

**MINUTES**  
**PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**21460 Lincoln Highway**  
**Lynwood, Illinois 60411**  
**Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Call To Order**

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present on the roll call were Trustees: Curry, Stephens, Dunlap, Dillingham, Sims, Lebeter

**Address the Board**

Gerrick Brown was scheduled to address the Board, but was a no show.  
Sheena Cummins was scheduled to address the Board, but was a no show.  
Sam Bibbins was scheduled to address the Board, but was a no show.

Ora Adams was present and addressed the Board. Ms. Adams indicated she felt it was incumbent upon her to bring this to the Boards attention. She indicated the Board voted unanimously (with the exception of Trustee Curry) to give Anthony Finch a \$10,000 raise. Ms. Adams stated she attended a board meeting in June where we borrowed \$170,000.00 from Illianna Financial Credit Union. Ms. Adams indicated that several people voted the Board in with the idea that they would be protecting "OUR" money, and this is not happening. She stated that there are residents that are paying attention. Ms. Adams asked the residents in attendance how many of them can say that they were awarded a \$10,000.00 raise at one time. She stated that she was perturbed by this. She suggested that if each of the trustees (with the exception of Trustee Curry) gave \$2,000.00 of their salary, that would pay for the raise that was awarded to Mr. Finch.

David Lilly addressed the Board....Mr. Lilly stated he wanted to verify with the Board a rumor he heard that there was going to be something on the Agenda that would lower the salary of the Village President/Mayor. This being the case, would impact the ability to attract quality talent to help govern the Village of Lynwood. He indicated that he was considering running for the position of Mayor, and he encouraged the present governing body to not vote on this to lower the Village President/Mayor's salary to \$20,000 that was below minimum wage. He stated that he would hope that our governing body would not allow this to take place. He stated that this is shameful and an attempt to "screw" the next Mayor, whomever he/she may be. He stated that Sunny Brook school district is getting better, and is attracting more people to the area. He informed Attorney Mike Marovich that this is unethical and Mike took an oath, and shame on him as our attorney to allow for this to occur.

Commissioner Donna Miller addressed the Board..... Commissioner Miller stated that she was here as a 15 year resident of the Village of Lynwood, following up on a letter that was sent to the Mayor and the Trustees and the Village Clerk regarding the trees in Haven Estates and the pond in the back of her home. Commissioner Miller mentioned that she also wanted to see the budget. Commissioner Miller mentioned that she expected to receive an answer from this governing body and has not as of yet. She stated that the only one who has responded to her was the Village Clerk. She stated this is not acceptable that she is still awaiting a response from a letter that was delivered to the Mayor and the Village Trustees in April.

Ms. Gutter addressed the Board... Ms. Gutter confirmed/stated that the salary for the Village President is \$85,000 now. The ordinance states that the salary is going from \$85,000 to \$20,000 for the next Mayor. Ms. Gutter asked what duties are going to change for the new Mayor. She also indicated that if this is all that the position is worth, why can't Mayor Williams take a voluntary pay cut. She asked the Mayor how he is justifying his salary, since he is the one initiating this pay cut. She indicated that she believes in fairness, transparency, honesty and openness, and this is no way fair.

The Mayor stated that this is not about money for him, and his intention is to cut his salary so that the funds can be used for village business. The Chamber of Commerce is having a State of The Village address, and she wanted to know why it was planned for the middle of the day when most residents are at work. The Mayor mentioned that this was a Chamber of Commerce Event, and it is mostly geared toward businesses in the Village.

The Mayor mentioned that he was surprised that there is such an uproar on him trying to lower his salary instead of trying to raise the salary. The Mayor stated that his intention is to still be the next Mayor.

Randall Blakey spoke.....Mr. Blakey wanted clarity on the Ordinance that was going to be voted on. He wanted to clarify that the Board was passing an Ordinance to approve the salary change to \$20,000 for a full time Mayor.

**Executive Session**

Trustee Dillingham moved, seconded by Trustee Curry to adjourn to Executive Session.

Roll Call was taken;

Ayes: Trustees: Curry, Stephens, Dunlap, Dillingham, Sims, Lebeter

Nays: none    Absent: none    Motion: carried.

**Board Meeting Reconvened**

All Trustees were present

**Minutes of July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019**

Attorney Marovich stated that the minutes of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, that were on the Agenda were already approved, so next week we will be approving both the minutes from 2 meetings. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 and Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Works..... Stephens**

Trustee Stephens had no report.

**Economic Development..... Curry**

Trustee Curry addressed the question to Mayor Williams mentioning that Hank's Spot was a new marijuana hemp store business in town that she knew nothing about. Mayor Williams mentioned that it is not marijuana but CDB oils that are sold at Walgreens. Since she was assigned to the Economic Development committee, she thought he would have partnered with her on this.

**Parks and Recreation.....Dunlap**

Trustee Dunlap thanked all for attending and supporting the fest which was a success.

