



# **COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 18, 2021**

Covington Village Council had a meeting on October 18, 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
- Lee Harmon – Police Chief
- Tim Cline – Police Sargent
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator

### **Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda included:

- Minutes from October 4, 2021

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

### **Visitors**

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No visitors requested to speak.

### **Mayor's Report**

**Mayor Ed McCord** opened the meeting noting that asbestos removal had begun on the Rudy Elevator property by Monnin Excavating. Mr. Monnin was also hired to remove the piece of metal that was flapping in the wind, which he will do in the coming weeks.

### **Administrator's Report**

**Mr. Kyle Hinkelman** reported the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission will meet on October 27, 2021. This will be the last meeting before November 2, 2021.

The next Council meeting will be held November 8, 2021 as Mr. Hinkelman will be out of the office from November 1st thru November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion Items**

#### 2022 Budget

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the 2021 Budget proved to be a learning budget. He said that the goal for 2022 is to provide a clear budget and not incur unnecessary debt. There will necessary debt that will be debt added due to the High Street project, however the majority of the costs associated with that project will be incurred by ODOT through a grant.

Mr. Hinkelman noted additional debt including the purchase of a Street Sweeper, which has a 5-year term. He also noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant totals will change depending on what type of loan the Village obtains. He said that the Village has made application for several grants, which could also lower the debt obligation of the Village, and additionally more will be applied for as they become available.

Mr. Hinkelman stated that having a budget discussion in October is important to help determine where and how Village residents feel money should be appropriated for improvements within the community before a final budget is approved. It also allows for more additional considerations, like more maintenance funding, which was heard clearly from residents this year their support for those additional expenditures.

The Village is currently working on forgiving a debt the Village created between the general fund to trash fund, which no longer makes financial sense to keep paying to

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ourselves. It makes more sense to clear the debt between the funds, rather than continually transfer money between the two, as it isn't truly debt.

Mr. Hinkelman reminded the Council that the revenue budget for 2022 is intentionally conservative so the Village does not anticipate receiving more money than we actually do.

He noted that a breakdown of the expense budget includes salaries, which are discussed each year in a separate ordinance. The Village did pay for a cruiser without a loan in 2021, which is the beginning of capital expense budgeting. He noted a number of line items within the General Fund and what it covers. Mr. Hinkelman stated that the contract with Covington Fire and EMS will expire in 2022 and will require further discussion and negotiation next year.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that within the street fund additional sidewalk and street projects have been put on hold in 2022 as those funds are going to other projects, primarily the High Street project.

He discussed the Capital Fund, Water, Sewer, and Trash Funds.

Mr. Hinkelman reminded everyone this is a draft budget and will change several times.

He again noted that additional amounts will be put into maintenance as the community has requested more upkeep. The formal budget will be created with the adoption hopefully in late January.

Mr. Scott Tobias asked the age of current trash trucks. Mr. Hinkelman said he didn't know the exact age and will investigate the ages of the trucks and report back.

**Ms. Joyce Robertson**, 201 Lindsey Street, stated there will be three to four new council members in January and was wondering if new members will have enough information to vote on items. Mr. Hinkelman explained new members will be debriefed after the election on November 2 to assure they are off and running when they take office in January.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Third Reading Considerations**

None

### **Second Reading Considerations**

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None

### **First Reading Considerations**

#### Resolution R39-21 – Application to the LWCF Grant Program

Mr. Hinkelman discussed Resolution R39-21 and discussed how the Village had previously applied for the Land and Water Conservation Grant and was denied. He stated that the Village is again applying for the grant, but this time for one million dollars, which will require that Village cover a \$500,000 match. This would be for Phase 1 of the park only, which would not include the parking lot and amphitheater, at this time. This resolution only gives authority to apply for the grant, which has a deadline of November 18<sup>th</sup> and does not obligate the Village to take the funds, if we are lucky enough to be granted them.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R39-21 was made by Mr. Bud Weer, seconded by Ms. Lois Newman. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R39-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

#### Resolution 40-21 – Approve payment to Pearl Street.

Mr. Hinkelman explained the resolution is requesting to reimburse the resident at 194 N. Pearl Street for damages caused by two sewage backups. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Village Legal counsel and insurance company have been consulted due to the unusual circumstances related to these two events. Due to these unique circumstances, the Village believes financial support is reasonable, and if approved by Council, would reimburse the resident a one-time payment for the backups. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the Village does not generally cover costs such as this, but due to the unique nature of the backups occurring within such a short period, that it was determined the Village should support a portion of the correction. He asked council to consider waiving the three-reading rule due to the costs burdened by the homeowner.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 40-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

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A motion to approve Resolution 40-21 was made by Mr. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

### **Police Chief and Elected Officials' Comments**

Chief Lee Harmon reminded residents of The Costume Contest beginning at 7pm on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The contest will be held at its normal location on Wright Street, unless more scaffolding is up and in the way. There will be hot chocolate, donut holes, candy, and prizes. The Chamber has donated \$200 in prize money.

Trick-or-Treat will be held from 6 PM to 8 PM on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Brethren Church and the Police Department will have candy to pass out. All officers will be on duty.

### **Executive Session**

At 7:45 PM, Council adjourned Into Executive Session To Consider The Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Promotion, Demotion, Or Compensation Of A Public Employee, Official, Licensee, Or Regulated Individual, Unless The Public Employee, Official, Licensee, Or Regulated Individual Requests A Public Hearing; In Accordance With O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1)

Council came out of Executive Session at 9:02 PM with no action taken.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Weer, seconded by Ms. Newman. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

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