



# **COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**May 2, 2022**

Covington Village Council had a regular meeting on May 2, 2022. Mayor Ed McCord 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
- Julie Blumenstock
- Dawn Duff
- Jesse Reynolds

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

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

### **Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (April 18, 2022)
- Approval of Council Minutes – Special (April 25, 2022)
- May 2022 Income Tax Report
- April 2022 Check Report

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

### **Visitors**

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No comments were received.

### **Mayor's Report**

**Mayor Ed McCord** discussed Community Park and said that he felt they had a good opening day. He noted that Ben Denson and the Public Works employees have done a great job getting the park ready. He also noted that roofing supplies have been ordered and as soon as they arrive, the roofing company will complete the replacement roofs in the park.

The Mayor stated that the Eagle Scout project is coming along well and that the fence posts are tall because they have not yet been cut down and will be painted red.

Mayor McCord discussed a new Beautification Program that is being implemented for June, July, and August. He noted that up to two properties will be selected each month. Nomination forms will be on the Village website, [www.villageofcovington.com](http://www.villageofcovington.com).

### **Administrator's Report**

**Mr. Kyle Hinkelman** shared that the High Street Project officially began on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He noted that the Village has been closely monitoring of the traffic, placed additional signage, and has extra officers on duty. He stated his appreciation of residents patience as the project moves forward.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that he would discuss potential saving of bricks from the road construction with ODOT and the contractor so they could be donated to the Historical Society, but stated he could not guarantee any could be provided.

He discussed that the Miami County Foundation will be holding an awards ceremony on May 6<sup>th</sup> and that he would be attending. The Village was invited as we will be receiving grant money for an additional pavilion in Schoolhouse Park.

### **Discussion Items**

Mr. Derrick Canan suggested possibly change to one side street parking on Wenrick to help alleviate the log jam due to road construction traffic. Mr. Hinkelman said restricted parking had been discussed but it is not something the Village plans to change at this time. He noted that after discussing the concept it was felt that it would be an added

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confusion for residents. Chief Lee Harmon added parking on both sides of the street helps keep traffic moving slower.

Ms. Julie Blumenstock brought up concerns about having council meetings streamed. She stated she has received comments regarding a desire to view the meetings online at a better quality.

Ms. Amy Welborn expressed a concern related to spending money to stream when it would be more beneficial to encourage residents to attend meetings where they can express their concerns. She felt there was potentially a better use of the money elsewhere.

Mr. Frank Patrizio explained most people will not attend meetings in-person or via internet and getting people to be involved is always a challenge.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Village does stream meetings currently and has an average number of viewers of around four on YouTube. He stated that the previous Council implemented the streaming for COVID-related needs but never intended it to serve as the primary way for people to see the meeting. At that time, it was determined that we would have it available for the streaming of the meeting, but it wouldn't be kept afterwards, and the minutes would be the official record of the meeting. Mr. Hinkelman expressed concerns with the time it takes to keep recordings or to edit recordings for access afterward. If Council would like to have meetings edited, it is his recommendation to consider hiring someone to handle editing and various other aspects of videotaping each meeting.

Additional discussion by the Council was had regarding residents and their reservations about attending meetings and expressing concerns for fear of the whole world being able to view what was said by anyone in attendance, not just village residents.

Ms. Blumenstock asked that the Council make some sort of agreement related to the streaming so everyone can understand what the Village will do moving forward. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the current Council hasn't made it clear as to the policy related to the streaming of the meetings, so he would draft a resolution related to streaming and bring it forward for consideration by the Council to make it clear what the intention and goals related to streaming the meetings is for the Village.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Third Reading Considerations**

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None

## **Second Reading Considerations**

### Resolution R18-22 – Police Surplus.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R18-22 related to the Police Department surplus items previously discussed.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none. He noted that the third and final reading would be May 16.

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

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R19-22 a resolution to accept a donation from the Covington Community Chest related to Schoolhouse Park. He noted that the donation contained multiple donations made for Schoolhouse Park in 2019, 2020, and 2021 which total \$150,186.41. A detailed list of donors was also provided to assure each dollar goes towards the park as the wished.

