

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
PROPOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
21801 TORRENCE AVENUE, SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
July 2, 2024, 7:00 PM
MEETING CANCELED BY MAYOR DERRICK BURGESS**

ABS

**1. CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

2. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Trustee Debra Williams**
 - Accounts Payable/Aging Report Issues
- **Trustee Aretha Burns**
 - Aic Discussion
 - Vendor Ordinance
- **Village Clerk Marva Campbell-Pruitt**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - All questions and comments must be directed to the Mayor. Each speaker may comment on any matter concerning the business of the Sauk Village Municipality. Each speaker is allowed **one opportunity** to speak for up to three (3) minutes and may not engage in debate, counter-replies, or rebuttals. Mayor Burgess will respond to questions once all public comments have concluded.

4. GENERAL COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES & MAYOR

5. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

- Motion to Recess to Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters, Update of Pending Litigation, Collective Bargaining Matters, Review Executive Board Minutes, Real Estate, or Employment and Compensation as needed (5ILCS) 120/2 (c) (2021)
 - Reconvene Committee of the Whole Meeting
-

6. ADJOURNMENT

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
21801 TORRENCE AVENUE
SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
July 8, 2024 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burgess asked Trustee Debbie Williams to assume the role of Village Clerk due to the absence of Village Clerk Campbell-Pruitt.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

On Roll Call

Present: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

Absent: None

Also present: Village Attorney Kevin Sterk

3. PRESENTATIONS OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

a) An Ordinance Establishing the Office of Inspector General for the Village of Sauk Village

Mayor Burgess asked the Village Attorney to comment on this ordinance further stating that he did not have a copy of the ordinance. Attorney Sterk introduced himself as a new attorney to the Ancel Glink firm. Attorney Sterk stated the trustees do not have the authority to create that position or appoint someone in that administrative role. As the Executive Branch of the Village, the mayor can appoint someone to that role with the advice and consent of the board.

The ordinance also states the Inspector General will assume the IT position. Attorney Sterk asked the board to reconsider that as well.

Trustee Burns stated the board is looking to hire a contracted consultant to this position not an employee position. Attorney Sterk stated that even as a contracted consultant the mayor has the sole authority to appoint.

Trustee Sapp asked why the person cannot be qualified for both the Office of Inspector and IT.

Attorney Sterk stated the ordinance is calling for someone to investigate corruption and IT. These are two very different roles. Trustee Sapp stated it is an assumption that one person would handle both roles; it is actually a staff that would handle each department.

Trustee Williams welcomed Attorney Sterk to Sauk Village and stated that the trustees having been trying to get "fresh eyes" on Sauk Village and have continually been unsuccessful. Every time we bring someone in to attempt to investigate or at least move us from where we are, such as, the Finance Department which has been stagnant for at least a couple of years, we got blocked by the mayor. We ask questions and don't get answers. We are told the mayor has the sole responsibility; then why do we have a board with 6 trustees? We ask for invoices and don't get them. Emails don't get answered. Financial information is not disclosed. If the board cannot get this information, we need someone from

the outside to come in and investigate to help us get the information. When we contact the Village Attorney, we are told the mayor has the sole responsibility of doing everything is Sauk Village which is why we are where we are today. Sauk Village is still working on the FY20-21 Audit. Nothing has been turned in on the FY 20-21 audit for over a year and a half. Trustee Williams stated she was uncomfortable with the situation and asked what can the trustees do to get outside eyes into Sauk Village?

Attorney Sterk suggested holding a Public Hearing and put someone on the spot to come up with a solution for that. Attorney Sterk stated there has been a productive exchange of dialogue from his office and attorneys attend special meetings such as these to be grilled for that, such as giving an opinion on an ordinance that the mayor has the sole opinion to appoint to the position. Attorney Sterk agreed public corruption should be ruled out if it exists.

Trustee Williams stated the Legislative Counsel and the Corporate Counsel agreed if the Legislative Counsel prepared an ordinance and the Corporate Counsel reviewed it and gave their opinion it would be acceptable and asked what would a Public Hearing do to get someone into Sauk Village? Bank recs and audits are not done from 2020 forward. This is the second year without a budget. The village attorney recommended an Internal Auditor; that individual has not been able to do her job. The ordinance was passed and overridden. Financial access was provided for a short time and then cut off. Trustees and the Internal Auditor are getting blocked from getting information. If the mayor appoints all positions, what can a trustee do when it's our job to be responsible for the village finances?

