



JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
21801 TORRENCE AVENUE, SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
September 17, 2024, 7:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

On Roll Call

Present: Carter, Johnson, Coleman, Williams, Sapp

Absent: None

Trustee Burns was not present at Roll Call but, arrived shortly thereafter

3. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Debbie Williams
 - Lincoln Drainage Ditch – Infrastructure Commissioner Jeff Morden
 - The presenter was not present

Trustee Burns, upon her arrival, asked to go to Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Mayor Burgess denied the request and asked that she follow the agenda as presented.

- Trustee Aretha Burns
 - Ordinance for the Salary for Elected Officials

Considering lack of readiness for the presentation/Discussion of the Item, The Mayor proceeded to address Public Comments.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- J. Wilson had two complaints. The first was her erroneous water bill and the rudeness of staff, voice messages are full and requested help; she spoke of the light pole that fell down a year ago and has not been replaced; and the dogs who
- D. Robertson spoke of her erroneous water bill and spoke of issues previously corrected regarding lighting, but

- F. Anderson asked if the Village would be paid to the Legislative Attorney present at the meet; John Howard's lawsuit against the Village and the Trustee's usage of both the Corporate Atty and the Legislative. Trustees' have never been able to swear in a person in position, only the Village Clerk. Pleaded not to give the OIG authority or access to Village Hall.
- D. Smith spoke on the swearing in of the OIG? How many? When did it occur? Was it provided to the Village Clerk; Spoke on the alleged pay raises for elected officials at 500%
- T Jones spoke on the speeding on her block, and its impact that personally affected her automobile. She asked for a speed bump
- J Burns spoke as a resident and school board member, questioned if the Mayor followed the law regarding contracts and if individuals could still continue to work in the Village without a contract
- Boens, questioned the RJCC involvement for residents.
- T Wilson asked about plans for a grocery store, and wrap-around services for those involved; the speed bumps in the middle of the blocks and the end of the blocks
 - Mayor Burgess' Responses
 - Concerning the Water Bills, Itron is not operating well,
 - The Mayor tried to explain the glitch with lighting and that he would check with ComEd to determine corrective measures
 - OIG Issue: Trustees can't swear in any position
 - Speed Bumps: Speed Bumps should be requested
 - Grocery Store: Has been attempted. He has a presentation planned the next day to address the issue and will present it to the Board
 - Dog issue: let the Village know when there is a concern
 - Restorative Justice Program: will continue to look into the situation and need for continued support for those without violent crimes. He commented on the purpose of the Program

Presentation of by Trustee Burns

Trustee Burns mentioned experiences with communicating with residences. She stated that there was no lawsuit

Mayor Burgess attempted to bring the meeting back on topic.

With the ensuing discord, the Mayor called for a Motion to adjoin

Trustee Johnson moved and Trustee Carter seconded. The motion failed as four Trustees

Village Clerk requested order between the Board and Audience in order to move to appoint a Mayor Pro-temp to continue the meeting. Once order was restored, the Clerk called for a motion to appoint a Mayor Pro Temp.

Trustee Williams moved and Trustee Sapp seconded.

On Roll Call: Trustees Sapp, Williams, Burns, Coleman

Trustee Coleman, once approved, called for the discussion on the ordinance for the salary for elected officials. Trustee Burns offered justification for the consideration and stated the research conducted in other Villages shows that Trustees in Calumet City were paid \$54,000, and those in Lynwood were paid \$85,000. She stated that the request would not benefit her, and called out the names of those supposedly seeking newly elected positions as it would ensure a raise that had not occurred in fifteen years. She stated the initiatives had presented to residents and students were favorable.

Trustee Williams stated that she was not in agreement of a raise as she has not seen the needed financial documents regarding the last two years budget and no audits in four years.

Trustee Burns countered that Attorneys should not be the ones privy to increases, yet an increase in funds to Trustees are already in the budget.

Mayor Pro Temp made a statement as a Trustee and stated that he sympathized with Trustee Williams and the timing of the request and questioned when would the time be appropriate?

Trustee Burns countered with the number of years since a raise.

Mayor Pro Temp asked

Trustee Sapp asked to move the consideration forth.

The Clerk, when asked sought to determine if the discussion should proceed to the following Board Meeting for Adoption.

Trustee Burns requested that the ordinance be referred to the Ordinance Review Committee. It is established.

5. GENERAL COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES & MAYOR

- Trustee Williams discussed the bills that were to be paid and asked that the increased rates for the Attorneys as
- Concerning paying bills, according to contract with the cleaning service
- Why Special Meetings are called, along with concerns for increased payment to Ancel Glink, and the need to provide equitable treatment to all attorney firms and that increases did not come to the Board. The Clerk inserted that an Ordinance to amend the increased payment was required. She asked for the needed Ordinance to amend the increased fees in order to increase fees. Without it, we can't place the concern on the agenda.
- Trustee Burns stated the need for billing changes
- Trustee Sapp announced an event at the Library
- Trustee Williams stated that the Attorneys desire to

- Mayor Pro Temp Coleman mentioned that there was a need for everyone have a voice. He announced two events of the Cook County Board of Review, and the Village and the

6. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Temp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Sapped seconded at 8:30 p.m.
The motion carried by Common Consent.

