

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS

21801 TORRENCE AVENUE, SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 - 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Marva Campbell-Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

A) Mayor Marva led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B) Roll Call (by Clerk Williams):

Present: Trustees Burns, Johnson, Jones, Sapp, Sterling and Winston

Absent: None

C) Meditation: Pastor John Pitts

2. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

A) Trustee Burns asked for an Executive Closed Session meeting to discuss Employment and Legal Updates.

Mayor Marva asked for a motion to recess to executive session.

Motion: Johnson Second: Sapp

On Roll Call (by Clerk Williams):

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Johnson, Jones, Sapp, Sterling and Winston

Nays: None

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:12 p.m.

B) Motion to reconvene from Executive Session

Motion: Johnson Second: Jones

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Johnson, Jones, Sapp, Sterling and Winston

Nays: None

Meeting reconvened by Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES-VILLAGE CLERK DEBBIE WILLIAMS

Mayor Marva stated there will be a consent agenda for items A,C & E.

Village Clerk Williams asked for a consent agenda motion to

A. Approve Journal of Proceedings of Proceedings for 8-26-25 Regular Board Meeting

- C. Approve Journal of Proceedings for 8-27-25 Regular Special Meeting- Reconvening Budget Meeting
- E. Approve Journal of Proceedings of Proceedings for 9-9-25 Regular Board Meeting

Executive Session 8-26-25 and 9-9-25 were removed (not reviewed in executive session)

Mayor Marva asked for a motion to **approve items A & C as the consent agenda**. Item E was removed from the consent and voted separately.

Motion: Johnson Second: Burns

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Johnson, Jones, Sapp, Sterling and Winston

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Item E

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Johnson, Jones, Sapp and Sterling

Nays: None

Abstain: Winston (absent w/ notice)

Motion Carried

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

All questions and comments must be directed to the mayor. Each speaker is allowed one opportunity to speak for up to three minutes and may not engage in debate, counter replies or rebuttals. Mayor Marva will respond to comments individually if appropriate and asked everyone to line up in the order they will speak. Please do not call anyone by name. Once the line is formed, there will be no additional opportunity to approach the podium.

Francine Anderson referred to an announcement made last week looking for Police and Fire Commissioners, Zoning Commission and the Advisory Committee. What will that process look like. Most of the commissions have expiration dates and come back up for approval. Will the amount of people on the commission change- which is already legislated or removing commissioners already in place? There have been new hires but no Finance Director, Treasurer or Public Safety Director. It is rumored that the salaries of the new Fire Chief, Police Chief and Interim Village Administrator are at least \$100,000.00. Where are we getting the \$300,00.00? What will the other salaries be and what line items will they be coming from?

Mayor Marva replied that she requested notice of intents, and none were received. Commissioner do expire. The previous administration shut down some commissions that may be replaced with new commissioners. The hiring process was presented back in May. There will be hiring committees that will vet candidates. The chosen candidates

will be presented in executive session. The new budget is being presented tonight that will include salaries for the positions referenced.

Larry Gates asked to address the board to respectfully request reinstatement of his position as Public Works Director with full pay for the time he was placed on Unpaid Leave stating his layoff was unwarranted and not placed on performance, misconduct, theft or any legitimate reason. He was never provided with a written explanation for being placed on unpaid leave. He believes this was an act of retaliation and malice because he terminated a temporary employee who committed serious violations. He alleged the temporary employee engaged in unsafe flagging practices, flagging from inside the vehicle, causing an accident, time theft and low productivity that impacted the department. Nepotism and retaliation is the underlying issue. The temporary employee is the spouse of a trustee and the friend of the mayor. When he decided to term the temp, the mayor expressed anger, and he was informed by the VA that the mayor said since he terminated the temp worker he was also to be fired. This clearly demonstrates retaliation, favoritism and conflict of interest and not sound leadership. My contribution and record to the village during his tenure in the village as the Public Works Director he has led initiatives on improved safety protocol for staff and residents, and improved cleanliness and quality of the village infrastructure. This act was taken without due process and without adherence to policy. It undermines the nepotism clause in our own handbook and exposes the village to legal ramifications for wrongful retaliation and adverse employment acts. Larry respectfully requested the board to reinstate his position as the Public Works Director.

No response

Ernestine Blackmon stated no one says anything about a grocery store.

Mayor Marva stated we are moving forward with a grocery store.

David Fields stated there are too many parties. There is talk about a three- day event but no more talk about a grocery store.

Mayor Marva replied there are two flyers on the back table inviting residents to a Legal Defense Workshop and a Recycling event. These are community events, some of which were done in the past. We are making the events more cultured toward our residents. We are still working on a grocery store. Some have asked us to give them land and others asked for a land concept for 3-5-years.

