

**Minutes Of The Special Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees
For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties
Illinois, Held Monday, May 15, 2017 At #90 Town Center Drive
In The Village Of University Park**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called this special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:14 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Present
Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams	Absent
	Paula C. Wilson	Present
	Theaplise Brooks	Present
	Curtis McMullan II	Present
	Milton C. Payton	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present

Also present were and Police John Pate, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Public Works Director Gary Richardson, and Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Covington led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag of the United States of America.

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. New Business

D-1: First, Second and Third Readings — Appointment of Amara Enyia J.D., PHd to the office of Village Manager of the Village of University Park, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois, as provided for under Chapter 220 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of University Park and Section 5-3-7 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

Motion To Amend The Agenda:

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to amend the agenda by replacing first, second, and third readings on item D-1a, and D-1c, to a Motion To Approve; and to move Item D-1c to after D-1e.

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

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion To Amend Agenda:

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded motion to move general public comments up on the agenda before the action item.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that he feels that since general public comments had been moved from its assigned placement on the agenda, and the fact that there were many residents in the audience that wanted to make comments and have their voices heard prior to action taken, he felt this was important.

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

Motion to Amend Failed To Carry.

Motion To Amend Agenda:

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded motion to move item D-1a to the end of the agenda.

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

Motion to Amend Failed To Carry.

D-1a: Motion To Authorize the Appointment of Amara Enyia J.D., PhD to the office of Village Manager of the Village of University Park, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois, as provided for under Chapter 220 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of University Park and Section 5-3-7 of the Illinois Municipal Code

D-1a continued:

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to approve this appointment.

Trustee Oscar Brown voiced his concern with the process in this appointment and the lack of proper protocol. He stated that this had nothing to do with Ms. Enyia, but felt that this is not the proper time due to the number of litigation, especially with the Clorox Lawsuit due in court in three days.

Trustee Payton echoed the concerns of Trustee Brown regarding things being done the right way. He noted that at the last Board meeting Mayor Covington stated that a town Hall meeting would be held in the month of June to allow input from the residents on how we could best proceed to deal with our situation. He also stated that to continue to do wrong as in the past is a mistake, and that he feels this is short sighted planning, and to not allow public comments prior to voting is a mistake.

Mayor Covington responded that in the past those guys had tied her hand, and showed her no respect, and that currently she cannot get access to the Village accounts.

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

Motion to Approve Carried.

D-1b: Administration Of The Oath Of Office Of The Newly Appointed Village Manager.

Village Clerk Dee Jones administered the Oath of Office to *Newly Appointed Village Manager Amara Enyia, J.D., PhD.*

D-1d: Report Of Village Manager On Appointments To Miscellaneous Village Offices

Village Manager Enyia made the following appointments:

Appointment of Montana & Welch, LLC as Village Attorney.

Appointment of Stephon Smith J.D., MBA as Village Prosecutor.

Appointment of Joel Brown as Village Adjudicator.

D-1e: Motion In Support And Approval Of The Appointments To The Village Offices Set Forth In Item D (1) (D) Above

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee Brooks seconded a motion in support and approval of the appointments of the Village offices as set forth in items D-1d above.

Trustee Oscar Brown questioned whether or not this is a good idea to replace attorneys, and asked the newly appointed attorney if they are ready to go to trial in three days to defend the Clorox Case in court.

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

Village Manager Enyia, Village Attorney John Wise, and Village Adjudicator Joel Brown assumed their seats at this point.

D-1c: Motion Approving Authorization Of A Severance Agreement With Former Acting Village Manager Johnna L. Townsend

Attorney John Wise stated that although the Board had approved a statutory new Village Manager, Johnna Townsend is still the Acting Village Manager, therefore a severance package cannot be offered at this time. He then recommended that this item be removed from the agenda

Trustee Wilson moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to remove item D-1c from the agenda

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

E. General Public Comments

Mr. Robert Travis addressed the Mayor and Board, and stated that he does not agree with the actions taken tonight, and asked how the Board could add an adjudicator in our financial condition.

Mayor Covington responded that there is money available.

General Public Comments – continued:

Ms. Sandra heard commented that she wants to see the funds that Mayor Covington stated we had, because the finance committee has been reviewing the financial document and budget, and don't see the money; she referred to Mayor Covington statement that her hands were tied, and commented that it appears to her that the Mayor is saying that she cannot lead. She also asked to know what would be different in the hiring of the new Manager and attorneys, commenting that in the past Mayor Covington had support of a majority of the Board but lost it each time. She asked if the Board believed in transition, and whether Johnna Townsend would be transitioned out. She also asked for status of litigations against the Village.

Mayor Covington responded that we are not a strong Mayoral Form of Government, and that she has been denied access to the Village books and records, and she cannot lead when people won't let her. She further stated that some of the Board members would have secret meetings and make deals with individuals without her knowledge.

Trustee Payton defended his attendance at a meeting with former Country Club Hills Mayor Welch, and stated that the Mayor is aware that Acting Village Manager Townsend was restricted by the FBI from divulging certain information.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that to achieve effective leadership, they must learn to communicate with each other.

Mr. Roy Williams addressed the Mayor and Board and stated that the Village is in a troubling condition, and that what happened tonight is wrong. He stated to the Mayor that he has supported her, but as he has stated to her, he would let her know when he disagreed with her, and he cannot support her on this

Ms. Gina Williams commented that Johnna Townsend was not qualified, that Bola Delano was well-qualified and was moving the Village forward but they got rid of her for no reason.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that it is not whether or not the Mayor's hands were tied, it is a fact that the residents suffers as a results. He also stated that Ms. Delano was put on administrative leave, and Ms. Townsend was appointed Acting Village Manager, and that anyone wanting to see the reasons for that decision relating to Ms. Delano can check court documents. He also stated that Ms. Delano was given an opportunity to defend herself from those charges but she chose not to do so.

Ms. Gina Williams commented that now she hopes the new Village Manager will be even better than Bola Delano. She further stated that Bola Delano is not done with this Village so Trustees had better be careful what they say about her.

General Public Comments – continued:

Ms. Sonja Jenkins addressed the Mayor and Board and stated that she does not agree with the way things were done. She thanked Acting Village Manager Johnna Townsend for her efforts in trying to move the Village forward, and stated that she hopes that the new Village Manager can continue to move this Village forward. She commented on the high cost of our taxes and stated that since the Mayor's hands are no longer tied, she hopes it makes a difference and that the Mayor recognizes that we live in a democratic society and all have a right to their opinions.

Ms. Deborah Taylor offered her congratulations to the new people, and stated that she is looking forward to moving the Village forward with integrity. To Trustee Oscar Brown she stated that he should try to lead by example, noting that his attitude to the residents has been condescending. She congratulated new Village Manager and wished her well.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Brooks moved, Trustee McMullan seconded a motion to adjourn this special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:15 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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