Trustee Sapp said the purpose of this position is to deter and detect and asked why the village or the mayor would not want someone in this position? Trustee Sapp asked Attorney Sterk if the board should send the ordinance to his office to review and redraft? Attorney Sterk stated that the mayor could appoint someone to this position and that he would work with Legislative Counsel to draft the ordinance.

Trustee Burns stated a copy of the ordinance will be sent to Attorney Sterk and reiterated that the village board is looking for a contracted consultant to come before the board to present their product. The trustees will decide if that is the direction that will be taken.

Mayor Burgess asked for additional questions even though the attorney stated that the trustees do not have the power to appoint.

Trustee Sapp asked if the mayor will allow the presentation included on the agenda. Mayor Burgess restated that the attorney stated the board cannot appoint this position so why entertain the presentation. The ordinance involves three different positions.

Trustee Burns stated this position is for a contracted consultant and there is a person to present according to the agenda.

Trustee Williams stated that Committee meetings are meant for discussion. The board is trying to clarify the duties of the position. The trustees attempt to do things and get continually get shut down. The mayor asked the board to explain the duties of the OIG. Trustee Burns stated the presenter will explain exactly what their position will entail.

Trustee Burns motioned to appeal the mayor's decision not to allow the presentation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Coleman. (The audience continued to be disruptive.)

Attorney Sterk stated the trustees motioned and seconded appealing the mayor's refusal to allow the presentation; the board now votes.

On roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp and Williams

Nays: Trustees Carter and Johnson

Motion Carried

3b) An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the Village of Sauk Village Concerning Vendor payments.

The mayor stated he did not receive this ordinance and asked who drafted the ordinance. Trustee Burns stated that everyone received the ordinance; the Legislative Counsel drafted the ordinance. Trustee Burns stated that all vendor payments should be accompanied with invoices. Trustees have asked for invoices and are not getting them. Because the board is responsible for vendor payments, the board should see the invoices before the vendor payments are made. The board should be able to see the invoice details or the payments will be delayed.

4) NEW BUSINESS, DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

a) OIG Presentation

Trustee Sapp introduced John Howard to provide a presentation on the OIG position. Mr. Howard stated he would like to see the board work more cohesively and spoke of other towns that have appointed an OIG to investigate corruption and prevent overspending.

Mr. Howard spoke of his vast experience in working with municipalities including Sauk Village. His dual background includes IT, Cyber Security and Homeland Security experience. Mr. Howard spoke of his federal certifications and licenses. Millions of dollars in funding are available to the south suburbs. Mr. Howard has access to the State's Attorney's office and other resources. There will be a staff handling IT matters. The OIG will have 24 hour access to all records and 24 hours phone system. Mr. Howard has access to major developers and investors as well. Major developments are possible in Sauk Village. (The audience continued outbursts throughout the presentation)

Trustee Carter asked what Mr. Howard can do that the mayor can't do to bring in developments. Mr. Howard has access to major developers and investors that can work with the village in a cohesive manner.

Trustee Johnson asked what capacity Mr. Howard worked in Sauk Village in the past and what made him leave. Mr. Howard stated he was asked to work with the EMS Director to provide assistance with Public Safety in the village. He left because the board was not working cohesively and was hoping there could be a cohesive board willing to bring change now.

Trustee Coleman asked for additional information on the Public Safety aspect.

Mayor Burgess stated his resume' focuses on investigations. How will he be able to bring in Economic Development and asked what he has brought to other municipalities? Mr. Howard stated he helped bring brought development to University Park, Dolton, Markham and Oakbrook Terrace.

Mr. Howard asked if he and the board can work cohesively together. Mayor Burgess stated the board is 4-2 and does not work cohesively.

Trustee Sapp stated she is willing to work cohesively and is willing to work with the mayor to bring cohesive.

Trustee Burns stated Southland Development was voted in by the board. We still have not gotten a report of developments. Restorative Justice Community Court was approved and has not started yet. We voted for auditors and our audits are still 4 years behind. The trustees are willing to work with the mayor.

