

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
21801 TORRENCE AVENUE
SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
August 15, 2023, 7:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

On Roll Call

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

Absent: None

2. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- A Resolution Adopting a Civility Pledge for the Village of Sauk Village
The resolution and accompanying exhibits provided by Atty. Bolin was brought forth.

Trustees question its applicability to the Social media policy and if the one presented could be customized to Sauk Village. Atty. Bolin suggested self-regulation by the Board. Mayor Burgess requested that recommended edits and additions be sent to him for discussion at the following Committee of the Whole Meeting.

- Cannabis Zoning Regulation and Tax Act
Atty. Bolin presented on the topic. He provided a worksheet depicting what is, and what was not allowed. Further discussion engaged was the need to update the ordinance; benefits to the Village; which fund the revenue would be assigned.
- A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman PLLC (D/B/A Hera- Property Registry) for Property Registration and Enforcement Services
 - Stan Urban of HERA, formerly ProChamp for which the Village held an agreement announced the demise of ProChamp and presented the HERA Alternative offering the same agreement to work with the Village's Utility/Water Services. The Attorney will review the agreement and resolution for preparation for the following Board Meeting.

- Trustee Diane Sapp introduced:
 - NACA Mortgage/Home Buyers : NACA – America’s Best Mortgage provided information on the Affordable Housing Initiatives and Steps to Homeownership.
The goal of the presentation was to seek access to village-owned abandoned properties and vacant land to develop quality affordable housing availability.

- Trustee Arnold Coleman requested an amendment to:
 - Ord. No. 17-006, ss 2, 5-9-2017" ARTICLE V. - Honorary Street, Building, Plaque Designation Program. The intent is to recognize a new category for honorees. He advised that the Ordinance Review Committee could not decide how to proceed but requested special consideration for Ed Myers to be honored. It was determined that no special consideration was required. The Board would bring suggestions to the next meeting to aid in the development of an amended ordinance.

- Trustee Aretha Burns led discussions on the following:
 - Corn & Dog Roast – the contract (s) and requirements for vendors was addressed. She stated that there was no line item or budget for the event, and that it had not come before the Board. The financial information requested had not been provided. She requested credentials for all vendors and copies of contracts as without them, the Board could not approve the event.
 - Mayor Burgess provided the history of the event, the line items for funding under Parks & Playground, and Parks and Recs. He further stated that there were more donations than in the past, W-9s were on file and could be placed in Trustees’ mailboxes. Lasted, he informed that the expenses were on the last A/P and were already approved by Trustees

 - Spending Freeze – A spending freeze is not taken lightly. Trustee Burns announced a Budget Finance Meeting on Thursday, August 17th. The Chairman of that committee advised his inability to attend the meeting but informed of the meeting he had planned for August 28th. Trustee Williams walked through what the repealed spending freeze entailed and asked for a spending freeze to be brought back.

 - Social Media Ordinance – no notable information was recorded.
 - Managers of Departments- not notable information was recorded.

- Village Clerk Marva Campbell-Pruitt provided:
 - The Review of the Summary Report by Cory and IML and asked how to proceed with the recommendations?

The meeting was recessed for five minutes at 9:50 p.m., noting a request for executive privileges, and reconvened at 9:56 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- C. Boetcher expressed comments on the NACA presentation, stating it should be considered; expressed that the Cannabis regulation was concerning and inquired about Mr. Cooper who resigned.
- D. Fields commented that a Social media Policy of Civility Pledge were not needed if respect was shown
- E. Blackman read and presented a list of questions for which she had concerns
- Ms. Wilson, owner of the SV Learning Academy shared her concern of student transportation and the lack of returned calls by the Mayor.
- A. Swanson contributed to the previous speaker's concern for student transportation and stated that she was appalled by the disrespect she witnessed during the meeting.
- M. Brown/L. Brown expressed concern by an article stating SV was the worse city; mismanagement; the positive effects of the festivals; and questioned what is happening with the finances.
- D. Sapp stated that there is a way Trustees should conduct themselves on Social Media.
- L. Sapp spoke on the attacks by a Trustee on Social Media; apologized to the Village Clerk for erroneous statements made; and appealed to the Mayor to address the issues impacting the Village.
- D. Smith asked that baseless allegations against him should stopped.
- B. Barrett reported a need for tree services; stated that SV was not the worse; and advised that student transportation is a School Board issue, not the Village Board.
- F. Anderson commented that she agreed with the services NACA could provide; Honorary Designations should be sent back to committee; Cannabis Regulations can bring funds but also other problems; and respect
- J. Burns spoke to those who opposed the Internal Auditor; asked if there was a line item for the position; asked who the lead for the Corn & Dog Roast is and if it had come before the Board.
 - Mayor Burgess' Responses
 - Asked to see the article citing SV was the worse and appealed to folks to do something to correct the perception
 - Advised that elections and campaigning has started
 - The Cannabis Regulations must come before the Board
 - Finances: though there is no Treasurer who would normally provide reports, he was attempting to put out information

- The Corn and Dog Roast, like the Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Parade, Trunk or Treat are funded under a line item for Parks & Recs
- He apologized to the Day Care for not returning calls. The Village and school district do not cross lines. The issue presented is borne by the School district.
- Individuals should respect one another on Social Media
- Addressed some of the ten points raised by the resident and requested the document she had read i.e., the ongoing investigation of missing funds; no grants were loss.
- Asked Trustees to attend IML sessions to further understand why taxes are high

4. GENERAL COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES & MAYOR

- Trustee Williams
 - Spending Freeze
 - Budgets
 - Blood Drive
 - Sauk Talk
 - A/P questions related to the Corn & Dog Roast
 - Bus Transportation
- Trustee Sapp
 - Next meeting in September, to be determined
- Trustee Arnold
 - Next Meeting – August 28th
- Trustee Johnson
 - Next Meeting Announced the next meeting
- Trustee Burns
 - Next meeting August 25th
 - Finance Meeting August 17th
 - Trustees' Town Hall Meeting August 24th
 - Commented on the disservice to New Experience Productions
- Trustee Carter
 - No Comment
- Mayor Burgess
 - The Back-to-School Corn and Dog Roast (Name change) is a Community-wide event
 - Reviewed the responsibilities of the Trustees and Standing Committees

- Stated that the name- calling and finger pointing was disrespectful and how it could impact commerce
- Banners were created without a date so they could be re-purposed
- Jessie White Tumblers presented insurance and a w-9
- Other activities: face painting and 40+ Double Dutch
- Offered to provide a spread sheet of all activities
- The proposed Finance Meeting called is disrespectful to the Committee Chairman

5. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the day, Mayor Burgess called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m. Trustee Burns moved, and Trustee Williams seconded. On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

/s/Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Village Clerk

/s/Derrick Burgess, Mayor
