



COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2021 – Village Council Meeting

Covington Village Council had an in person meeting on June 7, 2021. Council President Scott Tobias called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

- Keith Warner
- Dawn Duff
- Jesse Reynolds
- Bud Weer
- Scott Tobias

Non-member Staff participating:

- Frank Patrizio - Village Attorney
- Lee Harmon - Police Chief
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Minutes from May 17, 2021
- Check Report – May 2021
- Fund Report – May 2021.
- Income Tax Report – May 2021

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

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Visitors

The meeting was attended by residents, both in person and on the Zoom teleconference. Those in attendance in-person were as follows:

Susan Landis, 133 ½ N. High St.
Mary Landis, 405 S. Wall St.
Pam Graher, 229 College St.
TJ Manson, 105 N. High St.
Marie Martin, 230 College St.
Jeanne J. Scott, 236 S. High St.
Brent Welborn, 303 N. Main St.
Virginia A. Slade, 304 N. Grant St.
Kathy Miller, 302 Debra St.

Public Comment

Mr. Hinkelman asked that the visitor's comments be kept to three minutes, to allow time for all guests to voice their questions/concerns. Those present who wished to ask questions or voice concerns regarding the Animal Ordinance were asked to wait until the second reading, at which time comments and concerns could be voiced.

Ms. Mary Landis wished to share that her and her daughter Susan had paid for and planted the red, white, and blue flowers in the planters and pots in the park. She expressed her pride in Covington and felt that perhaps the Garden Club could help maintain the grounds at the Government Center.

Ms. Landis also expressed her desire to reopen her store, Landis Antique & Collectibles, had completed a deep cleaning along with caulking windows to help keep out the road construction dirt.

Ms. Pam Graher expressed her interest in knowing the timeline for Schoolhouse Park and demolition of Rudy Elevator.

Mr. Patrizio shared the owner has liens on the property that must be cleared before the Village is able to acquire.

Mr. TJ Manson, owner of Above and Beyond, inquired about dumpsters for the businesses vs. totters. Mr. Manson also asked about improved signage on Wright Street. He expressed that his clients are being ticketed for going down the one-way street due to being unaware. Mr. Hinkelman stated that the alley is private property and

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is trying to obtain documentation of the easement for the alley and will get back with Mr. Manson on a solution to the trash problem.

Ms. Marie Martin had previously submitted video footage of the Rudy Elevator property to prior administration. She expressed concern of metal loose on building, wildlife, security of the structure, and overall property maintenance. Mr. Hinkelman reiterated that the Village is working as fast and hard as they can to purchase the property and once purchased will begin the process of making it safer until it can be demolished.

Ms. Martin agreed with Ms. Landis' concerns regarding the appearance of the Government Center. As for traffic flow issues, questioned if anyone considered making Pearl and Wall St. parking on one side only, at least during all the construction.

Ms. Jeanne Scott shared that individuals were not heeding traffic laws. As there is an increased amount of traffic on Pearl, Wall and Walnut, there is many driving down the alley. She questioned why the police were not around to ticket the violators and monitor the traffic. Chief Harmon responded the police have issued triple the number of tickets. He also stated one citizen was implying not enough tickets were issued, with another citizen saying there too many were issued. The department is currently working extra hours to patrol and monitor the traffic situation with the road construction.

Ms. Susan Landis asked if the Fire Department was prepared for a chemical spill, as the truck traffic is heavy, even with the Road Closed signs, especially on the weekends. Trash containers not being emptied along High Street was another concern she expressed. Ms. Landis suggested that a mural be painted on the wall of Paul's Pizza.

Mr. Manson reminded all attendees that this phase of the street project is almost finished. Downtown Covington will look nicer when it is complete.

Mayor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman updated the Council. He noted that the High Street Project continues. Bridge and High Street will be closed the remainder of the week. Once the project is finished, work will begin on St. Rt. 36 and Broadway Street. As soon as the Village is made aware of the schedule, notice will be posted on Facebook and the Village website. This project should be much quicker than the High Street Project.

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Mr. Hinkelman reminded residents of the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 7PM. Also, the first July Council meeting will be held June 28, 2021, at 7PM.

The Village garage sales went very well. Large items can be set out all week for pickup at no additional charge. All items still need to follow proper trash pickup guidelines.

Discussion Items

None.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading Considerations

None

Second Reading Considerations

Ordinance 14-21 adopting of a Consolidated Fee Schedule.

This ordinance consolidates all fees for the Village and allows the modification and update with only one Ordinance. Some small changes need to be made before adoption. Mr. Hinkelman stated that there were some small changes that are proposed to grammar and punctuation that will be adopted on the third reading. The third reading is scheduled for June 21, 2021.

Ordinance 16-21 regulating of Animals in the Village of Covington.