Trustee Williams stated that she believes every board member wants the same thing. The problem is there is too much animosity and hostility for us to work together. Most of the board has tried to bring outside people in with the experience and qualifications to do what needs to be done. Yes, it was hostile the last time Mr. Howard came before the board but until we open our eyes and our minds to be receptive from someone from the outside the village to make a clear slate and not someone who

knows someone but someone to look objectively at the finances. Four-year-old audits and bank recs apparently requires someone from the outside to complete them or they would already be done. We can work together if an outside person does the work and brings the findings to the board. Trustees should not have to ask questions and not get answers but listen to someone give you true findings.

Mayor Burgess stated no one is entitled to ask for information without an appointment. Everyone wants to run the village. Being mayor and being trustee are two different things. The entire board was not in agreement with the RJCC. Mayor Burgess stated he will continue to do the right thing until he is no longer mayor.

Trustee Coleman stated there is a Special Board meeting following this Committee meeting and recommended the board approve this ordinance at that time.

Attorney Sterk stated that a lot of the duties listed in the ordinance are duties the Police Department already has. If the mayor were to appoint Mr. Howard a lot of these duties are outside the scope of an OIG. The Inspector General's job is not to bring businesses to the village. The way you are going about it is procedurally incorrect.

Trustee Sapp asked if he would review the ordinance if they send it to his office. Attorney Sterk stated he would.

Trustee Williams stated that ideally the Corporate Attorney will work with the Legislative Counsel. We need someone in to investigate the finances. There is a whole lot woven in this ordinance.

Attorney Sterk stated there are other agencies that investigate for free.

Trustee Burns stated there are investigations supposedly underway for the theft of \$10,000 cash and supposedly another \$78,000 in missing money that have occurred. State Troopers, the Chief of Police and the mayor are aware of the thefts and there is no conclusion. It is the Trustee's Fiduciary duties to go outside.

Mayor Burgess stated for the record that he is not in charge of an investigation and stated the ordinance to approve the OIG will not be entertained at this time.

b) AIC Presentation

Trustee Burns stated she has learned that AIC has been working in our village since November 2022. They did a deep dive into our IT system and worked with AT&T to create a plan. The presentation AIC made last week is not the same proposal AT&T made. Sauk Village is not looking for a PBX system. We are working toward a tree system which is much less.

Mayor Burgess disputed those comments.

Trustee Burns stated there is also a great conflict of interest with AIC being on the village. The conflict exists because AIC owns called 4Dlife. The 4Dlife board consists of the former HR Director, as well as the former Finance Director and Steven Mack of AIC. This was not revealed when we voted the AIC in. Attorney Sterk stated that 4Dlife is a non-profit organization. AIC is not on the board. Steven Mack and Sonya Douglas serving on the board of the non-profit charity does not present a conflict of interest. There is no financial remuneration from the village for the charity. The former HR Consultant and the former Director of Finance are both suing the village. The position of HR Consultant no longer exists yet Ms. Douglas no longer under contract is still coming to work and is privy to our personal information and the resident's information. There is a conflict of interest when people are suing us and working on the IT.

Trustee Coleman asked Attorney Sterk to put his opinion in writing.

Trustee Williams stated the proposal AIC presented last week stated that AIC Technologies entered into a consulting agreement to provide an IT Technical analogy assessment on behalf of Sauk Village in November 2022. It further states that during that time AIC provided a cost benefit analysis in collaboration with AT&T. AIC followed up with recommended upgrades to the network in January 2023. The results of our assessments and recommendations were given to the prior IT company that has proven to be inept in implementing the required network upgrades on behalf of Sauk Village. AIC was eventually requested to send in an RFP in 2024 and proceeded with a deep dive discovery of the network as no documentation was provided by the previous IT companies.

When people hear stuff like that, they take it as gospel. The point is AIC has been involved in our IT within the past couple of years. Emails exist that show AT&T and the IT person both tried to get the village to move forward with implementation on things that deadlines were looming. We were going to be in danger of losing a lot of our back up- network. Stating that the prior IT company was inept is countered with prior emails from 2 years ago.

Trustee Williams stated it does her that two former employees who are suing the village will now have access to the IT department with four years of financial information still not reconciled. The IT Department can go in and make the last four years make sense.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT

Francine Anderson stated the trustees lie and ask the same questions. There is no conflict of interest. The OIG should investigate the trustees. The Legislative Attorney needs to put the name of the trustees on the invoices.

