

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE
OF THE MAYOR AND CORPORATE AUTHORITIES
Sauk Village Municipal Center
21801 S. Torrence Avenue Sauk Village, Ill 60411
Wednesday August 2, 2023, 7:00 pm

This special meeting was called by Trustees Aretha Burns, Diane Sapp, and Debra Williams of the Village of Sauk Village. Notice was issued in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act and the Village Code.

1. **Call to Order** Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00p.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 Village Administrator, Tim Williams, and Interim Director Renee Lewis

Others in Attendance: Clerk Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Atty. McGrath

- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Committee Meeting on 06/20/2023
Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Johnson seconded.
On Roll Call
AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, Williams
NAYS: None
ABSENT:
ABSTENTION: Trustee Carter

 - b) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Board Meeting on 06/27/2023
Trustee Coleman moved, and Trustee Johnson seconded.
On Roll Call
AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTION: Trustee Carter

c) Approve the Journal of Proceedings for the Special Board Meeting on 07/10/2023
Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Burns seconded.

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: Trustee Carter

3) PUBLIC COMMENT

- F. Anderson commented on the Special Meeting called by Trustees in spite of their not attending the regularly scheduled meeting.
- D. Smith questioned why the Special Agenda was devoid of the agenda items from the last scheduled meeting that could not occur because of the lack of a quorum
- R. Brown commented that residents on 225th and Brookwood had requested speed bumps and no speeding signs to no avail. She questioned the budget proceedings and if attorneys were needed at every meeting?
 - Mayor Burgess' Responses
 - The failed meeting created an instance where no accounts payable could be paid. He was informed of the "no-shows" without cause.
 - Additional speed bumps would be purchased and placed to accommodate requests such as that on 225th Street
 - Attorney bills are off course as two sides of attorneys are at meetings.

4) Approve Transfers, Payroll and Account Payable Distributions in the Combined Amount of \$498,828.10, and to authorize the Finance Department to Remit Payments.

The original motion was presented by Trustee Williams and seconded by Trustee Johnson. Upon discussion, another motion was presented by Trustee Burns and seconded by Trustee Williams, for another amount. A final amended motion was brought by Trustee Coleman and seconded by Trustee Burns.

Approve Transfers, Payroll and Account Payable Distributions in the Combined Amount of \$485,828.10, and to authorize the Finance Department to Remit Payments.

(all actions occurred without correct parliamentary procedures. The intent was to remove invoices from General Fund # 100.000.5726.000 <s>, lines 2168-2172 totaling, \$13,000 from the original motion to offset paying former HR consultant, Sonya Douglas as she was not under consult at the time of billing the Village) The Finance Office was asked to check the corrected amount.

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustee Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: Trustee Carter

Motion Carried

- 5) Motion to authorize legislative counsel to take all necessary steps, including initiating litigation, to enforce the Village Boards approval and hiring of an internal Auditor- Calene Zabinski. Anticipated start date- on or about August 3rd.

Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Burns seconded.

Discussion

The contract was approved on Jul 10th

The position was appropriated based upon tenets of an ordinance, so reluctance by Mayor Burgess is unwarranted. Justification of why the position was required was presented. Mayor Burgess refuted that staff does not respond to Trustees.

A question was asked how many times an item can be vetoed. It was confirmed that once it is over-ridden, the action is final.

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: Trustee Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

Motion Carried

- 6) Motion to review revised Letter of Engagement and authorize legislative counsel to take all necessary steps, including litigation, to enforce the Village Boards approval of hiring Selden Fox. Anticipated start date- on or about August 3rd.

Trustee Coleman moved, and Trustee Williams seconded.

Discussion

Trustees asked to review the revised letter that was not available as an update as requested. They wanted to review the update, stating that a Veto means to stop the progress of the action. Mayor Burgess refuted stating that with the proposed firing and actual firing of staff, no one was available to provide an update.

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustees Carter, Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

Motion Carried

- 7) Motion to authorize legislative counsel to take all necessary steps, including initiating litigation, to enforce the Village Boards prior actions relative to the Human Resources position which called for immediately terminating the HR position.

Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded.

Discussion

Trustee asked if there is a new contract for the position. None had been submitted.

Mayor Burgess read from the writing of the Corporate Attorney

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustees Carter, Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

Motion Carried

- 8) Motion to remove all access to the building and all means of electronic systems including software and IT access to the HR Consultant. All equipment should be returned including key fob, phone, and other electronics. Trustees request immediate notification that these actions have taken place.

Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Sapp seconded.

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustees Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: Trustee Carter

Motion Carried

- 9) Motion to Terminate the Employment of Director of Operations Anthony Finch. Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded.

Discussion

Trustee Burns explained why the termination of the DOO was on the agenda

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Carter, Johnson

NAYS: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

Motion Failed

- 10) Motion to Approve Letter of No Confidence to be placed on file and included in the minutes of August 2, 2023.

Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded.

Discussion

Certain Trustees read specific portions of the letter of No Confidence. An unsigned document was presented to the Clerk. The Clerk advised that the Letter would be placed in the records once it was signed, if only by the Trustees whose names were written on the document.

On Roll Call

AYES: Trustees Burns, Coleman, Sapp, Williams

NAYS: Trustees Carter, Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

- 11) Motion to Approve an Ordinance for Calling a Special Meeting to be consistent with Illinois State Law.

Discussion states that the Village Clerk must be notified seventy-two hours in advance, not the posting. Atty. McGrath stated that there was no documentation in state law, thus the State law should be followed.

Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded.

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: Trustees Johnson

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

Motion Carried

12) Motion to allow Trustees the ability to contact the IT Department directly in order to post items to the website.

The motion was tabled indefinitely

Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded.

On Roll Call

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: Trustee Carter

Motion Carried

13) Comments from the Mayor and Board of Trustees

- a) Trustee Williams commented that Trustees work for the residents and they were uncomfortable with some proceedings. She does not know where the Village stood with the development of a budget; the initial termination of the DOO was not consistent with the ordinance; concern for where the \$78,000 should be a concern; she apologized for the Special Meetings and the need for two Attorney firms.
- b) Trustee Sapp asked a rhetorical question concerning a couple purchasing a car and how it equaled the Boards reactions.
- c) Trustees Johnson and Carter had no comment
- d) Trustee Burns expressed that Trustees had the right to call Special Meetings, but the recent Call Meeting was postponed because of discrepancies/unrest with the seventy-hour notice requirement. She spoke on the air strippers; need for the audit; alleged bounced checks; the status of the CD; and that the Village's credit is shot, thus, it can't get grants.
- e) Trustee Coleman read the Civility Pledge presented by IML and appealed to all to respect each other.
- f) Mayor Burgess asked that accurate statements regarding the Village affairs is crucial as the Village status is in the black and the credit rating is A-; there is on-going investigations surrounding missing funds; the baseball team and banquet was mentioned; and he explained that air strippers were placed in 2010 and are tested every month; regarding the CD, he stated that the departments may have utilized a portion of the funds, but the rest are set a part. He acknowledged the Finance Department as doing an yeomen's job and announced that the Finance Department has a liaison/chairman.

14) EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

None

15) Adjournment

Having completed the business of the day, Mayor Burgess called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Trustee Coleman moved, and Trustee Williams seconded. The motion carried unanimously by common consent.

/s/Derrick N. Burgess, Mayor

/s/Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Village Clerk