

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 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 Counsel
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator
- Lee Harmon – Police Chief

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (August 15, 2022)
- July Fund Report
- July Check Run Report
- August Income Tax Report

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

Visitors – Public Comment

Mayor McCord welcomed those in attendance and gave the 2022 Mayor's Beautification Awards to four winners - 603 E. Walnut Street – Peacock; 367 S. High Street –

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Besecker; 321 High Street – Sherman; and 401 E. Broadway – Cain. The Mayor noted that he felt this award was necessary in the Village and that the decision was difficult. He then thanked each winner for their effort to make their properties more attractive and provided each winner in attendance with a proclamation which was read for each.

Visitors – Public Comment

Linda Williams, 196 N. High Street, Covington, OH, asked about the timeline for the demolition of the properties south of her building on High Street. Mr. Hinkelman responded that the timeline had not changed and that it was planned that the buildings were demolished in October. He noted that once the High Street project is completed, he will be able to finalize the timeline with the County.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the High Street project is moving forward still faster than scheduled. He stated that he had received questions about the roadway being milled, due to bad asphalt, which was true. He noted that ODOT did sample testing and found that a portion of sections that were laid down did not meet their requirements and the contractor would be required to remove them before the final coat. He said that this will occur within the week that the final coat is going in and will not cost the Village additional money nor will it add time to the project. Mr. Hinkelman continued that the temporary lights that are up are waiting on AES to provide power to them before they can be turned on.

Mayor's Report

None.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman thanked everyone that came to the groundbreaking for Schoolhouse Park on August 31 and noted that it was well attended and very exciting to see people in that space. He also noted his thanks for the positive support of the project.

He asked if there were any questions of him, and there were not.

Discussion Items

Facilities and Land Master Plan

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Mr. Hinkelman noted that he has the results from the three surveys that the Village has done so far, one for the staff, and two for the public. He discussed specific questions in the results and noted that the plan was moving forward with a hopeful completion around the end of the year.

Outdoor Event Permits / Regulations

Mr. Hinkelman explained that the County noted that the State Building Code and State Fire Marshall have updated some of their regulations regarding outdoor events. He stated that the Village does not have clear regulations for outdoor events like farmer's markets, haunted houses, or other outdoor gatherings. He noted that a permit process would include an application that requires the event organizer to confirm their understanding of building codes, fire codes, and village regulations for their event. It would also require a minimal fee and drawing showing the event location, closures, etc. Mr. Hinkelman noted that this was very preliminary, but he wanted to start the discussion about potential permits. He noted that he would bring a potential application for further discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions from the Council related to any discussion items, and there were not.

Lexipol Connect Gold Award

Mr. Hinkelman congratulated the Village Police Department for receiving the Lexipol Connect Gold Award for 2021. He noted that this award shows that the police department is meeting all policies and procedure and training expectations from the State of Ohio. He thanked the police department for continuing to get better and for their dedication to the Village. Mayor McCord thanked Chief Harmon for the work they do in the Village on behalf of himself and the Council.

Schoolhouse Park Timelines

Mr. Hinkelman updated the Council that the Schoolhouse Park pre-bid meeting would be on September 7 and the bid opening date would be September 15.

Third Reading Considerations

None

Second Reading Considerations

Resolution R31-22 – Levy a Special Assessment for Lighting Districts

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Mr. Hinkelman again discussed the resolution, which was for the Special Assessment for Lighting Districts which is completed every year. He noted no changes from the last discussion on this resolution.

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

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R31-22 was made by Ms. Dawn Duff, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R31-22 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. Motion passed.

First Reading Considerations

Resolution R32-22 – Contract with Covington Exempted Village School District

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R32-22 which authorizes the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with the school district to have police services at events for the school, primarily football and basketball games. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the school is in agreement with the contract and would like to get it signed and in place as soon as possible, as they are having football games weekly now.

Mr. Canan asked if the Village normally had an officer at the games. Chief Harmon responded that they did. He also noted the current process for officers to get reimbursed for their time is cumbersome.

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

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R32-22 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R32-22 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 17-22 – Reappropriations

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Mr. Hinkelman explained the reappropriations were for a list of items related to rising costs the Village is experiencing.

Ms. Blumenstock asked why some line items show up with the same name in multiple places. Mr. Hinkelman noted that some employees in the Village are paid out of multiple funds. He continued that the Village has multiple funds that pay salaries of employees including the general fund, street fund, water fund, sewer fund, and trash fund. He noted that some line items, like insurance or medicare, may be split among each fund that is paying for that salary.

Mr. Reynolds asked what the line item for software support was in regards to. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the software line item in question was due to an increase in the cost of an existing program that is being used, not for the purchase of a new software system.

Ms. Duff asked about the line item for income tax contract costs going up. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the contract that the Village holds with St. Marys is a percentage of all collections. The increase is due to the fact that the Village has collected more income tax this year than anticipated.

Ms. Joyce Robertson, 201 Lindsay Street, asked what happens to the cost of the village providing refunds for residents in terms of the overall contract with St. Marys. Mr. Hinkelman responded that St. Marys invoices the village quarterly, and there is a "true up" based on the amount of income and refunds.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if anyone else had any questions about the proposed ordinance or any specific line item, and there were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 17-22 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 16-22 – Reappropriations was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

Police Chief Harmon noted that he was attending the Miami County Veteran's Museum in Troy in honor of police and fire first responders. He also noted that October 27 would be Trick or Treat in the Village, which means October 25 would be the annual Village costume contest.

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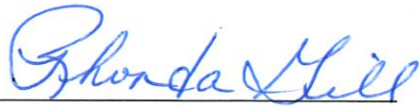
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Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Duff. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 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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