Pandemonium erupted because Ms. Anderson did not recognize the timekeeper's attempt to timeout the discussion.

Mayor Burgess asked for a motion for a ten-minute recess at 8:00 pm.

The motion to recess was made by Trustee Johnson and seconded by Trustee Carter.

Vote - ALL IN FAVOR

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 pm.

On roll call:

Present: Trustees Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp and Williams

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

David Fields spoke prior payments and denied payments from Accounts Payable, including a refund to Trustee Williams' church that the trustees approved when other payments were denied. This was followed by a racial comment as he expressed his disappointment in the trustees.

Larry Sapp stated that cohesiveness is attached to trust and transparency which we do not have. There is no budget, audits, money has been stolen which creates suspicion to root out corruption on all sides. Steve LaRock stated Attorney Sterk referred to the free resources available to investigate. Illinois State Police also has a special investigation unit to investigate malfeasance and corruption. Why spend taxpayer's money?

John Howard mentioned several local Police Departments that have investigative units. There is a process to every investigation where investigators work with a lot of resources.

David Smith stated a fiduciary responsibility is to act in the best interest of another party. Any information not coming from an official source is merely speculation. All invoices should be detailed.

If there is no budget where will the money come for this position and the people that come with it? David stated the former IT did not follow through. Who will follow through if AIC is suspended? Jeffrey Burns was concerned how AIC would get paid without a budget. Why didn't the mayor use the free resources to recover our money? David stated almost \$200,000 is unaccounted for and some trustees ask no questions.

Lisa stated that is these small town would not deal with people that they know more would get done for the children and the community.

Mayor Burgess thanked everyone for their comments.

6) GENERAL COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES & MAYOR

Trustee Coleman - no comment

Trustee Johnson- no comment

Trustee Carter- no comment

Trustee Williams referred to the personal reference made by a resident regarding an Accounts Payable refund that was seven months late that she paid for her church Christmas party

Trustee Williams stated the OIG ordinance is already on the Sauk Village Illinois page prior to board review and approval. People come to the podium with personal attacks. We do need fresh eyes on the village.

Trustee Sapp thanked Mr. Howard for coming out to share information. There is a lot to do.

Trustee Burns read a letter she received regarding concerns of current and former officials.

This letter will be attached as a matter of record.

Mayor Burgess stated it does not appear that everyone wants to work together but rather point fingers. Calling people out of their names shows a lack of respect.

The last time there was a black mayor the meetings were long and disrespectful.

Mayor Burgess will be attending a meeting regarding property taxes.

You need to respect the chain of command in order to get things done and work cohesively as a board.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the day, Mayor Burgess called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

/s/Debra L. Williams, Acting Village Clerk

/s/Derrick Burgess, Mayor

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
21801 TORRENCE AVENUE
SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS**

July 8, 2024 Immediately following the Special Committee meeting

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burgess asked Trustee Debbie Williams to assume the role of Village Clerk due to the absence of Village Clerk Campbell-Pruitt.

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 p.m.

3. ROLL CALL

On Roll Call

Present: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

Absent: None

Also present: Village Attorney Kevin Sterk

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion was held that if there are back-to-back Special Committee and Board meetings there is no need to have public comment at the end of the Committee meeting because we open up the Board meeting with public comment. Public comment must always be included in Board meetings.

David Fields spoke of prior trustee's actions.

Francine Anderson stated the OIG ordinance is repetitive and commented on the timing and the length of Special Meetings.

David Smith stated the board does not have the authority to appoint the position of OIG. The trustees just vote out the money. David reiterated the resources for free assistance.

Jeffrey Burns stated the same thing the trustees are fighting for are the same things Mayor Burgess fought for when he was a Trustee. It is disruptive when the residents blurt out when the trustee are talking.

John Howard reiterated the ways he can bring millions of dollars of grants to the village in the position of OIG that will act as Emergency Management Services- EMS. Millions of dollars have already been allocated to other south suburban municipalities.

Larry Sapp stated we need to find out what is happening with our finances. We need the investigation. If there is nothing to hide prove us wrong.