David Smith stated that Corporate Counsel has not been listed in the last three Accounts Payables. Our General Fund may be incapable of handling all the litigation. David

mentioned a 1.25 million dollar transfer from Amalgamated. The VA said it will come from the expiring TIF. David asked if the mayor was on board with that and did she know the ramifications of that? What is the process of going back three months to see how much someone owns on their water bill and check to see if the data is accurate? The message to residents is not coming out accurately.

No response

5. PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A) An Ordinance Authorizing Expenditures Pending Passage of Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

Mayor Mara asked for a motion to accept.

Motion: Sapp Second: Burns

On Roll Call

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Sapp, and Winston

Nays: Trustees Jones, Johnson and Sterling

Mayor Marva cast the deciding vote- Aye

Motion carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

A) Financial Matters

Mayor Marva asked for Approval of Accounts Payable: \$468,200.56.

Motion: Burns Second: Jones

On roll call

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Johnson, Jones, Sapp, Sterling and Winston

Nays: None

Motion Carried

7) LETTERS AND AGREEMENTS TO BE PLACED ON FILE- NONE

8) REPORTS OF OFFICERS

MAYOR MARVA CAMPBELL

Mayor Marva stated all Trustee IML reports should be shared at the next board meeting. Please share the paperwork and thoughts about the sessions. Return the expense report and any leftover funds to Mayor Marva.

Mayor Marva spoke on legal fees and referred to an invoice from the Corporate Attorneys that totaled \$17,289.99. The budget does not allow for these types of expenses. Mayor Marva asked that everyone review the items we are asking them to do and try to limit it.

Registration for the National League of Cities online discussion has begun if anyone interested.

A calendar of events from the Mayors Office of Special Events was shared. Some dates are tentative which include 10/29 free legal clinic, 10/4 recycling event, 10/31 (under discussion), 11/11 Veteran's Day Celebration, 11/22 Senior Brunch 12/6 Santa Parade and Tree lighting and 12/20 Holiday Cheer food basket. Donations are needed to assist 150 residents with a holiday basket. Some of these events occur annually.

All events are hosted by the Mayor's office and the trustees together. Individual trustees can plan their own events but cannot use village dollars. Individual flyer will be distributed as the events occur.

Trustee Johnson stated the Halloween event is normally held on Halloween night by her committee. Mayor Marva stated events are usually duplicated between three entities, the village, School system and the library. After speaking with the library director and school superintendent, it was decided we would work together and host different events together.

Trustee Johnson asked for clarification because her event was already in the planning stages. Mayor Marva stated she agreed to the event until she saw the flyer that listed individual trustees but not "the" trustees and mentioned the concerned and asked to talk about it. Trustee Johnson stated the names on the flyer are individuals that volunteered in the past but are now trustees. Mayor Marva stated they need to talk offline.

Mayor Marva stated she will provide the final financial accounting for the Corn and Dog Roast and Music Fest including copies of receipts and invoices from all expenses and a list of contributions received by the next time the board comes together. This was a very nice event.

VILLAGE CLERK DEBBIE WILLIAMS

Village Clerk Williams reported the latest Sauk Talk is available. Requests for emailed copies can be sent to dwilliams@saukville.org. Communication is a problem in Sauk Village. This will be on the website by the end of the week. Information on the hydrant program, including the map of where the installations will take place, is included in this edition. This edition also includes welcome to Fire Chief Damm, Police Chief Mack Sanders and Trustee Dr. Tonyia Winston, library events and senior committee activities. Just for clarification, the library does a Trick or Treat inside the library, not a Trunk or Treat. You can decorate a table to pass out candy, wear a costume or Trunk or Treat outside with the Police and Fire Departments. Flyers are available in both English and Spanish. The event is from 11am -2pm. Crossroads Church and the Spanish church that partners with them will be holding a Family Joy Fest Sunday from 11am-2pm. A service, carnival games and free food will be available.

VILLAGE ENGINEER- MELANIE ARNOLD, ROBINSON ENGINEERING

Melanie reported the Merrill Avenue water main replacement, between 221st and Strassburg Ave, has been completed and pressure tested this past week. The contractor can begin connecting individual residential service lines. The new main will not be put

into service until that is completed. The end date is December 12th. There was information in the Sauk Talk and Facebook about the Fire Hydrant Repair and Replacement project that starts tomorrow. The village is working with the contractor to make sure the residents are minimally affected. The sidewalk replacement project, that will start in another two or three weeks, is connected with Cook County and will take place on 217th and 218th between Cynthia and Clyde.

Written reports are to be given to the Village Clerk at 10am on Friday preceding the meeting.

