



COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2021 – Village Council Meeting

Covington Village Council had a regular meeting in the Government Center that was also streamed on Zoom. 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
- Dawn Duff
- Lois Newman
- Bud Weer
- Scott Tobias

Non-member Staff participating:

- Frank Patrizio - Village Attorney
- Lee Harmon - Police Chief
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator
- Tim Cline – Police Sergeant

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Minutes from June 7, 2021
- Check Report – June 2021
- Fund Report – May 2021.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as it stands with no modifications by Ms. Newman and seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Visitors

In-person residents who spoke are as follows:

Kathy Miller, 302 Debra Street

Linda Williams, 196 N. High Street

Public Comment

Ms. Kathy Miller addressed council pertaining to the 10-acre rule (rather than a 7.2-acre rule) mentioned in Ordinance 16-21 – Regulation of Animals in the Village of Covington. Council President Tobias indicated the 7.2-acre property in town Ms. Miller referred to is currently in a conservation district, which has separate rules.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ed McCord gave high praise to the Historical Society and Fort Rowdy Museum, located at the corner of Pearl and Spring Street. The museum is under new management. Ms. Miller, Mr. Dick Rice, Ms. Kay McKinney, and Tom Carder, along with various other members have done a very nice job preparing the museum for re-opening. The volunteers have donated over 2,000 hours in preparation of the Open House. Mayor McCord stated the signs made for Buffalo Jacks look great. The village will put information regarding the museum on the website. The *Piqua Daily Call* printed a nice article about the museum. The group is doing a nice job getting the information out to the public regarding the great heritage of Covington. Many people may not have realized that Rogers Drums, and the Flutophone are a part of Covington's history, along with numerous other inventions.

Museum hours are the First and Third Sundays from 2-5 p.m., and the Second and Fourth Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. The public is encouraged to check out the museum.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hinkelman asked Chief Lee Harmon to share information pertaining to grant monies the Police Department received. Chief Harmon stated that the police currently have printers in each cruiser, however they do not work well with the computer system used. While talking with Mr. Jan Mottinger, Clerk of Courts, regarding the printers, Mr. Mottinger informed Chief Harmon the Police Department could receive a grant to assist with the computers. Mr. Mottinger has since passed, but Mr. Shawn Peeples, Assistant

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Clerk of Courts, presented the department with a check for \$3,029 to cover the cost of the printers.

A motion to accept the check for the Police Department was made by Ms. Newman, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Mr. Hinkelman shared that the consultants who were hired to review the wastewater treatment plant have completed their report. Plans will be reviewed at the June 28th Council meeting. The Wastewater Treatment Plant has not had a lot of improvements over the last 70-80 years. Mr. Hinkelman requested that the public come to the meeting to view the proposed plans and hear the consultants discuss options.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that a Schoolhouse Park Open House is scheduled for June 28th prior to the Council meeting, from 5-7 p.m. The open house will allow the public to view the plan and provide comments. The public is encouraged to view and share comments at that time or via email or direct message.

Mr. Hinkelman reminded residents of the Planning Commission meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 7PM. Also, the first July Council meeting will be held June 28, 2021, at 7PM.

Mr. Hinkelman updated Council regarding the proposed demo of the two homes acquired by the Village and the Rudy Elevator. An asbestos evaluation required for the homes revealed large amounts of asbestos, which will result in the remediation costing approximately \$18,000. Mr. Hinkelman also noted that the village hopes to gain control of the Rudy property in July.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the President of the United States proclaimed the Juneteenth was to be a new federal holiday. The Village follows the federal holiday schedule, but the Village did not feel it was appropriate to close the offices with a one-day notice. Therefore, the Village will observe the day as a floating holiday in 2021 and it will be celebrated on Friday, June 25th. Next year it will be the date observed by the federal calendar.

Discussion Items

Ms. Linda Williams stated residents and businesses need to be contacted when water is turned off due to line breaks, repairs, etc. She stated she was also advised that patrons would be able to reach her establishment, Y'all's Country Club, when road crews were finished each day. Mr. Hinkelman stated that he had spoken with her prior, and understood her concerns.

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ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading Considerations

Ordinance 14-21 adopting of a Consolidated Fee Schedule.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that this ordinance consolidates all fees for the Village and allows the for fees to be modified under one Ordinance. It also centralizes the fees to one location for easier public viewing. Mr. Hinkelman asked if the Council had any questions on the ordinance and there were none.

A motion to approve Ordinance 14-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Weer. All ayes. Motion passed.

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

Mr. Hinkelman shared he has spoken with numerous individuals regarding the ordinance, both those for and against. Mr. Hinkelman noted that he had met with more residents after the last Council meeting to discuss concerns and Option 2 as it is presented to Council, reflects changes that residents expressed. This option was also placed online two weeks ago, for additional comments and review by the public and there were no additional comments received.

A motion to amend Ordinance 16-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Weer. Mr. Weer voted aye. Ms. Duff voted aye. Ms. Newman voted nay. Mr. Tobias voted aye. Mr. Warner voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the modified Ordinance 16-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Weer. Mr. Weer voted aye. Ms. Duff voted aye. Ms. Newman voted nay. Mr. Tobias voted aye. Mr. Warner voted aye. Motion passed.

Second Reading Considerations

None

First Reading Considerations

None

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

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Chief Harmon shared a flyer being passed out to inform the public about scammers. Recent reports of scammers calling regarding computer issues. Residents may be asked to purchase gift cards to send as payment. Do not continue the call. Chief Harmon are encouraged to hang up the phone and contact the police department. Other scams may include calls in the middle of the night from a "grandchild" who may be in jail.

The new police cruiser to be delivered tomorrow. Ms. Newman is to take the first honorary ride.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that the High Street project is finishing with Phase 1 and moving on to Phase 2, which will impact High Street from Wright Street to St. Rt. 36. The intersection of State Route 36 and State Route 48 will be closed for 30 days. He continued that many trucks are attempting to go under the bridge on Pearl Street. If residents see something, please contact the Police Department or the office.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Weer and seconded by Ms. Newman. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

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