(The audience continued to speak out of turn.)

Steve LaRock spoke of Mr. Howard's background and the free resources available.

Mayor Burgess stated these were all comments.

5. A) Motion to Approve an Ordinance Establishing the Office of Inspector General for the Village of Sauk Village

Mayor Burgess stated he will not entertain this motion because Attorney Sterk stated the motion is not proper.

Trustee Burns appealed the mayor's decision not to entertain the motion. Discussion was held on the ability of the trustees to appeal. Village Attorney Sterk stated the motion needs to be recognized and voted on followed by the previous motion. Attorney Sterk suggested tabling and reviewing the ordinance further.

Mayor Burgess stated we will be in court.

The motion to appeal was made by Trustee Burns and seconded by Trustee Sapp.

On roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp and Williams

Nays: Trustees Carter and Johnson

Motion passed.

Motion to Approve an Ordinance Establishing the Office of Inspector General for the Village of Sauk Village

Mayor Burgess stated this position was not brought to his attention to appoint. Until a judge tells him he needs to appoint this person he will not do it.

B) Motion to Approve an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the Village of Sauk Village Concerning Vendor payments.

Village Attorney Sterk stated this ordinance was not drafted by his office. This ordinance was drafted by the Legislative Counsel which is outside their purview and responsibilities.

The motion to approve was made by Trustee Burns and seconded by Trustee Sapp.

On roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp and Williams

Nays: Trustees Carter and Johnson

Motion passed.

6) Motion to Suspend AIC- Pending Investigation – (Including 30-day termination)

Mayor Burgess asked Attorney Sterk if the board has authority to suspend AIG. Attorney Sterk said the trustees do not have the authority to suspend AIC. There is nothing in the AIC that addresses suspension pending an investigation. Several liabilities could be caused by the suspension and advised to table this action and continue to investigate AIC.

Mayor Burgess stated he will not suspend AIC at this time. Trustees can bring their concerns to him.

Attorney Sterk stated there were major IT problems weeks ago.

Trustee Burns reiterated the two former consultants that are suing the village are involved with AIC.

That was not disclosed to the trustees prior to approving AIC. Trustee Burns stated there is a termination clause in the contract. Trustee Burns suggested bringing the RFP candidates back to the table as soon as possible. AIC has been in the village since 2022. Why are we still having problems? We

also asked for a phase report, and we still do not have the report. The trustees are voting to suspend AIC with a 30-day termination. AIC misrepresented themselves and they have not completed the work they began in 2022.

The motion to approve was made by Trustee Burns and seconded by Trustee Sapp.

Mayor Burgess refused to acknowledge comments after the motion.

Trustee Williams stated the reason there is so much mistrust with regards to this particular company is because this company came in and got paid without board approval. This company had their contract signed by the mayor prior to being reviewed by the Village Attorney or the trustees. Improprieties and possible collusion exist with this particular company and now you want to trust them with our IT department. The Village Attorney did review and revise the contract after the fact, and we still have not seen a signed copy. The mayor cannot pay people or approve contracts without board approval.

On roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp and Williams

Nays: Trustees Carter and Johnson

Motion passed.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the day, Mayor Burgess called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

/s/Debra L. Williams, Acting Village Clerk

/s/Derrick Burgess, Mayor



Village of Sauk Village
Board Meeting Corporate Authorities
Municipal Center
21801 Torrence Avenue, Sauk Village, Illinois
Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Derrick Burgess led the constituency in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call:

Present: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams
Absent: None

**Staff
Present:**

Interim Director Lewis, Chief Barrett, Chief White, Director James, Interim Village Administrator Johnson

**Others in
Attendance:**

Clerk Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Atty Bolin, Engineer

2) EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

NONE

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Board Meeting of June 11, 2024

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

b) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the First Special Board Meeting of June 18, 2024

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

c) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Second Special Board Meeting of June 18, 2024

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Johnson, Sapp

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: Trustees Coleman, Williams

- d) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 18, 2024

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Johnson, Sapp

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

- e) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 2, 2024

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

4) PUBLIC COMMENT

- V. Jankovich question why one fire hydrant on her block was painted, while the other was not
- F. Anderson commented that the special meeting on the previous night was a fiasco, that there were too many meetings and that they were too long
 - Mayor Burgess' Response(s)
 - Mayor Burgess referred the question on Fire Hydrants to Mr. James, who responded that one was missed, and it would be corrected.