Mayor Marva said listening to the reports, you can see this administration is being very effective, making strides and improving service. We are doing infrastructure work, replacing fire hydrants and water main. Mayor Marva asked residents to see the strides of the improvements that are being made. Keep working with us. We are at the five-month mark, and we are producing. Appreciate that and not keep finding fault with what is not being done. Everything cannot be done overnight but what can be, we are working on it. We are being effective.

9. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT- CHIEF MACK SANDERS

Chief Sanders reported that during the month of September there were 611 calls, 9 resulting in arrests, domestic calls and asked about Trick or Treat hours. Chief Sanders is still doing his assessment and is looking forward to working in Sauk Village and being successful.

Trustee Winston asked for breakdown on the type of calls.

FIRE DEPARTMENT- CHIEF KEITH DAMM

Chief Damm reported that during the month of September the department ran 130 fire calls, 77% of those were EMS calls, 5 fire calls, 100 EMS, two motor vehicle crashes, seven cancelled alarms and 11 fire alarms. Looking forward to list for the Fire Department so the four fire fighters can be replaced. Chief Damm will reach out to the Black Fire Brigade and will work with them to ride along with Sauk Village so we can get prospective hire from the Black Fire Brigade.

INTERIM VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR ANTHONY FINCH

Mr. Finch congratulated the board on the passing of the FY26 Appropriations and allowing the Department Heads to move forward. Cook County will be behind in property taxes payments to the village. This is one of the reasons the line of credit was proposed to the board. Cook County is providing an option for municipalities to get a low interest loan. Unfortunately, Sauk Village did not qualify because we are behind in the audits. As things get tight in the next few months, we will have a dilemma.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR HILDA FERNANDEZ

Director Fernandez reported during the period of August 3rd to September 1st the Community Development Department generated over \$65,000 in revenue from building permits, inspections and business licenses which included approximately 80 inspections of residences and businesses. Citations for property maintenance have been issued. Uncashed checks from 2021 and 2022 are still being discovered in the office. The department is actively investigating these checks. As the department is updating business licenses it is being discovered that some businesses have not been paying for two – four years, particularly one business that has not paid since 2018. We have to work with them to bring them to compliance.

Trustee Sapp asked about the food trucks around the village. Director Hilda said they are shutting them down.

Trustee Burns asked about an abandoned RV in Tornado’s parking lot and a sign referencing a bodega. Director Hilda said they alerted the police department about the RV and Tornado is in the process of changing their name to Bodega.

Trustee Sapp asked if Tornado is a food store and a liquor store? Mayor Marva stated they do not have a liquor license and should not be selling liquor.

Mayor Marva said the Code Department is doing an outstanding job. They are uncovering a lot from past years. They have also been treated unfairly as they try to get these businesses and homes to get in compliance or they are shut down.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Burns- No Comment

Trustee Johnson stated the Halloween Dance Party will be held at the gym until further notice from 4-9pm. Trustee Johnson is looking for donations of candy only. Please give the candy to her, Trustee Jones or Trustee Sterling.

Trustee Jones stated IML was very informative; she will bring her full report back next time. Village Clerk Williams asked for written copies of all IML reports.

Trustee Sapp- No comment

Trustee Sterling looks forward to bringing her prepared report back next time.

Trustee Winston will bring back her full report next time but did ask for a grocery linkage analysis prepared during one of the sessions so as we speak with economic developers we will be able to speak on the language, they are asking us and connect with Aldi’s to get their exact requirements that are needed to possibly come to the village. Once the analysis report is received the board can discuss the findings.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE- CHAIRPERSON CAROL COLEMAN

Chairperson Coleman reported the Senior Bar B Ques is this Saturday from 12-4 pm in

the park. This event is free for residents 50 and over. The Eastern Stars is sponsoring the Bar B Que and the Masons. Next month there is a Sneaker Ball tentatively scheduled and all regular events such as breakfast bingo and game night.

Trustee Winston asked when the senior meetings take place. Every second Thursday at 5pm in the Senior Center.

Trustee Burns asked if she has the trustee's emails. Chairperson Coleman said they are in the Sauk Talk, posted in the hallways and given to the Clerk. Village Clerk Williams will forward the flyers as she gets them.

FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION -CHAIRPERSON FRANCINE ANDERSON

Chairperson Francine Anderson reported they have completed the interviews for the Fire Department and should be able to post a listing before the end of this week.

Trustee Winston asked when the committee meets. Commissioner Anderson responded usually the third Thursday in the rotunda. Everyone is welcome to attend to give their vision.

12. GENERAL COMMENTS – MAYOR CAMPBELL-PRUITT

Mayor Marva had no general comments.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Trustee Johnson | Second: Trustee Sapp

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. by common consent.