

# **COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**January 8, 2024**

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

### **Council Members Present:**

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

### **Council Members Absent:**

- Jesse Reynolds - Excused

### **Non-member Staff participating:**

- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Tim Cline – Acting Police Chief
- Aaron Zuhl – Police Officer

### **Swearing In Ceremony**

Mr. Frank Patrizio began the meeting by swearing in Lee Harmon as Mayor.

### **Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (December 18, 2023)
- December Tax Report

There were no comments or questions.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

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## **Discussion Items**

None

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Mayor Harmon asked for nominations for Council President.

A motion to nominate Mr. Derrick Canan as Council President was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Ms. Welborn. Ms. Duff, nay; Mr. Canan, aye; Ms. Welborn, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Harmon swore in Mr. Derrick Canan as the new Council President.

Mayor Harmon stated there is a vacancy on the Council due to Mr. Warner not running for an additional term and asked council members to make nominations.

Ms. Blumenstock made a motion to nominate Ms. Christina Ashburn for Council, seconded by Ms. Duff. Ms. Duff, aye; Mr. Canan, nay; Ms. Welborn, nay; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion failed.

Mr. Canan made a motion to nominate M. Martin Leistner for Council, seconded by Ms. Welborn. Ms. Duff, aye; Mr. Canan, aye; Ms. Welborn, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, nay. Motion passed.

Mayor Harmon swore in Mr. Martin Leistner as the new Council Member.

### Resolution R01-24 – A resolution appointing Timothy R. Cline as the Village of Covington, Ohio Police Chief

Mayor Harmon stated Officer Cline had been the Sergeant while he was Chief and felt Tim was deserving of the responsibilities of taking over as Chief of Police. The Police Chief is appointed and reports directly to the mayor. Mayor Harmon asked the council to waive the three-reading rule to allow for proper Police coverage.

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A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R01-24 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion was made to approve Resolution R01-24 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes, motion passed.

Mr. Harmon swore in Chief Tim Cline as the new Chief of Police.

Mayor Harmon then swore in Phil Russell as a new Police Officer for the Village of Covington. He had previously been assisting the Police Department as a part-time clerk position while he completed the Police Academy.

Ordinance 01-24 – An ordinance to transfer funds from the General Fund (#10) to the Capital Fund (#40) and Fire/EMS Fund (#15) during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 01-24 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 01-24 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 02-24 – Reappropriation – 2024 Budget

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 02-24 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 02-24 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes, motion passed.

Ordinance 03-24 – Transfer funds – Street to Capital Fund

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 03-24 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 03-24 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes, motion passed.

Ordinance 04-24 – 2024 Salary Ordinance Update.

Mayor Harmon asked the council to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 04-24 to show the change in tier level pay for hiring of a new Utility Operator 2 as advertised to

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fill a position recently vacated. An offer has been made to an individual to fill the position.

There were no additional questions or comments.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 04-24 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 04-24 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes, motion passed.

Resolution R02-24 – Removing Authorized Signators and Adding a Signator to all Covington Savings and Loan Accounts.

Mayor Harmon asked the council to consider waiving the three-reading rule to remove both Mr. Kyle Hinkelman and Mr. Ed McCord and adding Mayor Harmon. This would allow for prompt processing of accounts payable and any additional banking needs with Covington Savings and Loan accounts.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R02-24 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R02-24 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes, motion passed.

Resolution R03-24 – A resolution authorizing the mayor to sign all documents previously authorized to the Village Administrator.

Mayor Harmon asked the council to consider waiving the three-reading rule to avoid interruption of the many projects and ongoing business of the village.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R03-24 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes, motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R03-24 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes, motion passed.

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### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Harmon reported he is looking to appoint a council member to the Zoning Commission Board to replace Mr. Keith Warner, former council member. Ms. Welborn volunteered to be on the zoning commission with a term through 2027.

Mr. Jess Reynolds and Mr. Warner were Fire Department Representative board members. Ms. Blumenstock volunteered to replace Mr. Warner.

Mayor Harmon stated he would reach out to Ms. Ashburn to see if she would serve on the Planning Commission Board.

Future Council Meetings will be held at the Village of Covington Fire Station after the Tuesday, January 16, 2024, meeting.

### **Visitors**

Ms. Jeannie Scott, 125 S. High Street, Covington, OH, inquired about the need to hire a Village Administrator. Mayor Harmon reported the council is actively seeking a qualified candidate to replace Mr. Hinkelman. The Village of Covington is growing and with all the active projects and growth, it is extremely important to have an individual to watch over the progression.

Ms. Scott inquired if the street sweeper was able to utilize the water function when in use to cut down on dust and debris when cleaning the streets.

### **Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments**

Chief Cline informed residents the construction on the Government Center will begin on January 22, 2024. All village operations will be at 21 N. High Street. Residents are asked to utilize the drop box, located in the parking lot, for payments or contact the office for assistance in signing up for ACH.

There will be a meeting with all project parties every two weeks to stay abreast of activities.

### **Executive Session**

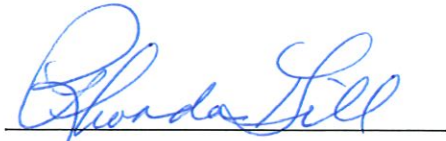
None.

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### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. The meeting was adjourned at 7.35 PM.



Fiscal Officer



Mayor

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