

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2023

Mayor Ed McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

- Jesse Reynolds
- Amy Welborn
- Julie Blumenstock
- Dawn Duff
- Keith Warner
- Derrick Canan

Non-member Staff participating:

- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator
- Lee Harmon – Police Chief

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (September 5, 2023)
- August Tax Report
- August Financial Report
- August Fund Report
- August Check Report

Mayor Ed McCord asked if there were any questions or comments by Council. Mr. Kyle Hinkelman, Village Administrator, explained total receipts for August were \$3,654,650.62 with total expenses of \$3,503,462.71. He noted that \$3,193,159.20 of those amounts were from a grant, which is shown as revenue and expenditure for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Visitors – Public Comment

Lois Newman, 11 S. High Street, shared a concern pertaining to pedestrians crossing High Street. She suggested a possible crossing light to stop traffic or a sign, similar to West Milton.

Mayor McCord stated they had made a request to ODOT, but that ODOT would not allow a light near her house. He noted that once the ODOT project is completed, the Village will look further into pedestrian improvements to the area.

Rose Bennett, 315 E. Broadway, asked for an update pertaining to the cost of sewer maintenance and replacement in the Village. Mr. Hinkelman noted that he had provided an update at the previous meeting about his research on the subject, which he thought Ms. Bennett was not present at. He continued that all communities within Miami County have the same policy as the Village of Covington after discussing it with each community. He also noted that the policy was in place for at least fifteen years, potentially longer, and there have been very few situations where replacement was ever necessary.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that the Village was looking to create a contractor permit for all work within the right-of-way, which would allow more control for the Village over these projects. He noted that all other communities have these permits, and they are able to hold contractors more accountable with those permits. He said that the Village is working on this permit and was hopeful to have it available next year.

Phyllis Rapp, 116 N. Grant Street, asked for an update on the status of the sidewalk by Schoolhouse Park.

Mr. Frank Patrizio explained the contract was terminated and the Village is currently working with the bond company. He continued that once the bond company has completed their investigation, they will contact the Village and give them directions as to the proper steps to proceed. Until then the Village is unable to respond or proceed with the Rudy phase of the project.

Kay McKinney, 306 Sharon Street, Secretary of the Covington-Newberry Historical Society spoke regarding the Museum. She shared the history of the museum and discussed some of the changes made to the building during their use. Ms. McKinney noted that the building is on the historical register which means that all changes must be similar to what exists and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. Ms. McKinney ended her presentation by asking the Village to consider selling the property to the Historical Society for a nominal fee, which would allow them to apply for grants for various repairs and updates.

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Mr. Hinkelman responded that the DRD (Downtown Redevelopment District) may need the village to maintain ownership to allow the DRD to exist, and that he would work with legal counsel to understand if selling the building was even an option.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McCord reported on the Hometown Christmas. He noted that the event will be held on Friday, November 24, 2023 (day after Thanksgiving). There are currently 14 units in the parade and there will also be carriage rides, vendors, and Santa Claus. Mayor McCord encouraged all residents to come downtown for food and fun.

Mr. Hinkelman also noted that there will be live music and tree lighting at 8:00PM.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman discussed the wastewater treatment facility, and Schoolhouse Park. He also discussed the second round of Hometown Hero banners and noted that the Village is working with businesses to raise funds to cover the cost of Christmas decorations and banners, which is roughly \$14,000.

Discussion Items

None

Old Business

Resolution R29-23 – Adopting a Name for a Roadway.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that this is the third reading and there are no changes to the proposed Resolution.

Ms. Welborn asked to have it noted that the proposed name of the roadway was based off the results of Survey Monkey and paper ballots received by the Village. There were no other comments.

A motion to approve Resolution R29-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R31-23 – Authorizing the Village Administrator to accept a bid for Schoolhouse Park – Main Pavilion / Splashpad.

Mr. Hinkelman noted this was the third reading and there were no changes to the proposed Resolution.

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Ms. Welborn expressed her concern pertaining to the contractor meeting deadlines and the Village holding them accountable. There were no additional comments or questions.

A motion to approve Resolution R31-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

None

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

The council expressed their appreciation to all the visitors attending and welcomed them back for future meetings.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Canan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Bell", written over a horizontal line.

Fiscal Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward L. McLeod", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

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