

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2023

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

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent and Excused:

- Jesse Reynolds

Non-member Staff participating:

- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator
- Tim Cline – Police Sergeant

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Council Minutes (October 16, 2023)
- Approval of Council Special Meeting Minutes (October 23, 2023)
- Approval of Council Special Meeting Minutes (October 30, 2023)
- October 2023 Tax Report
- October Monthly Financial Report
- October Monthly Fund Report
- October Year-to-Date Fund Balance Report
- October Check Report

Mayor Ed McCord asked if there were any questions or comments by Council.

There were no comments or questions by Council.

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

Proclamation

Mayor McCord presented Proclamation 16-23 to retiring Chief Lee Harman, for being the longest serving Police Chief in the history of Covington with a total of 29 years of dedicated service.

Visitors – Public Comment

None.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McCord reminded everyone the Village offices will be closed Friday, November 10th for Veteran's Day. He also reminded everyone that November 24th is the Hometown Christmas event downtown. There will be a parade, vendors, carriage rides, and a tree lighting. The festivities will begin at 5:00PM.

Mayor McCord appointed Officer Tim Cline as Acting Police Chief until the new mayor is voted into office. Once the new mayor is in office, they will appoint the permanent Police Chief.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Hometown Hero banners and the American flags are currently up through Veteran's Day and then the holiday banners and decorations will go up.

Mr. Hinkelman updated the Council on the Schoolhouse Park, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and High Street Demolition projects.

Discussion Items

None.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution R33-23 – Appointing an Acting Police Chief

Mr. Hinkelman explained the Police Chief reports directly to the mayor and it not managed by the Village Administrator. Due to Mayor McCord leaving office at the end of the year, and Chief Harmon retiring, he noted the importance of appointing an Acting Police Chief.

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A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R33-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution R33-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded Mr. Warner. All ayes, motion carried.

Resolution R35-23 – Authorizing the Sale of a Service Weapon to a Retiring Police Officer

Mr. Hinkelman explained this resolution will allow the sale of three service weapons to retiring Chief Lee Harmon for \$100 per weapon for a total of \$300.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R35-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution R35-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion carried.

Resolution R37-23 – Authorizing the Village Administrator to Sign an Easement – AES

Mr. Hinkelman noted that AES was paid to move poles in Schoolhouse Park and as part of that movement, they placed the new poles in a location that requires an easement. He noted that the Village requested \$10,000 for the easement, since AES has not been a positive partner in the park project to date, but AES did not agree to pay any amount for the easement and noted they would get the easement through legal means if necessary. Mr. Hinkelman noted that although he felt that AES had many opportunities to be a partner in this project, they have shown throughout their lack of interest in the community or its residents. He asked Council to consider waiving the three-reading rule to allow this easement to be completed and finalize the project with AES as there are not any other options available.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R37-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution R37-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion carried.

Resolution R38-23 – Authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for High Street Demolitions

Mr. Hinkelman explained this memorandum is among all members involved including the property owners to the north, even though they are not a party to the demolition. It contains binding and non-binding rights to assure a clear understanding of who will be doing what pertaining to the project and confirm that the property owners to the north understand their rights.

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The contractor has asked to move the project to next year to allow for the demolition, removal, and clearing of the site along with seeding to occur all at once in the Spring.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R38-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution R38-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion carried.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

None

Executive Session

Ms. Welborn made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:28 PM under ORC 121.22 (G) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion passed.

Ms. Welborn made a motion to leave executive session at 7:39 PM, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes, motion passed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Canan. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.



Fiscal Officer



Mayor

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