This Ordinance was originally proposed at the May 17, 2021 meeting. There has been discussion with various residents, which is reflected in Option 1, and raises the limit of chickens to 10. Mr. Hinkelman discussed all the proposed changes to the original language for consideration.

Ms. Virginia Slade addressed Council with praise to community on the High Street project. She had approached the former administrator prior to moving to Covington three years ago with regards to housing three chickens. At time she was told there was no issue. This ordinance would require her to install a fence and obtain a permit.

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Fenced neighborhoods would make the community less welcoming. Their coop move, they do not sell eggs, and to her knowledge, there have never been any complaints.

Mr. Tobias acknowledged that many residents do take care of their chickens, dogs, cats, etc. An ordinance is required to allow for the Village to act when a resident does not take care of their animals. Village Council chooses to avoid a grandfather clause.

Mr. Patrizio further explained that if there is no ordinance on the books, the Village cannot take legal action to correct an issue. Passing this ordinance allows the Village to step in when necessary. Both Mr. Patrizio and Mr. Hinkelman stated there have been complaints about chickens.

Currently there is nothing in writing to state the number allowed, or which regulates housing of a rooster. There are currently residents who have chickens and those who do not want chickens. Mr. Hinkelman encouraged residents who may have a solution to contact him directly.

Ms. Kathy Miller questioned why the Animal Ordinance, Section 1, had a restriction of 10 acres instead of 7 ½ acres. Ms. Duff asked Mr. Patrizio to check into the restriction. She asked about the ownership of service animals. Language to incorporate service animals will be added per Mr. Hinkelman. She asked that service monkeys should be added to ensure ADA compliance. Ms. Miller asked how animals are removed when a complaint is issued. Per Mr. Patrizio, owner is charged with a misdemeanor and could face jail time. He gives owners an opportunity to become compliant. If they choose to not become compliant and do jail time, they are fined for each day they are in jail.

Chief Harmon stated that vicious dogs are removed by the animal shelter. Animal control personnel are contacted to remove the animals.

Ms. Miller further stated that she is personally aware of a family with five children and over the limit of eight domestic animals with ownership of hamsters and guinea pigs.

Per Mr. Hinkelman, the goal is to stop excessive ownership, but there will always be the exception. The Village will be reactionary and not proactive in applying the Ordinance.

Ms. Miller questioned the size of the coop and lack of mention of reptiles. She went on to thank Mr. Hinkelman for attending Fort Rowdy Museum open house.

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Mr. Brent Welborn questioned number of complaints received and thanked council for their time.

Mrs. Amy Welborn stated she was not opposed to the Animal Ordinance as there have been issues in the past. She stated that she felt an ordinance needs passed to allow the Village to address issues. She does have concerns as to how this ordinance came about. She thanked Ms. Duff for voting no on the first proposal of the ordinance. She would not have an issue paying permit fee.

Mr. Tobias shared he did not want chickens in his backyard. He wanted it to be known the ordinance had nothing to do with the mayor, or the mayor's family. **Mr. Patrizio** also stated he has never been aware of any conflict of interest by the mayor. He also reminded those in attendance that at some point, an ordinance would need to be approved.

Mr. Weer expressed the Village Administrator does not have the authority to give permission for residents to be allowed to have chickens. The decision is up to the council to approve an ordinance. He stated the previous Administrator told people different rules, and this would clarify the standards.

Mr. Hinkelman thanked all the residents for their comments and stated that the third and final reading is scheduled for June 21, 2021.

First Reading Considerations

Resolution R26-21 an emergency application to ODNR Nature Works Program for Schoolhouse Park.

Mr. Hinkelman explained the grant was extremely competitive, but this would allow up to \$108,000 to be used towards the Schoolhouse Park plan, specifically the splashpad. This resolution allows the Village Administrator to complete the application for consideration of monies.

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

A motion to approve Resolution R26-21 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Ordinance 17-21 an emergency establishing an American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Fund (12).

Mr. Hinkelman stated that in 2020 the Village created the Cares Act Fund, fund 11, which was required to clearly show how money is received and expended under the CARES Act program. Mr. Hinkelman said that the Ordinance proposed creates a fund 12 for funds that are received and expended under the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA).

A motion to waive the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Weer, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 17-21 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 18-21 emergency to modify appropriated funds.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that this ordinance was to appropriate funds to cover the costs associated with a computer backup solution. The Marias back up agreement is ending, and a new agreement would need to be considered. Entering into a new service agreement for a three-year period will save approximately \$5,000 for the Village over the next three years. The appropriations also allow for additional funds for weed control.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Weer. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 18-21 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

There were none.

Mr. Hinkelman thanked all attendees and encouraged them to contact him by phone or email with additional questions, concerns, and comments.

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Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Weer and seconded by Ms. Duff. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

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