5) REPORTS OF OFFICERS

a) Mayor - Derrick Burgess:

- i. i. Opened bids for the 219th Roadway Resurfacing Project (CDBG #2307-015) Bids were received from :
 - I. Gallagher - \$439,386.20
 - II. Iroquois Paving - \$395,892.70
 - III. D. Construction - \$393,505.70
 - IV. Davis Concrete - \$452,699.95
- ii. Remarkd on the Symposium on property taxes the day before. He distributed copies of the handout. He discussed that the taxes rose as a result of school funding and lack of commercial business and provided options that could be taken to offset taxes
 - I. Questions were asked about restricting the school district and others should not levy taxes for the following year. A reason for not doing so was given
- iii. Announced the Ribbon Cutting for RJCC on July 15th at 11:00 a.m.

- iv. SV Chiefs upcoming events: Picture Day would be on July 19th and the banquet would be on 7/27
- v. Announced the Corn & Dog Roast and Back to School event on August 24th

b) Village Clerk - Marva Campbell-Pruitt:

- i. Announced the Candidates Forum on August 17th at the Library
- ii. Attended the Navigating Property Taxes Webinar earlier that day and will share the recording and slides once received
- iii. Commented on the Special Meetings and the need to leave the Rotunda intact for the Board meeting. Noted that the batteries were not charged, and speakers must speak loudly
- iv. Announced that if the Clerk is not provided with the correct
- v. Announced IML and the Clerk will register everyone for the conference, but not hotel accommodations.
- vi. Requested two items on the Committee of the Whole Meeting (Vendor to Codify the ordinances and Digital Meeting Management)
- vii. Announced utilization of a website, Local Publishing Notices for posting minutes and other notices. She is researching t

A Trustee asked why we could not post on the website anymore, and was told that we could never post, we sent them to the IT, and they posted. The Clerk had repeatedly asked to have clearance to individually posted. IT is no longer responsible for posting to the website, the new website company is supposed to do so. The Village Administrator provided an update, but feature questions should be addressed to him

c) Interim Village Treasurer – Mr. Louis Williams was not present

d) Interim Village Administrator – Mr. Kenneth Johnson Reported:

- i. Spoke on the Zoning Board of Appeals
- ii. Announced the marketing video for which he and the Mayor are featured
- iii. Announced that he attended the SSMMA Gala
- iv. Commented on a three million dollars abatement project that will require further exploration
- v. The Fire Dept. egress is sinking drastically and that emergency steps are being taken
- vi. The AT&T project and updates were provided.
 - I. He fielded questions from Trustees regarding upgrading modems and outlined the additional scope of work. Trustees compared the change of order to the original scope of work is the same as originally presented. The proposal should include the wells and equipment and should come before the Board before being implemented. Though

Trustees asked for a copy of the report

- II. The Treasurer and Finance Director's absences were noted. Who would provide the reports in the absence. It was questioned if the Treasurer was still on payroll. It was stated that he was not. Trustees should have been notified

The website was questioned if minutes and agendas could be posted

The meeting recessed at 8:15 because the meeting dissolved in discord over if the Village has a Treasurer and who would assume the duties in his absence.

The meeting reconvened at 8:26 p.m. with a motion by Trustee Johnson and a second from Trustee Carter. All Trustee reporting present.

6) REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

- a) Corporation Counsel – Ancel Glink Attorney had no report
- b) Village Engineer – Mrs. Melanie Arnold, Robinson Engineering commented on the bid opening and that after tabulating the bids, she would provide her recommendation.
- c) Police Department - Chief Malcolm White reported 354 Calls for Service and twelve arrests
 - i. Announced National Night Out on August 6th
- d) Fire Department – Chief Stephen Barrett reported 100 Calls for Service. He provided a tip that work done on cars should occur away from homes, and to make sure that the sump pumps are functional
- e) Finance Department – Interim Director Renee Lewis was absence
- f) Public Works – Director Dante' James had no report, but mentioned the need to pay Central Rodding as they were central to critical repairs of the sanitation lines and that AT&T identified that the systems in the wells were old, had not been maintained and the catastrophic conditions if there were back up to the homes. Mr. James will provide a PowerPoint presentation to further assist with the understanding of the problem.

