

## COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Covington Village Council met in a regular meeting on May 6, 2019 at the Village office at 1 S. High St. Covington. Mayor McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following roll call was taken for council:

Present	Keith Warner
	Dawn Duff
	Judy Smith
	Lois Newman
	Scott Tobias
	Bud Weer

Nonmembers present included Mike Busse-Village Administrator, Frank Patrizio-Village Attorney, Brenda Carroll-Fiscal Officer, Aaron Zuhl-Police Officer, and Sam Wildow-Piqua Daily Call Reporter.

### **Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Warner and seconded by Tobias. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Visitors:**

See attached Council Meeting Attendees List

The following visitors addressed Council:

Joyce Robertson thanked council for tabling Ordinance 8-19 until this meeting and spoke of the concerns residents have regarding the increase in rates. Ms. Robertson asked what would be the traffic pattern for the upcoming High Street project. Mr. Busse stated this an ODOT project and it is too soon to tell how ODOT will handle the traffic pattern. Ms. Robertson asked about Ohio's Sunshine Laws and about a meeting held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the village offices with three of the council members. Village attorney Frank Patrizio stated it is not illegal for council members to meet as long as there is not a majority of council or an agenda. Ms. Robertson asked if the village was intending to hire a supervisor. Mr. Busse said the village is looking into this possibility as the village needs another licensed individual per EPA regulations.

Kathy Miller has concerns about vehicles parked too close to crosswalks, and asked if the curbs could be painted yellow. Also, an issue with a bus parked too long in front of a residence. Mr. Busse stated the village would look into painting the curbs. Officer Zuhl said residents should call 911 about parking violations. Ms. Miller asked about the village's portion of state gas tax. Fiscal officer will look into the state gas tax.

David Besecker asked council to consider residents interests and vote no on Ordinance 8-19 as there is already a 5% increase on utilities every year. Mr. Besecker asked where is the surplus

money in water and sewer funds going? Mr. Busse explained any surplus funds are will be used for required upgrades and updates to the water and sewer systems. The Village continues to plan for the long-term sustainability of the Water and Sewer systems as required by the Ohio EPA. Mr. Busse provided an updated 5-year CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) plan to council for their review and use. Mr. Busse stated that this CIP is a road map for future needed updates and will be reviewed a least annually to be used for future planning and budgeting.

Mike Kendig inquired about the reasons for the village is contracting with St. Marys for income tax collection. Mr. Kendig alson inquired about the parking lot at the park not being painted. Mayor McCord responded to Mr. Kendig's questions. Giving a history of how the process of income tax collection has handled in the past and why we currently use St. Marys for income tax collection. Mr. McCord informed Mr. Kending that the weather and staffing levels have prevented our employees for painting the parking lot lines at the park.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the 4/15/19 Council meeting will stand approved as presented.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor McCord updated Council on his weekly meetings and activities and reminded Council of the following:

The Village received a "Thank You" from Fields of Grace for our help with their annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The Rogers Drum Event was a great success, and Mayor McCord presented a drum that was given to the Village.

The WWI Memorial Parade and Celebration will be held May 27, 2019.

Village garage sales will be held May 30 & 31, and June 1<sup>st</sup>. A suggestion was made from a visitor to change the date of the garage sales next year due to several county wide activities held on the same weekend as the garage sales. Mayor McCord stated the Village is open to any suggestions from residents on the changing the date.

Free residential large item pick-up will be held the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>. This free pick-up does not include construction debris.

**Village Administrator Report** – the following topics were addressed:

#### **Old Middle School Lots**

We have closed on the old middle school properties and have taken over the maintenance of these properties as of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **South End Lift Station**

The startup on the generator has been completed. We are working on a final change order for this project and should have it for council's review and approval at the next meeting.

**High Street Project**

Nancy Tobe from Access Engineering and Mr. Busse met with a contractor representing DP&L to discuss utility relocations for the project. They will be getting back to us on the cost for the relocations. Nancy is also working with Spectrum and Windstream to determine the cost of needed utility relocations for the project. Once these costs are identified, we will have a revised project budget for council's review.

We hope to have a community meeting in late August or early September to discuss the progress of the project.

**Street Sweeping**

We have a proposal from Contract Sweepers to continue sweeping the downtown areas from 41 to Face Street including Wright Street. Their proposal is for \$248 per sweep twice per month or \$348 per sweep once per month. Recommending to Council that we contract with them at the \$348 once per month rate for the months of May through October 2019 (6 months).

A visitor asked why not use the village's own equipment to sweep the streets instead of hiring someone. Mr. Busse said it is less expensive to contract out for this service.

**Economic Development**

Mr. Busse is continuing to work with Nate Green of the Montrose Group on our downtown redevelopment district and our proposed CRA, and hopes to have something back for council's review by the end of the month.

