



COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2022

Covington Village Council had a meeting on April 18, 2022. Council Member Dawn Duff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

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

Non-member Staff participating:

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

The Council made a motion to have Dawn Duff serve as the President Pro-Tempore for the meeting since Mayor McCord was still out from surgery, and Council President Jesse Reynolds was excused for illness. Motion made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (April 4, 2022)
- March 2022 Income Tax Report
- March 2022 Check Report

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as it stands with no modifications by Mr. Warner and seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Visitors

Mike Hagan, 213 Grant Street, discussed the location of the proposed bike path into the new Schoolhouse Park. He noted that he purchased a home on the corner of Chestnut and Grant Street and he has looked at the location of the proposed bike path with some concern. He noted he strongly supports the bike path and the need for it, he just feels that it should come down Grant Street and then turn into the park on Ash Street. He felt this location would be safer to cross US36 from the property the Village owns behind Siegel's. He also discussed his support for the bike path going down Wright Street and potentially connecting into Community Park in the future. He asked that Council consider updating the bike path plan to put the future bike path line along Grant Street, which would allow further review of the large right-of-way that was left over from old railroad tracks.

Proclamations

Ms. Duff read proclamation 02-22 which commended the Village of Covington Police Officer of the Year – Russell McNeil and proclamation 03-22 which proclaimed April 23, 2022 Shield's Classic Drum Show & Homecoming Day.

Mayor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman stated that May 2 would be the start date for the ODOT High Street project. He noted that he met with ODOT and the contractor in the previous week and that he expressed how important this project was to the Village. He noted that ODOT was the lead on the project and would be keeping the Village informed as information changes.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed the Verizon Tower project in the Village and noted that due to procurement issues, they are not able to provide a clear start date. He said that the contractor said they would begin once the materials are available for the project.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Village was hiring the two positions that were approved by Council, a Financial Analyst and a Public Works Laborer position.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if the Council had any specific questions for him, and there were none.

Discussion Items

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Mr. Hinkelman again passed out color samples for the roofs in Schoolhouse Park and noted that the gray had been confirmed, but there was still some consideration for the red or green secondary roof colors. Council reviewed the colors. No further discussion.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the 70-foot right-of-way Mr. Hagan noted in the public discussion was an example of an area in the Village that has public property in a right-of-way that may need to be vacated.

Mr. Hagan noted that he would support the vacation of the property behind his house and would like to see the Village be proactive and do this for the other areas in the Village as well.

There were no further questions or comments.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading Considerations

Resolution R14-22 – Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the resolution was to appoint Mr. Dwayne Wilson to the BZA to fill the term ending December 31, 2025. This is the third reading.

Ms. Welborn made a motion to approve Resolution R14-22, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Second Reading Considerations

Resolution R15-22 – Road Salt Agreement

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R15-22 and explained it was an annual agreement that the Village enters with ODOT related to the purchase of road salt. He noted the Village is currently well stocked, so we are looking to purchase 120 tons. Mr. Hinkelman noted that April 30 was the deadline to have the salt award in.

Mr. Warner motioned to waive the three-reading rule, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Ms. Duff made a motion to approve Resolution R15-22, seconded by Mr. Warner, all ayes. Motion passed.

First Reading Considerations

Resolution R17-22 – Authorizing Health Insurance Renewal for 2022

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R17-22 which is the annual renewal for Health Insurance for Village employees. He noted that this year was particularly difficult, as the Village's contractor, McGohanBrabender, did the best they could in terms of rates and negotiation with insurance companies, but the numbers were not what the Village wanted. He said that in the end the Village had to move forward to approve a health insurance plan due to the current plan expiring at the end of April.

Mr. Hinkelman said that the Village will still provide two plans for employees to choose from: a PPO plan and an HSA plan. The PPO rates went up 18.1% with the same benefits as 2021 and the Village worked holding the HSA rates per pay at the 2021 rates but had to change the benefits of the HSA plan. He noted that the HSA deductible went up to \$3,500 for an individual and \$7,000 for all other plans and the co-insurance after the deductible went from 100% coverage to an 80%/20% split. He also noted that the Village will put \$1,000 in an individual and \$2,000 for all other plans into the HSA plan participants HSA, the same as the last year.

