



COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2021

Covington Village Council had a meeting on October 4, 2021. 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:

- Frank Patrizio – Village Attorney
- Steve Blei – Police Officer
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Minutes from September 7, 2021
- Check Report - September
- Income Tax Report – September
- Fund Balance Report - August

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

Visitors

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No visitors requested to speak.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ed McCord thanked those in attendance, and stated he had nothing formal.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman reported the Homecoming parade is scheduled to begin at 6 pm Friday, October 8, 2021.

The Halloween costume contest is scheduled for October 26, 2021, to be held on Wright Street. Trick-or-treat will be held October 28th from 6-8 pm. The Village will be handing out candy at the Government Center.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that he has been made aware of multiple properties throughout the Village that currently have property maintenance issues and they are being reviewed.

Ms. Julie Blumenstock, 216 S. High Street, questioned if letters had gone out on the properties with maintenance issues. Mr. Hinkelman indicated the Village was working on processing of documentation.

Mr. Hinkelman discussed the passing of Dick Rice. He explained that Dick was a very kind and helpful individual, has a deep history with the Village, and took great pride in helping to pass on the rich history of Covington. Mr. Hinkelman noted his condolences to his family and friends and stated that Mr. Rice will be greatly missed by him and the Village.

Discussion Items

Four way Stops / Alley Vacations / Road Closures

Mr. Hinkelman discussed that the Village is considering potential changes to four intersections to help reduce accidents and increase safety. The intersections considered for four-way stops, at this time, are Bridge and Pearl, Bridge and Wall, Pearl and Spring, and Pearl and Walnut.

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Mr. Hinkelman indicated the four-way stops are some of the precautionary measures to be taken prior to the Ohio Department of Transportation's High Street reconstruction project that will begin next year.

As part of the changes, Mr. Hinkelman stated the portion of Dodd Street connecting to Pearl Street and State Route 41 is being considered for closure. This change is to stop the cut through traffic turning left or right on State Route 48.

Council President Mr. Scott Tobias questioned if the closure was permanent or temporary. He stated the permanent change would not alleviate those who wish to cut through on Pearl Street or the alleyway off of State Route 41. He noted that he felt the change would force more cars down Bridge Street.

Ms. Amy Welborn, 303 N. Main Street, questioned if road bumps would be an option in alleyways, to reduced traffic. Mr. Hinkelman noted that they could be reviewed, but generally, there would be additional maintenance issues to contend with if there were speed bumps.

Mr. Tobias expressed his concern that additional traffic will be increased down other roads such as Wall and Pearl Street if Dodds Street was closed. Mr. Hinkelman stated the he took note and that the road closure is not a requirement for the street project, only something he understood was being reviewed in the past and was being brought to Council for discussion.

Ms. Duff indicated she agreed with Mr. Tobias regarding alley closures. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Village is currently doing a study of alleys to determine which ones could potentially be vacated. He said that the Village is open to suggestions from residents for any additional alleys for consideration.

Mr. Derrick Canan, 133 N. Pearl Street, asked if it is possible to give suggestions later. Mr. Hinkelman encourages the public to feel free to provide suggestions and call or email him directly.

Roadway Pavement Plan

Mr. Hinkelman presented a draft list of future paving projects. The draft potentially includes \$5.7 million of paving projects over the next 7 years, with \$4.2 million of that total for the High Street project scheduled for 2022.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that High Street from Face Street north is strongly dependent upon ODOT funding, which is why a price is not indicated. He also noted that Wright Street will be based on how the Village decided to redevelop downtown. If there are areas the public feels need to be paved, the public is encouraged to contact the office.

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Ms. Duff expressed concern regarding traffic utilizing Wenrick Street.

Ms. Joyce Robertson, 201 Lindsey Street, questioned why the area between St. Rt. 41 and St. Rt. 48 was not paved as part of the ODOT projects. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the areas on SR 41 and SR 36 between the ODOT projects and the Village projects are being reviewed with ODOT to determine how we can partner to get them paved.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading Considerations

None

Second Reading Considerations

None

First Reading Considerations

Ordinance 25-21 – Appropriation of Funds.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that additional appropriations need to be made due to several increases in fees and rates. He stated that changes need to be made to continue processing required payments.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 25-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Ms. Newman. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 25-21 was made by Ms. Newman, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution 37-21 – Approval of the Miami Solid Waste Management District's Amended Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that the Miami County Solid Waste Management Plan adoption requires council to pass a resolution in support of the new updated plan. Mr. Hinkelman noted that there were few changes to the overall plan, but they were looking at trying to

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do more with organics and food waste. He stated that due to the timeline for adoption, he was requesting that it be passed now.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 37-21 was made by Mr. Weer, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 37-21 was made by Mr. Weer, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution 38-21 – Accept Miami County Budget Commission Rates of Tax for 2021.

Mr. Hinkelman presented the Miami County Budget Commission Rates of Tax for 2021. He noted that the resolution is for revenues we might receive by year end but is not a guarantee, only an estimate. Due to the timeline set by Miami County Budget Commission, Mr. Hinkelman asks the council to accept the rates of tax as set forth. This is provided each year but has not been a requirement in the past to have it approved by Council.

Ms. Robertson questioned Mr. Hinkelman if he had compared the numbers with previous years numbers. Mr. Hinkelman confirmed that he had compared numbers and is hoping they will be higher due to companies getting back to full capacity from COVID. He noted that a draft budget will be discussed at the next Council meeting that will reflect these numbers.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 38-21 was made by Ms. Newman, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 38-21 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Weer. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments

Officer Steve Blei reported the officers are all wearing pink badges for Breast Cancer awareness.

Mr. Hinkelman again reminded the Council and the public that at the October 18th Council meeting they intend to discuss a Draft Budget for 2022.

Adjournment

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A motion was made by Mr. Weer and seconded by Ms. Newman. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

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