

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Covington Village Council met in a regular meeting on May 20, 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, Steve Blei-Police Officer, and Sam Wildow-Piqua Daily Call Reporter.

Mayor McCord read a proclamation proclaiming the period of May 24-31, 2019 shall be designated "World War I Centennial Week" in Covington, Ohio and encouraging all residents to attend the Memorial Day Parade and the dedication ceremony of the WWI Monument at Highland Cemetery.

Agenda:

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

Visitors:

See attached Council Meeting Attendees List

The following visitors addressed Council:

Brice Schmitmeyer with Access Engineering informed council the lift station project is now completed and explained the change order for the final amount due.

Kathy Miller again voiced her concerns about vehicles parked too close to crosswalks, and asked if the curbs could be painted yellow. Mayor McCord stated council is in agreement that no curbs will be painted yellow as that would entail that all curbs in the village would have to be painted yellow not just the east end. Per the police department, there have been no complaints of vehicles parked too close to crosswalks. Home owners should call 911 to report any parking violations.

Ms. Miller also asked about holding an Old-Fashioned Family Picnic on July 4th at the park. Mayor McCord said certain criteria would have to be met including event planning and insurance, and it is probably too late to have everything in place by July 4th of this year. Ms. Miller said she would look into holding the event in 2020.

A representative from Vacation Bible School asked permission to block Maple Street to Wall Street from 9:00 AM to noon June 17th thru 21st for Vacation Bible School. Council approved this request.

Deb Clason spoke to council about an issue of dog excrement on Chestnut Street.

Marie Martin addressed council about a piece of sheet metal flapping on the old Rudy's Elevator property and a pile of rotting wood. Mr. Busse stated the village has been in contact with the owner of the property concerning these issues.

Joyce Robertson asked questions about the High Street project, loan from the general fund to the trash fund, and what the village intends to do with the old middle school lot. Mr. Busse said there are two separate contracts for the High Street project, and the loan from the general fund to the trash fund was for a new trash truck. The trash fund will make payments to the general fund with a 4% interest rate. Mr. Busse explained this was more cost efficient than financing the truck through the bank. Mayor McCord responded to the question about the middle school lot stating there are tentative plans for a new park at that location, hopefully funded by grants and donations.

Minutes

Minutes from the 5/6/19 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 WWI Memorial Parade and Celebration will be held May 27, 2019 beginning at 1:00 PM. Dedication of the WWI memorial will be held right after the parade at the Highland Cemetery.

Village garage sales will be held May 30 & 31, and June 1st.

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

There was a great newspaper article about the Marias announcement held on 5/16/19. Copy of this article is attached to the minutes.

A \$5,000 donation has been received from the Covington Eagles to be used towards the basketball court renovation project.

Cherie Roeth and Darlene Brown from JR Clarke Library distributed information about the "Build a Human United States Flag" event to be held on June 29 at 3:00 PM at the library parking lot. Participants are needed and a small donation of \$2.00 is requested.

Village Administrator Report – the following topics were addressed:

South End Lift Station

Brice Schmitmeyer from Access Engineering has change order #1 in the amount of \$15,253.00 and the final pay request in the amount of \$40,534.68 for council's review and approval. This project is now complete with the exception of connecting it into our sewer plant Scada system for monitoring and recordkeeping.

High Street Project

Nancy Tobe from Access Engineering and Mr. Busse continue to work with ODOT to compile information to be used for R/W acquisition and environmental review.

After a conversation with ODOT, we plan on having the first community meeting in late September or early October to discuss the progress of the project including the schedule, access to businesses and proposed detours.

Street Sweeping

The majority of the village was swept once this past month. We will be sweeping the downtown early morning May 24th in preparation for the Memorial Day parade.

Economic Development

Mr. Busse is continuing to work with Nate Green of the Montrose Group on our downtown redevelopment district and our proposed CRA. A draft DRD map is included in council's packet for review. This will be a multi-step process regarding a 10-acre district. The Montrose Group will have a more complete map in the near future.

Water/Sewer Utilities

The small tower has been drained and cleaned and is now back in service. No major issues were detected but a small leak was found. SUEZ is formulating a plan for repairs and will get back to us.

Tree Removal

An additional quote was received from Junior's Tree Service for the tree work, \$1,400 for removal of trees/brush along the bike path property.

The low bidder was Gunckel's Tree Service to remove a dead ash tree at 322 S. Pearl Street at a cost of \$600.00. Gunckels bid was \$2,500 for the bike path property.

Before tonight's meeting, Junior's Tree Service withdrew their bid.

Trash Fund

Recommending council vote to authorize the purchase of 150 48-gallon trash toters and 50 black lids from Best Equipment at a cost of \$9,004.00

These toters are the same smaller toters we use for recycling but they have black lids like the large trash toters and will be used to implement the low volume trash program. The rate for low volume trash is \$14.75 per month, a \$2.00 per month savings over the standard rate.

Zoning

Recommending council set a public hearing on Monday July 15 @ 7:00 PM to review an application for a zoning map amendment by Al Hitchcock. Mr. Hitchcock is seeking this amendment to change the zoning of his property located at 226 N. High Street from R-1 residential, to NB neighborhood business. If the zoning map amendment is granted, Mr. Hitchcock intends to construct and operate an ice cream store at that location.

Village Services Supervisor

Recommending council vote to authorize the posting and advertisement of the open position of Village Services Supervisor which is a budgeted position and is allocated to be paid equally from the Street, Water and Sewer departments. This position will directly supervise the day to day operations of the Street, Water, Sewer, and Trash departments. This is a licensed position to ensure the village will be in compliance with EPA minimum staffing requirements.

Financial Reports

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

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Motion to waive the three-reading rule and vote on Ordinance 14-19 approving Planning and Zoning's recommendation to approve the replat of inlots 255 and 256 combining them into one lot was made by Tobias and seconded by Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Ordinance 14-19 was made by Tobias and seconded by Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to waive the three-reading rule and vote on Resolution R13-19 declaring the dead ash tree in the R/W at 322 S. Pearl Street a hazard and ordering the removal of this hazard and declaring the intent to assess the property owner at this address for the removal of the hazard was made by Warner and seconded by Tobias. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution R13-19 was made by Newman and seconded by Weer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Village Administrator's recommendation to award the removal of a dead ash tree at 322 S. Pearl Street and removal of trees/brush along the bike path property near 314 N. Wall Street to Gunckel's Tree Service at a total cost of \$3,100 was made by Newman and seconded by Weer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Village Administrator to purchase 150 48-gallon trash toters and 50 black lids from Best Equipment for \$9,004.00 was made by Weer and seconded by Duff. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Change Order #1 for the South End Lift Station renovation project in the amount of \$15,253.00 was made by Weer and seconded by Tobias. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the final pay request for the South End Lift Station renovation project in the amount of \$40,534.68 was made by Tobias and seconded by Newman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to set a public hearing on Monday, July 15, @ 7:00 PM to review an application for a zoning map amendment for the property at 226 N. High Street owned by Al Hitchcock from R-1 residential to NB neighborhood business was made by Tobias and seconded by Newman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Village Administrator to post and advertise the open position of Village Service Supervisor was made by Newman and seconded by Weer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Weer and seconded by Newman. All ayes.
Meeting adjourned 8:28 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor