

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2023

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

Council Members Present:

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

Non-member Staff participating:

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (March 20, 2023)
- April Tax Report
- March Financial Report
- March Fund Balance Report
- March Check Run Report

The Village Administrator, Mr. Kyle Hinkelman, thanked the finance team for putting together the new monthly financial report. He explained the report shows the full picture of our funds each month better than the individual reports that Council generally receive.

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A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Jesse Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Keith Warner. All ayes. Motion approved.

Proclamation – Officer of the Year

Sergeant Tim Cline was awarded Officer of the Year. A Proclamation was read by Mayor McCord.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McCord reported there is work taking place for the Hometown Christmas, with a parade and Santa Clause. Carriage rides have been secured for the event. Mayor McCord is happy to report there are many changes coming and will be reported as things are finalized.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman reported the Village has received three bids for the Schoolhouse Park project site work and that he intends to have a resolution for the April 17th agenda for consideration.

He noted that the two-year state audit will begin April 24th. The auditors will be present throughout the week.

He reminded everyone that the High Street Hometown Heroes' Banner program has been extended to April 12, 2023, to fill the remaining few spots. Application forms can be downloaded from the Village website or picked up at the Government Center.

Mr. Hinkelman reminded residents to please complete the Village Income Survey if they received it in the mail. The purpose is to allow the Village to apply for a variety of grants.

He ended by discussing the improvements to Community Park and those that will happen before opening day.

He asked if there were any questions of him, and there were none.

Old Business

Ordinance 05-23 – Creation of the Downtown District and Regulations – TABLED.

Ms. Welborn began the discussion restating her concerns with the Ordinance which included the boundaries of the District, the color choices, and some of the regulations.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed what the current situation was at hand, how the planning commission discussed this item for eight months, the public process involved, and why

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many of the regulations were designed. He explained the current Ordinance in the books does not have procedures in place to allow a business owner to appeal or select colors not in the designated selection. Ordinance 05-23 would provide explicit procedures to allow for this process.

Mr. Hinkelman continued that the Village has a business owner who had been involved in all communications and meetings to this point regarding the existing Ordinances and Ordinance 05-23 painted their building illegally. Mr. Hinkelman explained that the Village needs to enforce the Ordinance's we have on the books or rescind them if we do not wish to enforce them.

Ms. Welborn asked what the fines would be if the business owner ignored the Village. Mr. Patrizio stated since the Village of Covington does not clearly state a fine for a violation in the existing ordinances, it reverts to the Ohio Revised Code penalty section. The ORC states a violation can result in a fine of up to \$500 per day and six months in jail.

Mr. Canan noted that he felt the changes that are occurring downtown should be chalked up to a growing pain. He wanted to remind everyone to act like adults.

Mr. TJ Manson and Ms. Gayle Wray, spoke as owners of Above and Beyond Salon. Mr. Manson noted he was part of the process throughout and was aware of the standards. He continued that the Village had originally stated that the process would be completed in six weeks, not six months. They hired a contractor and waited for many months, but could not wait any longer, which is why they had it painted.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the Ordinance and how to move forward. Ms. Welborn expressed her interest in keeping Ordinance 05-23 tabled and instead rescinding Ordinance 01-09 and Ordinance 11-12.

Ms. Welborn made a motion to modify the agenda to add Ordinance 10-23, which would rescind Ordinance 01-09 and Ordinance 11-12, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, ***motion passed.***

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 10-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Warner. Mr. Warner – aye; Mr. Canan – aye; Ms. Welborn – aye; Ms. Blumenstock – aye; Mr. Reynolds – no; Ms. Duff – no. ***Motion failed*** as it requires three quarters for approval. Mr. Patrizio indicated there must now be three readings. The second reading will be held April 17th and the third reading will be held May 1st.

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A motion to remove Ordinance 05-23 from the table was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. Mr. Warner – no; Mr. Canan – no; Ms. Welborn – no; Ms. Blumenstock – no; Mr. Reynolds – aye; Ms. Duff - aye. **Motion failed.** Ordinance 05-23 remains tabled.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that since there has not been any action to resolve the illegal paint situation, he will work with legal counsel to begin the legal process against the business owners.

Resolution R06-23 – Declaring the intention to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and requesting the Auditor of Miami County, Ohio certification pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 5705.03.

