



# **COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **April 19, 2021 – Village Council Meeting**

**Held Via Zoom Teleconference**

Covington Village Council had an online Zoom meeting on April 19, 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
- Jesse Reynolds
- Lois Newman
- Bud Weer
- Scott Tobias

#### **Non-member Staff participating:**

- Frank Patrizio - Village Attorney
- Lee Harmon - Police Chief
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda included:

- Minutes from April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

#### **Visitors**

Several visitors were on the Zoom teleconference to discuss their concerns.

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## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor McCord expressed his appreciation of patience with the residence as the High Street project continued. He also thanked the Police Department for their assistance in maintaining traffic control.

## **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Hinkelman updated the Council. He shared continued efforts are in place to keep the Village website as updated as possible with a weekly list of current progress and work locations for the High Street Project. The Village continues to address issues to their best ability and work on things that can be controlled. Mr. Hinkelman also expressed his appreciation to the Police Department for all their assistance.

Mr. Hinkelman state that AGE – Aggregate Provider has contacted the Village office to notify some residents may be issued a refund on their gas bills due to an error by AGE. There is an article regarding the issue on the Village Facebook page, which includes contact information if anyone has questions.

There will be a Planning and Zoning meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Mr. Hinkelman expressed the intention to open the Parks and Government Center on May 1. Masks will be required to enter the building and all other State requirements will be in place. Future Council meetings, starting with the May 3 meeting, will be in person.

## **Second Reading Considerations**

Resolution 18-21 authorizing the Village Administrator to enter a contract with iWorq for Property management software

This agreement would be initially for a contract period of one year. The software would be utilized to document and store data pertaining to properties, and the information can be shared between the Village departments.

Ordinance 11-21 regulation of Animals within the Village of Covington

As written, this Ordinance would specifically regulate animals. It would not permit any resident to raise, harbor, or store animals. A fine of no less than \$25 and no more than \$100 per day could be issued for failure to comply. Additional options are available. Mr. Patrizio indicated that additionally the wording within the therefore section would need to be changed to remove the need to have  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote to a majority.

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Mr. Adam Bennett, 315 E. Broadway, expressed he feels the ordinance is far reaching to rule on farm animals, especially fowl. Covington is a small farming community. He believes that is partially why people move here. He does understand regulating Jaguar, tigers, and bears.

Ms. Julie Blumenstock, 216 S. High St., expressed her concern pertaining to students involved in 4-H and FFA, and what effect the Ordinance would have on their involvement. Ms. Blumenstock asked how the animal issue is handled within other rural communities and if an amendment would later be made to accommodate those in 4-H and FFA.

Mr. McCord responded there are kids in 4-H, which generally consists of a short commitment with an animal.

Ms. Duff expressed she would like to see an amendment made to the ordinance to allow for chickens and pigs.

Mr. Reynolds expressed his agreement with 4-H and FFA projects, and possibly include a size requirement. He would like to see chickens removed from the ordinance and create a separate ordinance for just chickens.

Mr. Weer agreed with Ms. Duff and Mr. Reynolds regarding the removal of chickens from this ordinance.

Mr. Patrizio asked for clarification if changes were to be made, would there be consideration for cows, chickens, goats, bulls, etc.

Mr. Weer stated it should just be changed for chickens and rabbits, not large animals, with established guidelines as to how they would be housed.

Mr. Hinkelman stated the word "chickens" could be removed from the ordinance with a motion to modify.

Ms. Amy Welborn, 303 N. Main, shared that they currently have eight hens, which they acquired due to the Pandemic. It has taught her children responsibility. The neighbors either like or do not know they have hens. It has provided her children with a broader awareness. It has allowed them to share their eggs with others within the community. Good guidelines are important, and she would be willing to pay a permit fee in order to continue to have hens.

Ms. Kayla Kimble, 115 E. Wright St., shared as a past 4-H kid, she had always raised chickens. Currently, she was in the process of obtaining chickens. She questioned if she could now get chickens, due to the amended ordinance. Ms. Kimble also shared

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that noise level is only at 50 decibels, which is very minimal. The waste for a few hens is controllable and good for composting.

Mr. Hinkelman suggested she wait to get the chickens until the ordinance passed to be sure she could meet whatever regulations are adopted.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to modify the ordinance and remove chickens from Section 3 description of Fowl and to remove the wording "three-fourths" and replace it with "a majority" in the Be It Ordained wording. Seconded by Mr. Weer. Ms. Newman voted nay. All others voted aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that he will bring a separate Ordinance back to the Council for consideration related to raising chickens at the May 3, 2021 meeting.

### **First Reading Considerations**

#### **Ordinance 12-21 – Regulation of Trucks on Village Streets**

Mr. Hinkelman shared this would clear up language as to what roads trucks can be on and assist law enforcement in controlling traffic flow.

Mr. Tobias suggested to add Dick Minnich Drive and Industrial Court to the ordinance.

Ms. Joyce Robertson, 201 E. Lindsey Street, expressed her concern as to how this ordinance may affect her neighbor who parks his large truck in his drive when he is not on the road. Chief Harmon stated that this ordinance would not affect truck rigs in private drives.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to modify the ordinance to include Dick Minnich Drive and Industrial Court, and to remove the wording "three-fourths" and replace it with "a majority" in the Be It Ordained wording. Seconded by Mr. Weer. All Ayes. Motion passed.

#### **Resolution R19-21 –Authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with Mark Landis for contract employment with the Village of Covington.**

Mr. Landis would be hired as an independent contractor to help mow and maintain the parks and open spaces within the Village. He would be required to rent the equipment from the Village, and the Village would pay for all maintenance and oil and gas.

Motion to waive the three-reading rule to approve as an emergency was made by Ms. Newman, seconded by Mr. Weer. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Motion to approve Resolution R19-21 was made by Ms. Newman, seconded by Mr. Weer. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R21-21 – Adopting a Strategic Plan for the Village of Covington.

A first reading of the resolution which would adopt a strategic plan for the Village of Covington was heard. This document would provide guidance as Covington continues to grow and sets goals and benchmarks to be able to utilize to determine success. Mr. Hinkelman requested that everyone in the public and on Council review and share concerns and comments to make the document better and to reflect the direction they want to see the Village move forward in.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that the next meeting will be held on May 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm in person at the Government Center.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Newman and seconded by Mr. Weer. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

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