Trustees questioned the process for invoices and the need to stop amending the Accounts/Payable; a Trustee will meet with the Village Administrator to develop a process to ensure that contractors work efforts are noted and are paid. The need to plan for work efforts are need. It was noted that emergencies can't be planned. Another Trustee identified the amounts for Central Rodding currently posted on the A/P

7) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- a) Senior Advisory Committee – Chairperson Emmett Farmer announced the Casino Trip and that the next meeting would be held on July 19th
- b) Board of Fire and Police Commissioner – Chairperson Francine Anderson announced that the testing for the Police Dept had been completed and the upcoming testing for the Fire Dept.

c) Zoning Board of Appeals/Plan Commission – Chairperson Charles Pondexter was not present

8) PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

a) Motion to Approve a Resolution Accepting the AIC Technologies Recommendations and Proposal to Upgrade the Village's Network

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

Comments/Discussion

Concerns were expressed about the issues noted concerning the AIC proposal and how the emergency discussed that night seemed to be connected.

Mr. James was asked to clarify the emergency cited. A Trustee reinforced the need to accept the AIC proposal for upgrading the system. Another stated the lack of a budget and not knowing where the funds would be derived. The presentation is needed to provide a greater information.

Great discord ensued. A recess was asked but did not occur with the input from Atty. Bolin

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Carter, Coleman, Johnson, and Williams

NAYS: Trustees: Burns

ABSENT: None

Abstention: Trustee Sapp

Motion Carried

9) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

10) NEW BUSINESS

a) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- i. Approve Transfers, Payroll, Accounts Payable Distributions in the Combined Amount of \$608,440.66 and authorize the Finance Department to Remit Payments

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee seconded the motion

A motion to **amend** the motion to deduct \$77,415., and to strike the original amount, was made by Trustee Coleman and seconded by Trustee Williams

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustees Carter, Johnson

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried

Another Motion to Amend was presented to strike payment to Ancel Glink for \$126,913.66

Discussion/Comments

It was acknowledged that The law firm has exceeded the approved \$200 rate, and that Ancel Glink is overbilling

What was needed to pay Ancel and Glink

Trustees question the payment to Atty. Glasman and Odelson & Sterk, and a returned check drafted to Odelson and Sterk

If the rate change for Odelson and Sterk has changed, an amendment is needed

It was clarified that if until the amended Ordinance, for Odelson and Sterk and other attorneys, invoices would not be approved

Trustee Williams moved and was seconded by Trustee Burns

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustees Carter, Johnson

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried

Motion to Approve Transfers, Payroll, Accounts Payable Distributions in the Combined Amount of \$404,112., and authorize the Finance Department to Remit Payments

Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Carter, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp (Remotely) Williams

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

b) PETITIONS, AGREEMENTS, AND ACTION ITEMS

- i. Motion to Override the Veto of an Ordinance Adopting Section 2-182 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Sauk Village Regarding Hiring Procedures for Village Employees
- ii. Motion to Override the Veto of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article IV of the Municipal Code of the Village of Sauk Village Concerning Salaries of Elected Officials
- iii. Motion to Override the Veto of an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the Village of Sauk Village Concerning Surety Bonds of Financial Department Employees

11) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND TRUSTEE COMMENTS

- a) Budget, Finance & Audit – Trustee Eugene Carter
- b) Ordinance Review - Trustee Arnold Coleman
- c) Public Services - Trustee Raven Johnson
- d) Housing and Intergovernmental Relations - Trustee Diane Sapp
- e) Community Development - Trustee Debra Williams
- f) Public Health & Safety - Trustee Aretha Burns

12) GENERAL COMMENTS FROM MAYOR BURGESS

Mayor Burgess pre-warned the Trustees if there were disruptions, he would end the meeting.

- Trustee Carter announced a meeting for the following Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
 - He was questioned about the audits, budget and recoupment of the \$10,000. And \$78,000. He had no answer
- Trustee Coleman had no comment
- Trustee Johnson announced the committee meeting on July 17th
- Trustee Sapp reported the cancellation of the event
- Trustee Williams announced an event for July 24th and July 10th, and Trustee Coleman's anniversary
- Trustee Burns announced the committee meeting for July 26th at 7:00 p.m.
- Mayor Burgess asked Trustees and others to be cognizant of their surroundings.

13) ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the day, a motion to adjourn was made at _____ p.m. Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee _____ seconded. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

/s/Marva Campbell-Pruitt
Village Clerk

/s/Derrick Burgess
Mayor

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE
July 23, 2024 6pm
Sauk Village Municipal Center
21801 S. Torrence Avenue Sauk Village, Ill 60411**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Derrick Burgess called the Special Meeting of the Village of Sauk Village Corporate Authorities in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, at 6:07 p.m.

**2) Pledge of
Allegiance:**

Mayor Derrick Burgess led the constituency in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Trustees: Burns, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams
Absent: None

3) PUBLIC COMMENT

- D. Smith questioned if AIC had been properly notified of the termination of the contract and given an opportunity to explain and if they were obligated to disclose the differences and similarities. He commented that the glitches in the water bills, police department and wells would be blamed for the water pumps, and why Trustees were adamant to remove AIC as they have helped to prevent s collapse of technology in Village Hall.
- D. Fields recalled the vote on AIC and was curious as to why Trustees changed their votes as he called Trustees by name during his questioning.

There was great unrest and the meeting was quickly recessed at 6:08 p.m.

There was an attempt to reconvene the meeting at 6:26 pm, but the discord continued and there was silence and no formal actions on agenda items from 6:26 until 6:40 pm as Mayor clarified the order required for the continuation of the meeting as the Chair must be respected.

Trustee Sapp moved and Trustee Coleman seconded the motion to reconvene. Roll Call was taken with the original Trustees present acknowledged their presence.

Mayor Burgess warned that Trustee Burns must respect the Chair.

Trustee Williams advised that she had listened to her recording during recess and that the resident clearly call out Trustee Coleman

D. Fields was allowed to recapture his time and Public Comments continued. He stated that Trustees do not follow rules and rules of decorum and questioned again, why Trustee Coleman changed his vote and stated that a change of vote is wrong.

F. Anderson expressed disappointment at Trustees interpretation of the law. Trustees and others should address the Mayor and can reference a Trustee. Her chagrin is that the Village had wasted \$1,000 because of that night's Village Meeting. She opposed Trustees bullying residents.

J. Burns commented that the ex-Trustee does not know Robert's Rules of Order and stated that everyone in the room did not reside in Saul Village, and that is possibly the reason that the Finance Director was not concerned with completing budgets and audits.

A recess was called at 6:54 pm with a motion by Mayor Burgess and Trustee Johnson seconding. The Mayor called for a voice vote.

Trustee Burns appealed and stated that she had a second. Mayor Burgess, Trustees Carter and Johnson left the Rotunda. Trustee motioned to appoint Coleman as Mayor Pro Temp. No vote was taken. Coleman entertained a motion to rescind the motion to recess. No motion or second was made. On Roll Call Trustees: Burns, Coleman, Williams, Sapp and Burns. The Village Clerk left the Rotunda as Parliamentary Procedures were not being followed. Trustee Williams assumed the Clerk's role.

PETITIONS, AGREEMENTS AND ACTION ITEMS

a) Motion to Approve Sending a Formal Letter of Termination to AIC Technologies per the Vote Taken on July 8, 2024, to Suspend AIC Due to Lack of information thus resulting in termination of the contract.

Trustee moved, and Trustee seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Coleman, Sapp, and Williams

ABSENT : Trustees Carter, Johnson

Motion Carried

b) Motion to reconsider the Motion to the Approve and Accept AIC Technologies Recommendations and Proposal to Upgrade the Village's Network for Further Examination and Questions Concerning the Proposal that was Not Agreed Upon Prior to Work Starting.

Trustee moved, and Trustee seconded the motion

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees: Burns, Coleman, Sapp, and Williams

ABSENT : Trustees Carter, Johnson

Motion Carried

6) GENERAL COMMENTS OF TRUSTEES AND MAYOR

7) ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the day, a motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 p.m. Trustee moved, and Trustee seconded. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote taken by Trustee Williams.

Marva Campbell-Pruitt
Village Clerk

Derrick Burgess
Mayor

Trustee Debbie Williams