DRAFT



JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Village of Sauk Village

Board Meeting Corporate Authorities

Municipal Center

21801 Torrence Avenue, Sauk Village, Illinois

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00 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:

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

Others in

Attendance:

Clerk Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Atty Sterk

2).

Motion to suspend rules and move Item 10A-I, Financial Matters after the Public Comment

Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded the motion

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: Trustees Carter and Johnson

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

3) EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

a) Motion to Recess to Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters at 7:03 p.m.

Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded the motion

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: Trustees Carter and Johnson

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

b) Motion to Reconvene Regular Board Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Trustee Coleman moved, and Trustee Burns seconded the motion

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: Trustees Carter and Johnson

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

On Roll Call:

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

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

5) PUBLIC COMMENT

- C Boetcher spoke of the Mayor and Trustees walking off the dais whenever they see fit yet requesting a raise; incorrect water bills; the need to update audits, budgets and becoming transparent.
- E. Lewis was disturbed by the financial procedures implemented, stating that they were illegal, stated that Trustees could not get a raise without a budget; she appealed to the Mayor and Board to take care of the Village by getting finances in order; address the abandon houses, stores, roadway. She concluded by asking, "where is the money?"
- R. Williams Baig recounted her experiences attempting to reconcile the Library's water bill issues. Nothing had been accomplished; fund paid were not entered, but the check was cashed; late fees were added to the bill and the dates were incorrect. She asked for a corrected bill.
- D. Sapp inquired about a Dog Ordinance
- F Anderson expressed concern about the confusion surrounding the OIG, failed electronics and telecommunication systems
- L. Sapp asked for proof that there was six million dollars in the bank
- J. Burns questioned who was responsible for the budget, bank recs and audits? He asked what can be done when a Trustee attacks a resident?
- J Howard spoke on court documents that had been presented and warned that there was more to come. He advised that he had yet to submit invoices, but he has a proven track record, and asked how AIC could be paid
 - Mayor Burgess' Responses
 - Mayor Burgess stated that they were mostly comments and that they would not be addressed
 - He stated that the Village does not have a dog catcher

6) NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- i. Motion to Approve Transfers, Payroll, Accounts Payable Distributions in the Combined Amount of \$630,853.16 and authorize the Finance Department to Remit Payments

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Carter seconded the motion

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: Trustees Carter and Johnson

ABSENT: None

A motion to **amend** the motion to deduct \$99,859 and to strike the original amount, was made by Trustee Coleman,) and seconded by Trustee Burns

Comments

Trustee Williams requested to include additional deductions, but withdrew the motion

Trustee Burns questioned why items unrelated to Elective Officials were included under that line item and was told that the Chart of Accounts listed the Senior Advisory Council, Resource Management, and the Police and Fire Commissions under it.

Ms. Lewis was asked to take corrective measures to place the items in the corrected category.

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 \$530,999.16, and authorize the Finance Department to Remit Payments

Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded the motion

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried

PETITIONS, AGREEMENTS, AND ACTION ITEMS

None

As Trustee made her exit, citing she had to go to work, at 9:05, Mayor Burgess informed her that if she left, she would not be paid for that meeting.

7) REPORTS OF OFFICERS

a) Mayor - Derrick Burgess:

- Announced the Zoning Board Hearing on September 25th.
- Announced the possibility of returning to virtual meetings as COVID was on the rise.

b) Village Clerk - Marva Campbell-Pruitt

- Report the inaccessibility to connect to the new website and that she had no way to post or get posted agendas and minutes
- Reported that the ordinance for codification, and the resolution for meeting management was never produced by the attorneys, as they cited lack of payment. Yet they address veto requests by the Mayor, and they attend meetings without pay. She reported on her dismay of the inequitable treatment noted.
- Announced the Tax Appeals Forum and Voter Registration dates
- Questioned why the process for notification of water main breaks had changed without notice and the impact it has and lack of communication to residents

A great level of discord ensued with interruptions from the audience. When asked to control the audience and his spouse, Mayor Burgess became combative and threatening to the Clerk. The Clerk protected herself by grabbing the offending gavel from the Mayor and threatened to hit him.

Mayor Burgess called for a ten-minute recess at 9:20 p.m. The Mayor reconvened the meeting without the Clerk present at 9:30 p.m., apologized for his actions and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

The Items noted below were not called.

c) Interim Village Administrator – Mr. Kenneth Johnson

8) REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

- a) Corporation Counsel – Ancel Glink Attorney
- b) Village Engineer – Mrs. Melanie Arnold, Robinson Engineering
- c) Police Department - Chief Malcolm White
- d) Fire Department – Chief Stephen Barrett
- e) Finance Department – Interim Director Renee Lewis
- f) Public Works – Director Dante' James

9) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- a) Senior Advisory Committee – Chairperson Emmett Farmer
- b) Board of Fire and Police Commissioner – Chairperson Francine Anderson
- c) Zoning Board of Appeals/Plan Commission – Chairperson Charles Pondexter

10) PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS
None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

12) 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

13) GENERAL COMMENTS FROM MAYOR BURGESS

14) ADJOURNMENT