

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 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
- Dawn Duff

Council Members Absent and Excused:

- Amy Welborn

Non-member Staff participating:

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (April 17, 2023)

Mayor Ed McCord stated the minutes would stand as there were no comments.

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Visitors – Public Comment

None

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ed McCord reported last Saturday was opening day at Community Park. He encouraged the community to go down to Community Park to check out the great job Ben Denson, the Public Works Supervisor, and his guys have done. He noted many improvements to the park including that the Concession Stand and dug outs have new metal roofs, new rock and mulch, newly painted bathrooms, and much more. He continued that there had been several complaints regarding the condition of the restrooms over the years, and they have been improved. He stated that the community will see new LED lights for better security and overall lighting, doors, and plans to do additional painting. He asked that people give the Public Works crew a shout out for the fine work when you see them. He also noted that there were still improvements to be made including the steps down to the lower ball diamond need some work. The Village is working on a plan to take the drive around to the back diamond to assist with access for those with handicaps or wheelchairs. Administrator Hinkelman is working on obtaining a grant to help fund the projects.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman reported Miami County Commissioners authorized an additional \$30,000 for a small Pavilion / Shelter at Schoolhouse Park. Overall, the estimated cost will be approximately \$60,000 for the shelter, and the Village will utilize \$14,000 from the Miami County Foundation, along with the \$30,000 from the commissioners to fund the majority of the structure. The remaining portion will be funded by the Village. He noted that currently there is a 15-plus week wait for the materials. Mr. Hinkelman noted that he will be working to get the delivery confirmed in the coming weeks with the hope to have the pavilion / shelter open with the playground in Schoolhouse Park by the Fall.

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

Discussion Items

Fire Levy

Mr. Hinkelman asked Council to give him a direction they wished to pursue for consideration by the voters so he could work with legal counsel to provide an Ordinance for consideration at a future meeting.

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A motion was made to pursue the 3.0 mill levy by Ms. Julie Blumenstock, seconded by Mr. Keith Warner. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Village Council Email

Mr. Hinkelman stated several communities provide Village emails for the public to contact Council members. If Council members have no objection, Mr. Hinkelman will proceed with the process to provide email addresses for each member.

Mr. Derrick Canan voiced his approval. Mr. Frank Patrizio advised all Council members the emails are considered public records and to follow all Village procedures regarding them. All Council members were in favor of proceeding.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that he would put together the emails and post them on the Village website.

2023 Strategic Plan

Mr. Hinkelman detailed the Strategic Plan and reminded Council about its history and the updates made over the last two years. He noted that they do annual updates in the Spring and it is now time to review and update the plan to assure we are meeting the needs of the community and setting goals.

Mr. Hinkelman went on to explain there are four components of the plan and each is detailed and has specific benchmarks established to determine if the Village is meeting the goals and needs of the community.

He noted areas where the Village met the goals for the year and noted areas where they were not met or were currently working on being met.

Mr. Hinkelman asked Council members to look at various items around the Village and submit ideas, goals, priorities, and objectives for implementation into the plan. He noted that he would like to also have a public survey to solicit goals for the Village from residents.

Old Business

Resolution R17-23 – Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the Village Administrator to enter a contract – Schoolhouse Park – Site Work.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that this was the second reading of this resolution and there were no changes.

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Ms. Blumenstock asked what if the project would go over the agreed upon amount of the contract. Mr. Hinkelman explained all contracts have a set dollar amount agreed to in the bid amount. He continued that if there are additional amounts requested, the contractor will have to put in a change order for the additional monies and explain their reasons for the request. As in all projects, change orders are evaluated based on their need, purpose, etc. He stated that the engineering firm hired to manage the project will first review the request, and then the Village would review it to confirm any needs.

There were no additional questions or comments by the Council.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R17-23 was made by Mr. Jesse Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Keith Warner. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R17-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Dawn Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

Resolution R18-23 – Declaring Surplus Property.

Police Chief Lee Harmon explained Resolution R18-23 is to allow the Police department to trade in eight (8) handguns. These handguns have been carried for several years and Glock has a new, upgraded gun on the market. The Police department would like to upgrade to the new Glock guns now available.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R18-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R18-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Police Chief Harmon announced Officer AJ Hickman has been with the Village of Covington for four (4) years and will be taking a non-police officer position with a private company. He noted that Officer Hickman is the current School Resource Officer and three officers within the Department will rotate to cover the School Resource position through the end of the year. Chief Harmon expressed his desire to have someone hired by the new school year. Chief Harmon noted that on behalf of the Village he wished Officer Hickman the best.

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Mayor McCord mentioned the Grand Opening of Rosebud's was a great event and thanked everyone who came out. He noted his excitement for new businesses in the Village.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Canan. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rhonda Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Fiscal Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Edward L. McGee", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

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