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

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R19-22 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R19-22 was made by Mr. Jesse Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Dawn Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

### Ordinance 08-22 – Modifying Expenditures and Revenues.

Mr. Hinkelman explained Ordinance 08-22 which modifies expenditures and revenues for the Village. He noted that these modifications are due to additional rising costs for purchasing, fuel costs, and other expenditures. He also noted this modified the revenues to include the large donations for Schoolhouse Park, which were not formally budgeted.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none. He noted that the third and final reading would be May 16.

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## **First Reading Considerations**

### Resolution R20-22 – Authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement for the Amphitheater Design.

Mr. Hinkelman explained this resolution is similar to Resolution R25-22 later on the agenda, as it is relating to the design of the amphitheater within Schoolhouse Park. Due to the generous support of the community, the amphitheater is being constructed as part of Phase 1, which requires a design contract for the design of building, bidding, and construction management for the amphitheater, which include a stage, a single restroom, and a storage room.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none. He noted that the second reading would be May 16.

### Resolution R21-22 – Update to Strategic Plan – 2023.

Mr. Hinkelman explained Resolution R21-22, which updates the existing Village of Covington Strategic Plan originally adopted in 2021. He noted that the existing plan is on the website for review. He also noted that the update modifies the benchmarks to line up with the overall goals of the Village in 2022 and beyond. Mr. Hinkelman asked that the Council put together their updates and goals for discussion at the next meeting so the document can be updated and reflect those concerns or goals.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none. He noted that the second reading would be May 16.

### Resolution R22-22 – Intention to Proceed Under the Alternative Tax Document Format.

Mr. Hinkelman explained this is an annual process per Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R22-22 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R22-22 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Resolution R23-22 – Appoint Trustees to Covington-Area Improvement Corporation.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R23-22 a resolution to appoint members of the Covington-Area Improvement Corporation (CAIC). He noted that the CAIC has not met consistently in over five years, and hasn't met at all since January 2020. Mr. Hinkelman said that since the CAIC has not met in multiple years, the membership expires and therefore the Board of the CAIC cannot meeting. He noted that this resolution authorizes the mayor to appoint new members to formal terms which will allow those members to update the bylaws of the organization to meet the current needs of the Village.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none. He noted that the second reading would be May 16.

Resolution R24-22 – Approve "Then and Now" Purchase Orders for 2022.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Ohio Revised Code requires purchase orders approved prior to expenditures. He stated that the Fiscal Officer must generally certify these expenditures, but if they are over \$3,000, Council must also approve the expenditure in a timely manner. As noted in the attached exhibit, Mr. Hinkelman noted the purchase orders that were to be approved explicitly. He also noted that due to the nature of the resolution, that the resolution be passed as an emergency.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R24-22 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R24-22 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R25-22 – Authorizing a Contract Amendment to the Site Design Contract for Schoolhouse Park.

Mr. Hinkelman stated an amendment to the site design would be necessary to allow the additional design work necessary for the amphitheater within Schoolhouse Park. He noted that the original plan did not include the amphitheater, but due to the generous donations of the community, the Village is able to put it in with the Phase 1 development. This modification will increase the overall expenditures but will save approximately \$14,000 over doing the project separately as originally considered.

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Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none. He noted that the second reading would be May 16.

### **Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments**

Chief Lee Harmon noted that Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at noon there will be a Police Memorial in Troy. The Village of Covington has had two officers die in the line of duty over the years. The public is invited to attend.

Ms. Blumenstock expressed she has received notices from residents regarding street construction and more cars using Wall and Pearl Streets. Mr. Hinkelman asked that they contact him directly so he can work with staff to see if anything can be done. He noted though that the project is an ODOT project and does have restrictions. He also noted that the Village can only do so much to direct traffic, and additional signs and additional police staffing are already occurring. He noted that Wall Street and Pearl Street are public roadways and are allowed to be used by cars, even if the Village does not want to encourage such use.

Chief Harmon shared if residents are aware of safety issues, they are asked to call 911 or the police department directly so they can come out and directly see it happen.

### **Executive Session**

At 8:15PM Council went into executive session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code.

No formal actions were taken.

A motion to enter back into regular session was made by Mr. Reynolds and seconded by Ms. Duff at 9:13PM.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Duff. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

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Rhonda Lill

Fiscal Officer

Edward L. McCall

Mayor

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