

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2023

Mayor Ed McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

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

Non-member Staff participating:

- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator
- Tim Cline – Acting Police Chief

Swearing-In Ceremony

Mayor McCord welcomed the family of Mr. Daniel Wogoman. Mayor McCord swore in Mr. Wogoman as a new Police Officer for the Village of Covington. The Council congratulated Mr. Wogoman.

Proclamations

- a. Proc 21-23 – Steve Blei Retirement
- b. Proc 22-23 – Mayor Edward L. McCord Day
- c. Proc 23-23 – Keith Warner Service

Mayor Ed McCord read proclamations to retiring Officer Steve Blei, who served the Village as a police officer for 25 years and Councilmember Keith Warner, who served for eight years.

Council President Reynolds read a proclamation for Mayor McCord making December 18, 2023 Mayor Edward L. McCord day.

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Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (December 4, 2023)
- November Monthly and Year to Date Fund Balance Reports
- November Check Report

Mayor Ed McCord asked if there were any questions or comments by Council.

There were no other comments or questions.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors – Public Comment

None

Mayor's Report

Mayor McCord thanked everyone for taking part in the Covington Home Decorating Contest and noted that Mr. Hinkelman would describe the winners.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman noted the winners of the Home Decorating Contest were the following:

- Spirit of the Season – 142 N. Pearl Street – Angie Weaver and Family
- Creative Use of Inflatables – 338 S. Wall Street – Travis Jones & Family
- Clark Griswald Award – 306 N. Wenrick Street – Andy Johnson
- People's Choice Award – 306 N. Wenrick Street – Andy Johnson

He noted that the winners had been contacted and that the Village will work to get them their checks this week.

Mr. Hinkelman also updated the Council on projects in the Village.

He also noted that this will be his last meeting and expressed his thanks for the ability to work with the Council, Staff, and residents of the Village for the last three years. Council thanked Mr. Hinkelman for his work for the Village.

Discussion Items

Mr. Hinkelman discussed the 2024 Council Meeting Dates, the 2024 Planning Commission dates, and the 2024 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting dates. He also discussed the need for the Mayor to make Board appointments in 2024.

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Council discussed the potential utility service request on a lot split outside of the Village boundary. Chris Haines requested consideration for a 5.5 acre lot split that is adjacent to existing properties within the Village and has a house that currently has access to Village utilities on the property. He noted that they may acquire the house and demolish it, but they needed to have approval to utilize the utility services from the Village to have the County authorize the lot split. Mr. Patrizio suggested that language be drafted to permit usage only to the current owners and not allow it to pass down through generations. Council discussed the request.

A motion was made by Mr. Reynolds to provide utility services to the 5.5 acre property, which will be owned by Chris and Stephanie Haines at a 1.5 times rate for service and where all costs for the service including infrastructure costs are to be burdened by the property owners and not the Village, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that he would put the agreement together in a letter for the Haines' to sign formally, then he would complete the requested paperwork for the County.

Old Business

Ordinance 18-23 – Adoption and Replacement of a Tax Ordinance.

Mr. Hinkelman noted there have been no changes since the last meeting on the proposed Ordinance and this would be the second reading.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 18-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Ordinance 18-23 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance 19-23 – 2024 Salary Ordinance.

Mr. Hinkelman noted there have been no changes since the last meeting on the proposed Ordinance and this would be the second reading.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 19-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Ordinance 19-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Ordinance 20-23 – Adoption of the 2024 Budget.

Mr. Hinkelman noted the Budget is finalized and includes the most updated final numbers on 2023 for utilization. Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the proposed Ordinance and there were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 20-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Ordinance 20-23 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Ordinance 21-23 – Modifying Expenditures and Revenues for the Village of Covington during the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2023

Mr. Hinkelman noted that this Ordinance finalizes the 2023 budget numbers with the most recent figures for December. He noted that the finance team had worked hard to get the numbers updated, and that this will help make closing the year easier in January.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions. There were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 21-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Ordinance 21-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution R41-23 – Authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a Contract for Income Tax Collection.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R41-23 which would authorize the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with the City of St. Marys for Income Tax Collection. He noted the history of utilizing St. Marys for income tax collection, and discussed the price decrease to the Village, as the Village now collects over \$1.5 million per year in income tax.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions or further discussion. There were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R41-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion carried.

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A motion to approve Resolution R39-23 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution R42-23 – Authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a Rental Agreement for 21 N. High Street

Mr. Hinkelman noted that this agreement was for the rental of 21 N. High Street for the next ten months, to serve as the temporary home for the Government Center employees. He also noted that legal counsel has reviewed the contract and had no concerns.

Mr. Hinkelman asked the Council if there were questions or concerns and there were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R42-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution R42-23 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

None

Executive Session

Mr. Canan made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:56 PM under ORC 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and (2) 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, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes, motion passed.

Ms. Welborn made a motion to leave executive session at 8:17 PM., seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes, motion passed.

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Welborn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Gill", written over a horizontal line.

Fiscal Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

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