responded that Ms. Barnes was an intern at GSU; that the process for hiring the law firm was the same as previously used, which was that he would solicit firms and he and the Mayor would interview them, and he would make the appointment to be approved by the Board. Relating to an investigation he stated he would turn this matter over to our police chief.

Mayor Covington stated that once the internship at GSU was over the position in community relations should have been posted.

E- 2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington reported on meetings and webinars that she has attended or participated in since the last meeting which included: A Webinar of the National League of Cities, an event at GSU with celebrities and TV personalities; a meeting at the University Golf Club with GSU where she and President Maimon signed a Memorandum Of Understanding, and made the announcement that The University Golf Club would be the home golf club for the GSU Jaguars Golf Team; she met with the Superintendent of Schools District 227, and participated in the Crete Monee School District 201-U Night Of Leadership. She also thanked the Trustees who were pallbearers for the late Village Clerk Irma A. Berry.

E- 3: Commission and Committee Reports:

No reports given.

E- 4: Reports of Other Officers:

Golf Club General Manager/PGA Professional Paul Blockoms reported that The Concerned Golfers Of University Golf Club raised \$3300 that they used to purchase turkeys for giveaway for Thanksgiving. He noted that 200 turkeys were Given to Faith Movers Church and 52 turkeys were given to 1st Baptist Church of University Park.

Community Relations Manager James Bell wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and noted that the Holiday Coat Drive Giveaway And Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony would be held on December 5, 2014. He noted that collection barrels for the coats are set up throughout the Village and encouraged residents to donate new or gently used coats. Mr. Bell also encouraged residents to register for the Christmas Home Decoration Contest no later than December 10, 2014. Responding to a question asked by Mrs. Wilson, he stated that there were no forms to complete to register for the home decoration contest, but they could call his office or Village Hall and be put on the list. Additional information can be obtained by calling his office at 708-235-0182.

F: General Public Comments:

Attorney Frazier reminded the public of the guidelines for public comments as listed on the agenda.

Mr. Elbert Shaw addressed the Board and stated that for several weeks he has offered bonding ideas to the Village, but he has heard that the Board cannot take advantage of this because our financial audits are not up to date. Relating to our insurance pool he stated that he feels our insurance pool is sick, the cost we are paying is ridiculous, and he urged the Board to bring our financial records up to date.

Mayor Covington responded that we are almost up to date on our financial audits.

Ms. Gina Williams addressed the Board and commented on the condition in Ferguson, Missouri, and stated that in watching the Board meetings she feels that it is happening here in University Park where there is disrespect to the Mayor, no goods and services and stated that we need recreation and positive influences for our kids.

Mrs. Star Lawson addressed the Mayor and Board and stated that she is disappointed with the disrespect of the Mayor, and that she thanks the Mayor for representing University Park in such a positive manner at functions such as the IML, SSMMA, Black Mayors, and other organizations. She stated that there should be an investigation into allegations that information on the video from a previous meeting has been removed and that she feels the FCC, State's Attorney or someone should investigate this matter, and since the clerk does not do a verbatim minutes there is no other reference. She stated that The Community Relations Department has an assistant while the Mayor has no assistant during these many times that Johnna has been away. She stated that when the Board voted to give itself a raise she does not feel they are doing it for the residents, she commented on a prior personal relationship with Trustee Griffin and her family, and stated that she wants to see the old Griffin back.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan asked what are we getting from the Mayor for all the meetings she attends, stating that in 2011 they spent \$70,000 for kids health club that has never been used, and that in 2007 Trustee Payton added \$4 million to the budget for a Theater at the new Crete Monee High School and named it for himself.

General Public Comments Continued:

Trustee Payton responded that as usual Mrs. Morgan has her facts wrong and that the kids health club has been opened and used by University Park children. Relating to her allegations of the \$4 million addition to Crete Monee high school budget he stated that the budget was actually cut and programs such as arts were eliminated, and they increased the class-size; that he was not aware of the intent to name the theater in his honor for the work he had done, because he was no longer on the School Board, and that all of this happened after he left the School Board.

Ms. Rosemary Nettles addressed the Board and stated that while watching the Board meeting of October 28, 2014 she felt that she was on flight at 1 800 I fly SWA, and wondered if the meeting was trick or treat. She stated she could not believe that the Board voted itself a raise of 25% plus a 3% annual increase while they get free cell phone, generous training allowances and other amenities. Relating to the allegations of missing portions the video of the meeting she stated that it was on, went off but reappeared and she feels it was all in tack. She commented on an extension of the contract for Village Manager Linear and asked why, when he is not accessible to residents nor does he return her calls.

Mrs. Mary Truss reported on a game day that was held At 90 Town Center Drive in an effort to bring neighbors together for fun. She stated that they played games, had a chili cook-off and collected food for the Monee Township Pantry.

Mayor Covington responded that previously we did have committees to do these things and stated that if any of the committees are brought back, she hopes it will be the Human Services and Special Events Committee.

Mrs. Bridgette Franklin and her husband addressed the Board and asked for prayers as they take the University Park Lions Pee-wee's team to St. Louis for a championship game. She stated that the concern for their safety is not an issue because they will be several miles from the chaos in Ferguson, Missouri.

Mr. Franklin stated that we need to give our kids a voice in their athletic participation, and stated that 70% of our kids need to do something other than baseball or basketball, and that they had joined the USA Wrestling Association, and had formed a men's wrestling team. The wrestling team would hold the 1st practice on December 8th at Crete Monee High School, and the cost would be \$100 per participant that would include their wrestling card and uniform.

Mayor Covington gave Mr. Franklin \$100 to sponsor one kid, and Mr. James Bell followed her lead and donated 100.

