

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 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 (September 6, 2022)
- August Fund Report
- August Check Run Report

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

Presentations

Chief Lee Harmon introduced Ms. Jennifer Knisley, Case Manager, and Mr. Bob Lybarger, Executive Director, of Isaiah's Place, located in Troy, Ohio. Isaiah's Place is a

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

501c3 non-profit foster care agency, serving fifteen counties across the Southwest Ohio region.

Ms. Knisley and Mr. Lybarger shared how the agency will provide service to the community, act as an advocate for children, and assist in education for families. At the conclusion of their presentation, council was asked to consider a donation of \$1,000 to the program annually.

Visitors – Public Comment

Mr. TJ Manson, Above & Beyond, 105 N. High St., Covington, OH, asked about paint colors designated for the Historical Business District. Mr. Manson expressed desire to expand and incorporate additional paint choices beyond those that were previously approved. He asked that Council as part of their discussion consider additional processes to allow variance from the selected color palate.

Mayor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman reported the High Street Road construction will be completed soon. He noted that the street may open without notification as there will be no formal announcement from ODOT or the Village until all signage is up.

He noted that Schoolhouse Park bids will be opened this week.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that the Village had contracted with an animal control business and they will be at the Rudy Elevator property sometime during the week of September 26th.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed the concerns with the streaming of the Council meetings. He noted that they had worked to get the meetings streaming to the best of their abilities with the internet infrastructure they have in the building, but it is still not consistent. Due to the issues of inconsistent connections, it has been determined best to stop the streaming until the Village is able to get a more reliable internet service or upgrade the services provided to the Government Center. Mr. Hinkelman has received quotes for upgraded services and will be working towards a solution by the end of the year.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

Discussion Items

Geolocation of Infrastructure

Mr. Hinkelman explained the Village currently only has hard copy maps, which have "estimated locations" of underground utilities. There is a need to have digital mapping to show exact location of all underground services to avoid potential issues down the road. He noted it was a one-time cost to get the full data, and after that initial cost, the Village can update the data annually. Mr. Hinkelman has been reviewing quotes, which are around \$30-40,000. There is a large upfront cost, but digital mapping provides the ability to know exact data of location of services and ease of ability to add continuation of infrastructure, which is invaluable.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions and there were none. Mr. Hinkelman stated that he would bring back a resolution in October for formal consideration.

Historical District Boundaries and Regulations

Mr. Hinkelman reported in that in 2012, the Village Council adopted colors from Sherwin Williams called "America's Heritage" under Ordinance 11-12. He noted that the Ordinance defined the specific colors and defined a historical district but did not clearly indicate where the historical district was located or who was in it. Mr. Hinkelman went on to discuss the need for an ordinance which clearly defines colors, and a map showing specific boundaries of the historic district so everyone can know who is in or out of the district.

Ms. Welborn asked if it would benefit businesses to broaden the color palette to allow more choices, which would allow TJ's choice of the color Rose Dust, to be included.

Mr. Ronald Sutherland, President of Covington Savings & Loan Association, questioned as to whether having a Historical District is required. Mr. Hinkelman explained there is not a requirement but having one does allow for certain grant application qualifications. Chief Lee Harmon commented to qualify for previous streetscape improvements, there were various requirements to meet, having a Historical District was one of the requirements.

Mayor McCord stated Council went with colors at the time for the downtown business district, but that color interests change over time and there needs to be a process to allow review, but to allow for more flexibility.

Mr. Hinkelman said, if Council is agreeable, he would bring an ordinance with specific guidelines. Mr. Sutherland asked that building owners be allowed to review proposed guidelines prior to being approved and Mr. Hinkelman concurred.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

Mr. Frank Patrizio explained he believed it was in the best interest to keep a historical district to allow business owners the ability to apply for grants.

Council agreed that bringing a more specific ordinance to be reviewed in support of all business and building owners is the best pathway forward. Mr. Hinkelman stated he would bring language back to Council for consideration in October.