Mr. Hinkelman explained Resolution R06-23 and Resolution R09-23 are the same resolutions, except one is a 3.0 mill levy and the other is for a 2.9 mill levy. He noted that this does not put these on the ballot, only verify the amounts for consideration.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

A motion to **approve** Resolution R06-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. **Motion passed.**

Resolution R09-23 – Declaring the intention to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and requesting the Auditor of Miami County, Ohio certification pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 5705.03.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that this resolution was the same as Resolution 06-23. He asked Council to consider waiving three-reading rule to allow for both Resolution 06-23 and Resolution 09-23 to pass at the same time to obtain information from the auditor's officer in a timely manner.

A motion to **waive the three-reading rule** for Resolution R09-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. **Motion passed.**

A motion to **approve** Resolution R09-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. **Motion passed.**

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Ordinance 07-23 – Repealing and replacing the Salary Ordinance.

Mr. Hinkelman noted this was the second reading, and nothing had changed from the first reading.

A motion to **waive the three-reading rule** for Ordinance 07-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. ***Motion passed.***

A motion to **approve** Ordinance 07-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. ***Motion passed.***

Ordinance 08-23 – Amending the Employee Manual.

Mr. Hinkelman noted this was the second reading of the Ordinance, and nothing had changed from the first reading.

He asked if there were any questions regarding the Ordinance and there were none.

He noted the third and final reading will be April 17, 2023.

New Business

Resolution R12-23 – Authorizing Renewal of Health Insurance for Village Employees.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R12-23 which would renew health insurance coverage for employees. He noted that the Village had requested its third-party vendor get additional options and quotes for insurance for employees. The current Anthem plan through the MEWA was quoted as having an increase of 9.8%. He noted that other plans had different rates, but overall this option was the best options available to protect our employees and potential increases next year. He also noted that there will be an HSA increase for those employees who wish to take the HSA option over the PPO plan.

A motion to **waive the three-reading rule** for Resolution R12-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Ms. Welborn. Mr. Warner – aye; Mr. Canan – Abstain due to a conflict of interest; Ms. Welborn – aye; Ms. Blumenstock – aye; Mr. Reynolds – aye; Ms. Duff – aye. ***Motion passed.***

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A motion to **approve** Resolution R12-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Warner. Mr. Warner – aye; Mr. Canan - Abstain due to a conflict of interest; Ms. Welborn – aye; Ms. Blumenstock – aye; Mr. Reynolds – aye; Ms. Duff – aye. ***Motion passed.***

Resolution R13-23 – Authorizing 2023.-2024 ODOT Road Salt Program.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R13-23 which authorizes the Village Administrator to enter into the ODOT salt program. He explained the Village salt barns are currently completely full due to a low need for salt use this past winter. He said the Resolution authorizes the purchase of 90 tons of salt, with the hope of not requiring a large amount of usage next winter.

A motion to **waive the three-reading rule** for Resolution R13-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. ***Motion passed.***

A motion to **approve** Resolution R13-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. ***Motion passed.***

Resolution R14-23 – WCPLF Final Numbers – Modification to Resolution R08-23.

Mr. Hinkelman explained the resolution modifies Resolution R08-23 which is regarding the WWTP loan. Almost 2.5 mill is in contingencies, so they have required the change ASAP.

A motion to **waive the three-reading rule** for Resolution R14-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. ***Motion passed.***

A motion to **approve** Resolution R14-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. ***Motion passed.***

Resolution R15-23 – Accepting a Donation.

Chief Lee Harmon announced the Police Department had received a gracious donation from the Eagles Women's Axillary of \$1,000 which will be used for additional equipment to be used in the event of an emergency. He noted that the Police Department was very appreciative of the donation and support.

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Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments


Chief Harmon again congratulated Sergeant Cline for receiving Officer of the Year. He explained the process, which includes all officers being sent an email requesting a nomination of who they feel deserving of the honor within the force. He stated that there was an overwhelming response in favor of Sergeant Cline. He continued that Sgt. Cline was honored at a banquet at Arbogast Performing Art Center earlier in the month.

Chief Harmon shared there will be a Police Memorial on May 3rd in Troy on the Court House lawn. All are welcome to come.

Council members thanked Sergeant Cline and the Police Department for all they have done and continue to do on behalf of the community.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM.

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

Fiscal Officer

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

Mayor

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