G-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G-1a: Third Reading - An Ordinance Allowing Off-Street Parking During Limited Times Across Sidewalks.

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve 3rd reading of this ordinance.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O 2014 – 56.

G-2a: Appointment Of The Law Firm Of Odelson & Sterk, Ltd.

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to approve the appointment of the Law Firm of Odelson & Sterk, Ltd as Village Attorney.

Trustee Payton commented on the exorbitant fees paid to the previous law firm and asked Manager Linear if there is a fee structure and a letter of engagement in place with this law firm.

Village Manager Linear responded that this law firm has agreed not to exceed \$155,000 per year plus out of pocket expenses.

Attorney Felicia Frazier thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as legal counsel for the Village of University Park. She gave a brief overview of the law firm, noting that she is a Partner with the law firm; she is a former Assistant State's Attorney, where she dealt mainly with domestic abuse issues, she stated that the Law Firm of Odelson & Sterk, Ltd maintains an office in the South Suburban area and is staffed with 19 Attorneys with expertise ranging from municipalities, school, governmental and election law, labor law, workers compensation, collective bargaining, land acquisition, public finance, zoning and litigation. She introduced Founder and Senior Partner Burt Odelson, and Attorney Matthew Daly. She also stated that there is a Letter Of Engagement and they have agreed to \$155 per hour.

Trustee Payton asked if there will be a cap on out of pocket attorney fees, and stated that there were a number of Trustees constantly engaging the former Attorney that resulted in outrageous attorney fees, and that the Village Manager did not do a good job in setting priorities. Therefore, in an effort to control costs he would like to know if there will be a meeting to understand the process and manage cost that would be acceptable for the firm and the Village.

Attorney Frazier responded that in most communities normally communication is funneled through the Village Manager. However, they do not feel that they have the right to tell a Trustee that they cannot contact or speak with them, and they will adhere to the pleasure of the Board.

Senior Partner Burton Odelson addressed the Board and stated that they represent seven different school districts, and twelve municipalities. That they work well in bringing the Mayor and Board together; they are a suburban law firm that allows them to adjust their rates depending on the financial condition of the municipality.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

G-2b: Motion To Approve Renewal Of The Village's Insurance Policies With Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) For The 2014/15 Policy Period

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion to approve renewal of the Village's Insurance Policy with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT)

Trustee Payton asked if there were any other quotes for this insurance coverage, or if we went with the previous broker.

Village Manager Linear responded that we did receive quotes from other insurance brokers, however this company appears to be the most viable, at this time.

Ms. Anderson of Meisrow Financial stated that they looked at different companies but the high risk status of the Village resulted in higher premiums in some areas, and that the driving force behind these increase is due to numerous workers compensation claims.

Trustee Griffin asked the Broker if they can look outside of the State for coverage and perhaps lower rates.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if there is any way to put into place a work practice safety program in an effort to help reduce incidence and cost.

Village Manager Linear responded that most of these claims are old and that for the past 2 years he has instituted much training in employee safety, and there has been a reduction in workers compensation claims.

Trustee Payton noted that property and casualty premium cost is down.

Roll call on G2-b:

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

G – 2c: First, Second and Third Readings - An Ordinance Establishing A Municipal Gas Use Tax And Amending The Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings of this ordinance.

Village Manager Linear explained the essence of this ordinance noting that it is to close the loophole in how the Village does not receive its share of gas tax due us because of 2nd party suppliers.

Trustee Larry Brown asked that it be clarified in the document that this action refers to only natural gas, not gasoline for a fuel.

Trustee Payton asked to know why we are entertaining 3 readings of this ordinance tonight.

Mayor Covington responded that it is to capture the fees during the winter months.

Motion To Amend Main Motion:

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion to amend the language to add the word “utility” after municipal.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that he does not feel we should support this legislation. He stated that there is no section as referenced in our codified ordinance, and if passed this would create a new tax, and a new section.

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

Motion To Approve Amendment Carried.

G-2c:continued:

Motion to Table:

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Roudez seconded motion to table this ordinance.

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

Motion To Table Carried.

G-2d: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Accepting The Proposal Of Terry’s Ford, Inc. For The Leasing Of One 2015 Ford F450 With Dump Body, Plow And Spreader And Approving Financing Of The Truck Through Ford Credit

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion to table this item.

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

Motion To Table Carried.

G-2e: First, Second, and Third Readings – An Ordinance For The Establishment Of An Enterprise Zone Subject To The Enterprise Zone Act Of The State Of Illinois

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

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O 2014 – 57.

G-2f: Resolution Of Condolence Honoring The Memory And Contributions Of “The Honorable Irma A. Berry”, Village Clerk (1977-1983 and 1987-2003)

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

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

Motion To Approve Carried ***Resolution Number R 2014 – 23.***

Trustee Payton read the resolution.

G-2g: 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 as incurred for the last two (2) weeks from November 11, 2014 to November 25, 2014. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 213,456.14
Road & Bridge	\$ 5,685.11
Town Center	\$ 575.00
Golf Course	\$ 45,002.67
Motor Fuel Tax	\$ 12,493.79
TIV V Fund	<u>\$1,770,495.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,035,213.92

Trustee Larry Brown referred to the payment to Davis Staffing and commented that he was under the impression that we were no longer using Davis staffing, and questioned the payment.

Village Manager Linear responded that these are past due bills, and that the Village is not currently using Davis Staffing.

Trustee Payton commented that the Clorox Company is receiving \$1,770,495.00 in TIF benefits and they were only assessed a penalty of \$85,000 for not meeting the Villages' employment agreement.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

H. BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGER COMMENTS

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

K. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 10:05 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/drj