



COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 28, 2021 – Village Council Meeting

Covington Village Council had an in person and online Zoom meeting on June 28, 2021 in lieu of the July 5, 2021 regular meeting. 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
- Jesse Reynolds

Non-member Staff participating:

- Lee Harmon - Police Chief
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Minutes from June 7, 2021

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

Visitors

None wished to speak.

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Ed McCord thanked those in attendance. Having nothing to report, the meeting was turned over to Kyle Hinkelman, Village Administrator.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman reported the current Water Department Consumer Confidence Report is available on the website and provided the link location.

He noted that the Schoolhouse Park Open House PDF and comment cards are available on the Village website. He asked that residents please share comments and suggestions and forward them to him. The Village is interested in hearing public opinions and ideas about how the project can meet the needs of the Village better.

Discussion Items

Mr. Hinkelman presented a PowerPoint presentation for discussion pertaining to Wastewater Treatment Plant Plans. Mr. Hinkelman stated the PowerPoint would be available on the website after the meeting. Construction for the current plant took place in 1941. In 2013 a study was conducted to determine options to bring the plant up to current EPA standards. Three options were up for discussion.

Option #1 – Update. This would allow the Village to keep and reuse working components of the existing WWTP. Items that have been recently replaced would be kept and other items would be disposed.

Option #2 – Replace. The current WWTP would be abandoned, and a new facility would be built in the same general area. This was the most costly option.

Option #3 – Abandon and connect with Piqua. The Village would abandon the WWTP facility and pipe all wastewater to Piqua. The Village would lose control over the rate structure, but the option would have the lowest capital cost.

Currently there are funds set aside to build/make improvements to the WWTP. These funds will help off-set the costs. Mr. Hinkelman shared the impact would require approximately 4% increase per year on residents' utility bill. If the Village were to make a 5% increase per year, the fund would continue to grow to cover future capital improvements. It would be two years before a new plant would be up and running. The longer the Village waits, the higher the cost.

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Mr. Hinkelman asked Council if they had any questions or comments about the plan update, or his presentation. Mr. Weer questioned what happens when the current EPA permit expires in September. Mr. Mike Atherine, representative for Poggemeyer Design Group/Kleinfelder, explained that the Village will need to apply for a new EPA permit and meet the current requirements set by EPA. Mr. Atherine went on to explain that back in 1941 when the plant was built it was state of the art. The plant no longer meets the EPA standards and substantial improvements are likely going to be required.

Ms. Dawn Duff asked if the Village were to make the decision as to how the Village would move forward by September, would the EPA approve the permit. Mr. Atherine explained the EPA is more willing to work with a Village that shows they have a plan of action. Communities that are ready with a plan of action are also generally given more grant money.

Ms. Lois Newman asked what would happen if the Village is found to be out of compliance with the EPA and does not have a plan to move forward. Mr. Atherine and Mr. Justen Kosmowski both indicated the EPA could stop all future Village growth by not allowing any additional connections to the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Atherine and Mr. Kosmowski went on to say the current location of the WWTP could be used, but that the new plant would be built higher to avoid flood waters back flowing into the facilities, as it does now.

Mr. Reynolds asked which items would be reused. Mr. Tobias noted that the plan details that the items that were recently replaced in the last couple years would be what would be kept. Parts that were older would be removed and replaced by new facilities.

Mr. Atherine stated the old plant must stay in place until the new plant is completed and running. The EPA requires a functioning wastewater treatment plant to be operating while the replacement wastewater treatment plant is built. He also stated the design and engineering are two different things. The plant would be designed to serve a 20-year growth capacity and should serve the community for at least 40 years if well maintained.

Ms. Newman stated she liked Option #1 the best. Mr. Weer shared that he preferred Option #1 due to being able to reuse items that still had value.

Ms. Duff felt it was best to use Option #1 as well. She has heard from Piqua residents about their dissatisfaction with rates. She did not feel it would be in the best interest of the residents to transfer the wastewater to Piqua and lose rate control.

Mr. Hinkelman stated he would bring back information on Option #1 to pass a resolution and move forward.

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The Council agreed to review a resolution to authorize the Village Administrator to create an RFP for the design of Alternative #1 at the July 19, 2021 meeting.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading Considerations

None

Second Reading Considerations

None

First Reading Considerations

Resolution R27-21 approving the Alternative Tax Document

Mr. Hinkelman explained this resolution allows the Village to utilize the Alternative Tax Document system that is permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. This resolution provides for confirmation that the 2022 Tax Budget documents have been reviewed by the Council and are approved as presented.

This is the same format that was used in 2020 for the 2021 Tax Budget.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R27-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R27-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R28-21 authorizing the Village Administrator to Execute a Purchase Agreement with Kleptz Investments

The Village was able to work through many challenges and come to an agreement with Kleptz Investments pertaining to the Rudy property. The purchase requires the Village pay off liens and debts. The current resolution will allow the Village to purchase and secure the property.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R28-21 was made by Mr. Keith Warner, seconded by Mr. Weer. All ayes. Motion passed.

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A motion to approve Resolution R28-21 was made by Ms. Newman, seconded by Mr. Weer. Ms. Duff voted aye. Ms. Newman voted aye. Mr. Reynolds voted nay. Mr. Tobias voted aye. Mr. Warner voted aye. Mr. Weer voted aye. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

Chief Harmon shared the new police cruiser had arrived. Anyone interested in viewing could come around to the back of building to view.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Weer and seconded by Mr. Warner. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

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