Mr. Canan asked how often the Village reviewed insurance coverage, and Mr. Hinkelman noted that it was an annual review.

Ms. Joyce Robinson, 201 Lindsey, asked why the Village could not negotiate rates in January. Mr. Hinkelman responded that the Village's coverage expires on April 30, and generally negotiations occur in March/April to assure that the Village gets the best rates for the year. He noted that this year took longer due to the challenging factors related to the higher rates the Village was seeing, and efforts to see what other options may be available.

Ms. Duff made a motion to waive the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Warner. Mr. Canan abstained. Due to Mr. Reynolds absence, the motion failed to meet the requirements of 5/6 of the Council's approval for approval. Motion failed.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the second reading would be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 2, unless a special meeting was scheduled beforehand.

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Resolution R18-22 – Police Surplus

Mr. Hinkelman asked Chief Harmon to discuss this item. Chief Harmon stated that the Department had the courts approve the seized assets as surplus and this was the final process to have the list of items destroyed, sold, or otherwise removed from the Village inventory. He noted that the guns that were part of the inventory were not part of this resolution, as they will likely be sold to a company in Columbus, and they must be appraised before they are sold.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if the Council had any questions, and there were none. The second reading will be held on May 2, and the third reading will be held on May 18.

Resolution R19-22 – Accepting a Donation from the Covington Community Chest

Mr. Hinkelman explained that Resolution R19-22 was to formally document and approve the Schoolhouse Park funding given to the Covington Community Chest. He continued that the Community Chest acted as the tax exempt body that accepted donations for the park in 2019, 2020, and 2021, but that they were ready to make the donation to the Village for the full amount of funds, \$150,186.41. Mr. Hinkelman noted that as part of the modifications of the revenue, this will be put into the General Fund with the UVMC donation and will be used for the park.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions about the resolution and there were none.

Ms. Duff made a motion to waive the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Warner. Mr. Canan, yea, Ms. Duff yea, Mr. Warner, yea, Ms. Blumenstock yea, Ms. Welborn, no. Due to Mr. Reynolds absence, the motion failed to meet the requirements of 5/6 of the Council's approval for approval. Motion failed.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the second reading would be held on May 2, and the third reading would be held on May 18.

Ordinance 08-22 – Modifying Expenditures and Revenues

Mr. Hinkelman discussed that Ordinance 08-22 was the quarterly appropriations and modifications to the revenues related to the donations for Schoolhouse Park. Mr. Hinkelman took a moment to explain how the budget funds work, including the General Fund, Street Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund. He noted that many people ask him

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about the Village funding and why donations towards the park cannot be used for road pavement, or why the Village can afford to do something, but not another thing. Mr. Hinkelman noted that each fund has expenses that are permitted. The funding for Schoolhouse Park does not impact in any way the ability to pave roads within the Village. The building of the wastewater treatment facility does not impact the ability of the Village to pick up trash. Different funds pay for different services. He noted that the annual budget priorities and strategic plan help to guide discussions and goals related to what does and doesn't get funded each year.

Mr. Hinkelman suggested that people come to the Council meeting to clearly dictate what they believe should be financial priorities, so the Council can hear concerns and begin to prioritize what they believe is most important.

There were no further questions.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the second reading would be held on May 2, and the third reading would be held on May 18.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

Ms. Blumenstock stated that she received concerns about speeding on Walnut and about someone parking backwards in the Village. She wanted to know what the best way for residents to make these complaints. Chief Harmon said that when these things happen they need to call the police so they can document it occurring. Hearing about events after the fact does not allow the police to investigate or follow up on the issues. If someone is parking illegally, call the police, and they will come out and see if they can get it resolved.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Duff. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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Rhonda Hill

Fiscal Officer

ABSENT.

Mayor

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