Creation of an Outdoor Event Permit and Regulations

Mr. Hinkelman explained that an Outdoor Event Permit would cover the Village on all public land but would also be required for any event that is open to the public, even if it is on private land.

Mr. Hinkelman provided a draft document with potential regulations and application for an Outdoor Event Permit and discussed the requirements. He noted that this would also give the village a procedure to allow for reimbursement of services, such as blocking off a road, extra police protection, trash hauling, and others.

Ms. Welborn asked for more clarification as to whether a permit would be required if one uses a private or public space. Mr. Hinkelman said that if the party is intended to make income or to invite the public to the event, they would require a permit. It was not intended to cover private parties, graduation parties, or other similar non-public events.

Mr. Patrizio responded that it is not intended to cover graduation parties or lemonade stands. He noted the intention is to protect the village in case there is an event taking place and someone is injured, perhaps due to unsafe structures. There should be proper procedures in place to respond. If not, the village is at a greater risk.

Mayor McCord explained everyone assumes if they go somewhere and pay money, things are safe, and they are protected. But he noted that this is not always the case, but a permit and standards would allow for everyone to know it is safe.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were anymore questions, and there were none. He noted that he would bring back a formal document for consideration at the next meeting in October.

2023 Budget – Future Work Session

Mr. Hinkelman shared he wants to schedule a 2023 budget meeting to review the budget., then bring before council and the public for approval. Proposed dates October 3, meet prior to council meeting; October 6 would be a special meeting. Mr. Hinkelman asked that all Council members try and make a meeting date if possible, and due to council conflicts discussed, Mr. Hinkelman will finalize a new date by the next meeting.

Third Reading Considerations

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

None

Second Reading Considerations

None.

First Reading Considerations

Resolution R33-22 – Declare Items Surplus and Sell on GovDeals (Old Rudy Property)

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R33-22 which authorizes the Village Administrator to dispose of property via internet auction. He explained that after having two auctioneers walk through the property, they both determined there was no value to the property. Mr. Hinkelman would like to auction off the grain hopper as he has been asked about it in the past and an auction would allow for someone to bid on it.

Ms. Welborn questioned as to whether this would be something council should consider waiving the three-reading rule. Mr. Hinkelman stated he did not believe there was a rush to pass this resolution currently.

Ordinance 18-22 – Vacation of a portion of Grant Street and Maple Street.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Ordinance 18-22 which vacates a portion of Grant Street, a portion of Maple Street, and an unnamed public right-of-way within Schoolhouse Park. He explained the need to keep easements for utilities, but that as part of the Schoolhouse Park Master Plan adopted last year and to receive funding the roadways must also be vacated. Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

No questions. Second reading will be October 3, 2022.

Resolution R34-22 – Accepting Miami County Rates of Tax 2023.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R34-22 accepting the Miami County Budget Commission rates of tax for the year 2023. He noted that this is done annually. To proceed with 2023 budget and meet the deadline for the county auditors, Mr. Hinkelman

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

asked to waive the three-reading rule to allow for prompt return of the paperwork to the County.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R34-22 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Jesse Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R34-22 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

Chief Lee Harmon had no updates.

Ms. Welborn explained a resident had contacted her regarding some sidewalk issues along High Street. Mr. Hinkelman explained he has been reviewing areas of complaints with ODOT. He also stated there are strict rules for ADA compliance, which sometimes make sidewalks and corners look odd due to the different grades required. The sidewalk area in question meets the ADA standards for the corner, for access to the building and there is also access provided to the stairway to the second floor.

Mr. Hinkelman shared over the next couple weeks the benches, trash containers, and flowerpots will be installed. Placement of items will be discussed with business owners prior to final installation.

Executive Session

None

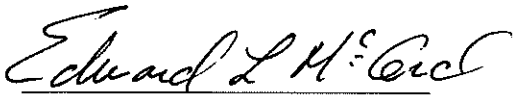
Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Keith Warner, seconded by Ms. Duff. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.


Fiscal Officer

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward L. McCreel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mayor

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com