**Planning & Zoning.....Stephens**

Trustee Stephens had no report

**Ordinances and Resolutions.....Sims**

- Trustee Sims moved, seconded by Trustee Lebeter to approve Ordinance # 19-25, an Ordinance amending the code of the Village of Lynwood, Cook County, Illinois Chapter 2, Administration, Article III, Officers and Employees, Division 1, Generally, Section 2-162, Village Officers, Subsection (b), Compensation, Sub-Section (1).

**Point of Discussion;** was interjected by Trustee Jada Curry. Trustee Curry indicated that this is the Ordinance that will take the Full Time Village President’s salary down to \$20,000 as of 2021. She indicated that it is foolish to even vote on this Ordinance since it will not align with the law and minimum wage at the time this goes into effect. She indicated that she was not sure why the Village Trustees would vote on this.

Roll Call was taken;

Ayes: Trustees: Stephens, Dunlap, Dillingham, Lebeter

Nays: Curry                                      Absent: none                                      Abstain: Sims                                      Motion: carried

**Finance**..... Dillingham

Trustee Dillingham moved, seconded by Trustee Sims to approve **BPM #1374** for a total disbursement of \$199,653.22 of which \$116,748.23 was payroll period 7/28-8/10 2019.

Roll Call was taken;

Ayes: Trustees: Stephens, Dunlap, Dillingham, Sims, Lebeter

Nays: Curry                                      Absent: none                                      Motion: carried.

**Public Safety**.....Lebeter

Trustee Lebeter had nothing to report.

**Reports & Communications**

**Village Clerk**

Village Clerk, Wingfield-Bond mentioned that the Village has been awarded 80 trees as part of the Openlands Grant. I have reached out to some residents that may have been interested in obtaining a tree. At the present time, only 10 residents have responded thus far. Once we get closer to the 80, Village Clerk, Karen Wingfield-Bond indicated that she will let Openlands know and they will set a date for planting.

Village Clerk, Karen Wingfield-Bond also mentioned that if residents were not able to attend the meeting with Larry Roger’s office involving the tax appeal forum, forms are available at Village Hall.

**Village Attorney**

Attorney Marovich had no report

**Village Engineer**

Was not in attendance, nothing was reported on his behalf.

**Mayor**

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to appoint Anthony Finch to Village Administrator for the Village of Lynwood. Trustee Stephens moved, seconded by Trustee Lebeter to appoint Anthony Finch to Village Administrator.

**Point of Discussion:** was interjected by Trustee Curry, Trustee Curry mentioned that she can not support this appointment and she wants a Village Administrator with integrity that would represent the Village of Lynwood well. She indicated that this is not the right appointment. She is appalled that the Trustees representing the Village would allow for such an appointment. Trustee Curry stated that if the residents of the Village would do their homework they would know why she is not supporting this appointment.

Roll Call was taken;

Ayes: Trustees: Stephens, Dunlap, Dillingham, Lebeter

Nays: Curry                                      Absent: none                                      Abstain: Sims                                      Motion: carried

Mayor mentioned that there was a meeting coming up shortly to talk about the Joe Orr Road extension that we have been working on. Mayor mentioned that this is something he wanted to leave for the next mayor so that they can build the downtown, he stated he did not know if he would be around long enough to build it. He stated that we are getting closer to getting the road connected since Cook County has come up with another \$15M. toward the process, it's a good foundation toward building the downtown that we have dreamed about doing for a long time, prior to Mr. Williams becoming Mayor. They are currently acquiring right of way between Joe Orr Road and Torrence to finish Phase II. The Mayor mentioned that hopefully they can complete that, so we can start construction next year on that.

The Mayor mentioned that we are still building in Lynwood. The Mayor mentioned that if you drive around the different subdivisions you can see that we are still building. We are the community that is being watched in the Southland. The Mayor indicated that we are doing well, and he is very proud of where we are. The Mayor mentioned that we are doing all that we can with the limited resources that we have. We have a lot of new businesses that have moved in and are good for us. He mentioned that we have a lot of nice residents as well. He mentioned there are some other programs that we are working on that can help us with funding. Some of these programs other towns are going for as well. These programs have a lot to do with what we don't have and our inability to obtain funds. The Mayor mentioned the issue with Cook County taxes, which makes it hard for a business to want to locate and survive here. The mayor mentioned that Cook County has a class 8 tax incentive program that has changed over the years. The Mayor indicated that we need this to come back for several different reasons. He indicated that the south suburban region is becoming largely African American region, but we need to make sure that we have the same resources in the Southland that were here before we became a mostly African American community. He stated this did not refer only to Lynwood, but to all of our communities in the Southland region. He stated we need to continue to work on this. He stated he would like to have support from the community when we go downtown in support of these tax incentives programs. The mayor mentioned the new business in town....Game Tyme Sports Bar and Grill, owners were Black Lynwood residents. The mayor mentioned that Game Tyme was the last business that was able to take advantage of the tax incentive before the change to the new rules. The mayor stated that had it not been for the incentive, it would have made it impossible for the business to operate or even able to come to the community.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Since there was no unfinished or new business, Mayor Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Trustee Lebeter moved, seconded by Trustee Sims to adjourn the meeting.

All Trustees present stated: "Aye"

Nays: None

Motion: Carried

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Wingfield-Bond~ Village Clerk



