

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, June 9, 2015 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village Of University Park

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called this regular meeting of the of 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.	Absent
	Keith J. Griffin	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present

Also present were Village Manager Bola Delano, Finance Director Sharon Floyd, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Acting Police Chief Darryl Stroud, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Golf Course General Manager/PGA Pro Paul Blockoms, Deputy Fire Chief Brain Chellios, Public Works Manager Jerry Hunt, Human Resource Director Maxine Jackson, Director of Governmental Affairs Tim Williams, and Village Clerk Dorothy R Jones.

Mayor Covington asked Minister Smith of First Baptist Church of University Park to offer prayer prior to the start of the meeting.

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 Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Special Meeting/Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees and Plan Commission, and the Regular meeting of the BOT held Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

Roll call on The Minutes:

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Trustees held Saturday, May 16, 2015.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

E-2: NEW BUSINESS

E-2a: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Employment Agreement For The Position Of Village Manager Between The Village Of University Park And Bola Delano

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

Trustee Roudez stated that he is concerned with the process of not posting this position, and that it did not go through the proper process, and that this is not to cast dispersion on the reputation of Ms. Delano because he knows of her abilities and accomplishments, but to address lack of proper process.

Mayor Covington responded that they had the right to make this appointment.

Trustee Griffin commented that he too is concerned with the process of taking this action while members of the Board of Trustees were out of town; that the Mayor is constantly talking about hiring Village residents, but did not offer any of these positions to Village residents; positions are being created with no input from the Board.

Trustee Payton responded to the comments made by Trustees Roudez and Griffin, stating that he feels that hiring Ms. Bola Delano will save the Village approximately \$40,000; that she has the background and experience to move this Village forward, and he feels their comments were unwarranted.

Mayor Covington asked Village Clerk Dee Jones to comment on whether or not the Board had the authority to appoint a Village Manager.

Village Clerk Dee Jones stated that under our form of government, the Village Manager is the only official that the Village Board of Trustees has full control of, and the authority to hire and fire. That the Mayor has the authority to call a special meeting, set the specific agenda, and if the meeting is properly noticed and a quorum is present they have the right and authority to make this appointment in a public meeting.

Trustee Roudez stated that in his 10 years on the Board they had never hired a Village Manager without proper vetting.

It was noted that with the exception of Lafayette Linear, the previous 4 Village Managers were promoted from within with no posting of the positions. Therefore, the Board is following prior practices

Mayor Covington stated that at the next meeting she will have a list of savings that have occurred since the appointment of Ms. Delano as Village Manager; that Ms. Delano is trying to save and protect this Village. She also commented on the lack of information from the previous Village Manager to the Village Board.

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O 2015 – 23.

E-2b: Motion To Approve An Employment Agreement With The Law Firm Of Montana & Welch, LLC (Village Attorney)

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to approve this motion.

E – 2b continued:

Trustee Griffin asked the Attorney the number of years that they had in municipal government experience, and if they had any black Attorneys with their firm.

Attorney Matthew Welch responded that he worked with the City of Chicago from 2001 to 2007, beginning in 2007 he worked with the firm of Odelson & Sterk for years, and now they've formed their Law Firm Montana and Welch, LLC which consist of five lawyers. They represent several communities including Franklin Park, Riverdale, and Oak Lawn. He further stated that Attorney Gina Harrison, who was present at the meeting was a member of their Firm.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E-2c: Motion To Approve An Employment Agreement With The Law Firm Of Gary S. Mueller & Associates, Ltd. (Prosecutor)

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve this motion.

Trustee Griffin commented that this law firm represented a University Park resident for 2 years when the Village filed eviction notices because they did not pay their rent for years, and wonders if this is a conflict of interests.

Mayor Covington responded to Trustee Griffin stating that there were arrangements made with PK that were not honored.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E-2d: First, Second and Third Readings - Ordinance Amending Section 250-07 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois, To Decrease The Compensation Of Elected Officials

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

E-2d – continued:

Mayor Covington commented that we must have an ordinance in effect for the next election, that this will not affect the raise for those elected officials who were elected on April 7, 2015 but would take effect beginning in 2017. However, she will donate her raise back to the Village, and that the finance director has already set up the paperwork.

Attorney Welch affirmed that the newly elected officials would receive the compensation increase that was passed prior to the April 7, 2015 election until the election in 2019. However this decrease in salary would affect those officials elected in 2017 and 2019.

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2015 – 24.

E-2e: First, Second and Third Readings – An Ordinance Amending Standing Rule Eleven Of The Standing Rules Of The Board Of Trustees In The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties, Illinois, Providing For The Designation Of A Mayor Pro Tem

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to approve 1st 2nd and 3rd readings of this ordinance

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2015 – 25.