Casey's General Store is requesting the Village approve a TREX transfer of C-2, C-2X and D-6 liquor permits into Covington. If approved these permits will allow Casey's to sell carryout beer and wine 7 days a week. Recommending council vote to authorize Mayor McCord to sign the approval for the proposed transfer. These permits are coming from a Giant Eagle location at 2780 E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Asking council to waive the three-reading rule and vote to approve Ordinance 13-19 approving Planning and Zoning's recommendation to vacate .006 acres on Ludlow Street at Perrigo. A similar vacation was approved by Ordinance 1-19 earlier this year but the exhibit and legal description was rejected by the county engineer. By vacating this R/W strip, council will correct an existing situation where the building owned by Perrigo encroaches into the existing R/W.

**Budgeted Transfers**

Brenda and Mr. Busse are requesting council vote to approve the budgeted transfers of \$150,000 from the general fund to the street fund and \$25,000 from the general fund to the capital fund.

**Water/Sewer Utilities**

The cleanout and inspection of both water towers has been scheduled for later this summer. This work is included in our annual maintenance contract. Any deficiencies that are found will also be corrected as part of our annual maintenance contract.

Our current meter reading system was purchased in 2012 and is now 7 years old. It is comprised of a computer program and 2 hand-held computer radio receivers that we use to read the water meters. One of the two handheld computers has a battery that needs replaced (batteries are no

longer available) and the other one which is newer is sporadic and needs to be repaired. The readers were under a service contract until this year, but I was recently notified by Badger Meter that the current readers are no longer supported. I inquired about purchasing a replacement and was told by Badger that our software is also no longer supported and that we would be required to upgrade the software before they will sell the village a new handheld computer allowing us to continue to read the meters.

Although the current meter reading software and handheld readers are still working, my concern is that if we do not upgrade them before we have a failure, we will not be able to read our meters until we get the upgrade installed which may take several months.

We have quotes from Buckeye State Pipe and Badger Meter to purchase the upgraded meter reading software and a handheld reading tablet:

Buckeye State Pipe – Reader and software \$11,825.00  
Badger Meter – Installation setup and training \$3,816.00

Total cost: \$15,641.00

### **Tree Removal**

A proposal has been received from Gunckel's Tree Service to remove a dead ash tree at 322 S. Pearl Street at a cost of \$600.00. Also received a proposal to remove some brush and a dead tree from the bike path property near 314 N. Wall Street at a cost of \$2,500.00.

Both areas have trees that are hazardous to surrounding properties and Mr. Busse is proposing we get these taken care of as soon as possible. The tree on 41 is in the homeowner's yard but within the R/W, past practice is that we present the homeowner with an estimate for removal and let them decide if they want us to remove the tree and assess them the cost of removal or have it removed themselves.

A visitor asked if the village had asked for bids regarding the tree removal. Village attorney Frank Patrizio stated the village is only required to ask for bids for services \$50,000 or more.

### **Trash Fund**

The 2007 International/Labrie trash truck was sold on Gov Deals to the Security Fence Company for \$15,000 and they will be picking it up later this week.

### **Financial Reports**

Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Newman and seconded by Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Motion to approve removing Ordinance 8-19 from the table was made by Tobias and seconded by Weer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve amending the effective date on Ordinance 8-19 to June 1, 2019 was made by Tobias and seconded by Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Amended Ordinance 8-19 was made by Tobias and seconded by Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Council moved to table the 2019 street sweeping contract with Contract Sweepers until the next meeting on May 20, 2019.

### **New Business**

Motion to approve the budgeted transfer of \$150,000 from the general fund to the street fund was made by Tobias and seconded by Weer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the budgeted transfer of \$25,000 from the general fund to the capital fund was made by Duff and seconded by Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Village Administrator to purchase meter reading software and a handheld reading tablet from Buckeye State Pipe at a cost of \$11,825.00 and Badger Meter at a cost of \$3,816.00 was made by Weer and seconded by Tobias. Weer, Tobias, Warner, Smith, and Duff voted aye. Newman voted no. Motion carried.

Motion to waive the three-reading rule and vote on Ordinance 13-19 approving Planning and Zoning's recommendation to approve the vacation of R/W on Ludlow Street was made by Tobias and seconded by Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Ordinance 13-19 was made by Tobias and seconded by Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on approving a liquor trex transfer application for Casey's General Store:

Councilmember Newman questioned if it is legal to transfer liquor permits and Mr. Busse stated it is legal as long as the transfer comes from a location in Ohio.

Motion to authorize Mayor McCord to sign paperwork approving a liquor control trex transfer application for Casey's General Store (this application is for C-2, C-2X and D-6 licenses which includes beer and wine carryout sales including Sunday) was made by Warner and seconded by Tobias. Weer, Tobias, Warner, Smith, and Duff voted aye. Newman voted no. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Gunckel's Tree Service quote to remove a dead tree at 322 S. Pearl St. at a cost of \$600.00 and brush and dead tree clearing on the bike path property near 314 N. Wall St. at a cost of \$2500.00 was made by Tobias and Weer. Tobias and Weer voted aye. Duff, Smith, Newman, and Warner voted no. Motion denied.

Vote to authorize the paving of the alley from High St. to Pearl St. adjacent to Frailey's Funeral Home parking lot at an estimated cost of \$3,550.00 died for lack of a motion.

Motion to adjourn made by Weer and seconded by Newman. All ayes.  
Meeting adjourned 9:25 PM.

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Fiscal Officer

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Mayor