E-2f: Bills Payable

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion that the approves the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park as incurred for the last two (2) weeks from May 27, 2015 to June 9, 2015. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 349,651.79
Road & Bridge	\$ 25,114.39
Town Center	\$ 4,960.52
Golf Course	\$ 42,734.71
Total	\$ 422,461.41

Roll Call on Bills Payable:

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Motion To Modify Agenda Placement:

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to amend the agenda placement and move general public comments up on the agenda after E-2g.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E-2g: Discussion Items

- 1. Employer's Expense Tax**
- 2. TIF Update And Financial Implications**
- 3. Golf Course Update**
- 4. Financials Update**
- 5. CDBG Award**

Motion to Table:

Trustee Roudez made a motion to table item G-2g because they would be part of the workshop agenda. For lack of a second, this motion failed.

Trustee Roudez left the meeting at 8:00 pm, and did not return.

5. CDBG Award

Mayor Covington commended Trustee Larry Brown for his years of working on CDBG grants, and noted that because of his efforts and his presentation To the Will County Board, the Village was awarded a CDBG Grant in the amount of \$170,000.00.

Trustee Larry Brown thanked staff, Mayor Covington, Village Manager Delano, Jerry Townsend, and Robinson Engineers for their assistance in getting this grant to upgrade and repair our sewer water drainage system. He stated that copies of his presentation are available at Village Hall.

E – 2G continued:

2. TIF Update And Financial Implications

Attorney Matthew Welch gave a brief update on the status of Village TIFs stating that the Village has a couple of TIF districts that have or will be expiring; that for some time the Village has been fined for five years on a pro-daily basis for not having updated TIF audits as required by law. He noted that they are communicating with the Comptroller's office in an effort to resolve these issues.

Items 1, 3 and 4 were not discussed.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

H. GENERAL PUBLIC

Ms. Tanya, a resident of University Park for several years stated that this was her 1st time attending a Village Board meeting, but felt the need to come tonight and commend Officer Jaco Ustad for the excellent work that he did in relating to her grandson. She stated that normally people complain about our police officers, however, she thinks Officer Jaco is phenomenal. She also stated that this same officer was instrumental in saving the life of her grandson when he suffered an illness.

Mrs. Vanessa Lawson commented on the need to educate residents on the contents of agenda items in order to engage and empower them; she asked to know the date of the Town Hall Meetings, and that she would like an answer prior to the next Board meeting.

Village Manager Delano stated that the Town Hall meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2015. That she is working with Johnna Townsend for workshop dates to be held during the month of June and July, were several topics will be discussed including TIF Districts, duties of elected officials, finances, golf course, and other items of concern.

Mayor Covington stated that they are putting together a welcome packet for the Village.

Trustee Payton asked if the Youth Town Hall meeting would be part of the Town Hall meeting on August 11th.

Director of Governmental Affairs Tim Williams responded that he would be moving forward with that topic and would be communicating With Pastor Williams of 1st Baptist Church.

General Public Comments Continued:

Mrs. Mildred Morgan directed her comment to Trustee Wilson and asked her what information she used to vote to remove Police Chief Bradley.

Trustee Wilson responded that she is not new to the community, that she previously ran for the office of Trustee and that she was elected by the people, and she voted her conscience on that matter.

Mrs. Sonia Jenkins congratulated the Mayor, Clerk, and Trustees who were elected on April 7. She thanked Manager Delano for allowing Mrs. Morgan to put flowers throughout the Village. She voiced her concern with the removal Of Police Chief Bradley and stated that there is drug activity on her street that she would like to see addressed.

Mayor Covington responded that she had previously reached out to the Cook County Sheriff's Department for help but that idea was voted down. However, she will revisit that option.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson gave an update on activities involving our youth including the 6 students that went to Spain and she stated that for the 1st time that she can remember all of the students that went to Spain were African-Americans. She thanked the Board and community for its support; she thanked Donna Dettbarn for her continued work on our scholarship program that enabled students from this community to receive scholarships; she noted that some of the graduating students who are part of Leaders for Tomorrow would be holding a fundraiser on June 13, 2015 at Glenwoodie Golf Club, and she thanked Trustee Payton for the assistance he rendered to her son DeMonte Hudson in his project to erect benches in the Village as part of his scouting project. She proudly announced that with the completion of that project he became the 1st University Park resident to become an Eagle Scout.

Mayor Covington commended Ms. Hudson for her involvement in the lives of our children and in this community. She asked each Trustee to donate \$200 to the scholarship fund.

Mr. Stephen Allen thanked Mayor Covington for bringing back prayer to the Board meetings, and stated that he is glad to see changes and proud to see the Board work as a team.

G. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK, MANAGER, APPOINTED OFFICIALS, and COMMITTEES

G-1: Reports Of Village Trustees and Village Clerk

Reports Continued:

Trustee Payton reported that there is a need for members to serve on the finance committee, and asked those individuals who are interested in this vital committee to please come out and be a part of the finance committee. He noted that the finance committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. However, they are looking at a date change to avoid conflict with other committees.

Trustee Larry Brown commented on the devastating fire on Ashridge where the Easter Family lost everything. He stated that he would like to see that we activate, or re-activate a disaster relief fund to assist residents when in need without Board approval. He further stated that he is glad to see that the Village is headed in the right direction and that we should be up and moving this Village forward.

Trustee Payton commended Trustee Larry Brown for recently obtaining his Masters Degree from Governors State University.

Trustee Paula Wilson expounded on the fire that affected the Easter family at 1044 Ashridge. She stated that Pastor Williams contacted her and they were able to set up a relief fund website to help the family. Those wishing to donate can do so at [www.gofundme.com/easter family fire](http://www.gofundme.com/easter_family_fire) she also reported on a staff meeting she attended where Acting Police Chief Stroud, and Deputy Fire Chief Chellios stated they would notify the Board whenever there is a tragedy in town. She also reported on the newly elected officials seminar that she attended sponsored by South Suburban Mayors And Managers stating that she learned a lot, but would also be attending another seminar to make sure she doesn't miss anything.

Trustee Larry Brown asked Mayor Covington if she would be making appointments for Trustee Liaisons to committees and commissions.

Mayor Covington responded that those appointments would be part of the town hall meetings and retreats.

Trustee Griffin commented that he was informed that the IT Director is out of town, but he noticed that the IT vehicle is not in the Village, and stated that he feels the vehicle should be available when the directors out of town. He also stated that police vehicles should not be used by the Village Manager; he reported that I - 57 Interchange in University Park will open October, 2015, and that he and his wife will hold their block party on June 20th.

Village Manager's Report

Village Manager Delano reported that she is concerned with the process of doing things as usual, and as the Village Manager she is committed to change these things that are wrong.

Village Manager's Report –continued:

Manager Delano noted that there is a lot of using the Village's money for personal use which is wrong; she has received many phone calls from residents with their complaints about how the Village operates.

Responding to Trustee Griffin relating to Village vehicles she stated that She and Finance Director Floyd did an inventory of vehicles, and vehicle payments and discovered that the Village pays \$1.5 million for insurance and 8 of these vehicles are not accounted for. Relating to her use of a police vehicle, she stated that the vehicle for the chief of police was not being used, and they were informed that they could remove the MP plates and use the vehicle. However, the vehicle will go back to the Police Department when the issue is resolved. She further stated that by using this vehicle it is a vast savings to the Village in mileage reimbursement and gas if she used her personal vehicle for all of the meetings and traveling that she does. Relating to the golf club she stated that our return on inventory is very low.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Covington began her report by congratulating University Park resident Jean Neal for her academic accomplishments, noting that she maintained a 3.8 GPA and has been offered scholarships to attend colleges or universities of her choice; she commended Dr. Blondell Davis for the exorbitant amount of money that she has raised for her students in the Matteson School District; she offered condolences to Mrs. Mary Pruitt in the loss of her father; reported that The Will County Mobile Training Van is at Village Hall every Tuesday to assist residents in finding jobs, resume writing and other teaching skills.

Mayor Covington also reported that the Village has received a grant for \$1100 for tobacco enforcement; the audits are almost current, 2013 is finished and the auditors are working on 2014; the Village received \$13,000 from the advertisement on the pace shelter's, and that money will go toward pace buses for University Park. She also reported that Village stickers are on sale and fees double July 1, 2015; she reiterated the \$170,000 CDBG Grant and thanked Trustee Larry Brown for his perseverance and efforts in getting that grant.

Mayor Covington asked Golf Club Manager Blockoms if the Village would be involved in golf for kids.

Manager Blockoms responded that he and Parks and Recreation Director Childress are working on a summer camp for junior golfers, additional information is forthcoming.

Mayor Covington reported on a program called Civic Service Summer Opportunity which is designed for high school seniors and juniors to obtain summer jobs. Applications are available, and the only criterion is the students must write an essay outlining why they love University Park. Successful candidates will work in the Village doing a number of things involving civic duties, such as attending Board meetings, scanning documents etc. additional information can be obtained by contacting Mr. Walter Perkins at wperk@sbcglobal.net. She also reported on a summer food service program at Rich Township High School District 227 that would bridge the nutrition gap for many students during the summer. The program will run Monday through Thursday starting June 8 through July 16th, no proof of income is required and anyone 18 years and under eat free; adults can be served at a cost of \$1 for breakfast and \$2 for lunch. Additional information is available by contacting Betsy Williams @ (708) 679-5728 or 679-5731, or by email bwilliams@rich227.org

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Payton moved, Trustee Wilson seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:05 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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