

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

May 31, 2022

Covington Village Council had a meeting on May 31, 2022. 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
- Derrick Canan
- Amy Welborn
- Julie Blumenstock
- Dawn Duff
- Jesse Reynolds

Non-member Staff participating:

- Frank Patrizio – Legal Council
- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Kyle Hinkelman - Village Administrator
- Chief Lee Harmon – Police Chief

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (May 31, 2022)
- May 2022 Check Report
- May 2022 Income Tax Report

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.

Mayor Ed McCord announced that this meeting will substitute for the June 6th meeting.

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman reported the Tax Report was received and is also included in packets.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

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Visitors

Ms. Marie Martin, 230 College Street, inquired as to when splashpad was anticipated to open. Mr. Hinkelman stated the goal continues to be Spring 2023, but procurement issues could cause a delay.

Ms. Martin also questioned if a separate maintenance fund will be established and wanted to understand what level of maintenance was anticipated for the park. Mr. Hinkelman responded that Schoolhouse Park and Community Park continue to be maintained by the Village based on the priorities of the Council. He noted that residents questioned the maintenance of Community Park last year, and the Village heard those concerns and budgeted funds in 2022 to make that park better. He said the Village is budgeting funds annually to assure both Community Park and Schoolhouse Park are well maintained, especially since Schoolhouse Park will be bringing people into the Village likely for the first time.

Ms. Amy Welborn shared her views as they pertained to the numerous ways Schoolhouse Park will benefit the Village of Covington and the positive effects the Park will have on the community and businesses.

Ms. Joyce Robertson, 201 E. Lindsey St., questioned why the road was deteriorating at St. Rt. 48 and St. Rt. 41 and it hadn't been fixed. Mr. Hinkelman noted that those areas have previously been discussed and are on the five-year plan for repavement the Village put out last year. Those repairs are on ODOT roadways and specific funding for those repairs would need to be applied for and granted by the State. Mr. Hinkelman further explained that although it isn't the most economical or efficient for the Village to fund improvements without ODOT taking part, if there are additional funds available this year, we will be looking at additional patching in those locations.

There were concerns expressed by Ms. Martin pertaining to the traffic flow through the Village. Chief Lee Harmon comment that with Bridge Street being closed, cars do line up at certain intersections in and around the Village including at Wright Street, but much of this is unable to be changed at this time. Mr. Derrick Canan stated locals can get around as they know the roads well enough and he noted that this is a temporary situation.

Mayor McCord shared the road resurfacing budget the past three years has been \$125,000 each year. The plan has always been \$125,000 would be used on High Street and patching for this year. He noted that it is a slow process to complete projects, especially big projects like the Village is undertaking this year. The Village is working

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

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hard on getting things completed. Mr. Canan questioned when roads are the Village vs. ODOT responsibility. Mr. Hinkelman stated that the Village can always approach ODOT, but the Village would not have any control over response time. Funds are allocated many years before ODOT will actually start a project.

Ms. Julie Blumenstock asked if the Village would be able to contact ODOT for St. Rt. 36, 41, & 48 for there needed repair work. Mr. Hinkelman stated that he would do so, but that these conversations will likely not lead to short term solutions.

Mayor McCord concluded by stating that if residents have concerns and/or complaints about roadways, services, or anything else they need to let the Village know by coming to the council meeting or calling or emailing the office.

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Kyle Hinkelman reported High Street is ahead of schedule. He noted specific events occurring related to the roadway.

Mr. Hinkelman thanked Senator Steve Huffman for supporting the Village of Covington and our Schoolhouse Park project and advocating for \$250,000 for Schoolhouse Park in the Capital Budget, which was approved. With the Capital Budget funding, the park has over \$1,500,000 for its construction.

He discussed that Dodd Street is currently open with the light at St. Rt. 41 and St. Rt. 48. Additional discussion of Dodd Street being closed to keep from drivers being used as a cut thru was needed. Mr. Jesse Reynolds questioned how it would affect Police, fire, or trash issues. Mr. Hinkelman noted that these were reviewed, and no one expressed concern about the ability to service these properties. He also noted that numerous calls have come in concerning cut thru traffic on Dodd Street. Mr. Canan questioned electric location and if it would be affected. Mr. Hinkelman stated it would not. Mr. Hinkelman stated that formal consideration to close Dodd Street will be presented to Council at next meeting.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that he has heard questions about the parking lot at the Government Center. He noted that they were working to get plans setup for the curb work and potential modifications to the ADA ramp to the building. Work would likely coincide with additional work in other places in the Village in the Fall.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

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ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading Considerations

Resolution R20-22 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a contract for architectural and design services in Schoolhouse Park.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that there were no changes from first and second reading. He asked if anyone had any questions or concerns, and there were none.

A motion to approve Resolution R20-22 was made by Ms. Amy Welborn, seconded by Mr. Keith Warner. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R21-22 - A resolution updating the Village of Covington Strategic Plan.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that there were no changes from first and second reading. He asked if anyone had any questions or concerns, and there were none.

A motion to approve Resolution R21-22 was made by Mr. Jesse Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Dawn Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R25-22 – A resolution authorizing a contract amendment for site design services in Schoolhouse Park.

Mr. Hinkelman noted that there were no changes from first and second reading. He asked if anyone had any questions or concerns, and there were none.

A motion to approve Resolution R25-22 was made by Mr. Jesse Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Amy Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

Second Reading Considerations

Ordinance 09-22 – Adopting a Policy Related to Meeting Streaming.

Mr. Hinkelman explained Ordinance 09-22 again, which creates a streaming policy to meet the goals to be established and set forth by Council. He noted that previous discussions related to the policy were to either not keep the recordings, or to potentially keep the recordings and make them available on the website for designated period of time. He noted that it generally was supported by the entire Council to continue to

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

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stream the meeting live. He asked Council to continue to discuss whether or not meetings should be saved after they are streamed live.

Ms. Welborn stated that although she understands the want to keep the meetings, she supports the stream only option and continues to encourage public to attend meetings. Mr. Reynolds expressed he did not believe residents would watch the streaming if they were not interested in using Facebook or the Village website or watching it on YouTube live. He also shared a concern that once the streaming is saved, it is a public record and would require the Village to manage the requests for such records, which he didn't think was a good thing.

No additional comments were made.

Mr. Hinkelman indicated this was the second reading and the third and final decision will need to be made June 20th.

First Reading Considerations

Resolution R27-22 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a contract for site design services in Schoolhouse Park.

Mr. Hinkelman discuss Resolution R27-22 which is an agreement for the Old Rudy property design and demolition contract. This agreement allows for the engineering of the demolition and the future development of the property. This also allows the Village to have bid specifications for the project, which will be used to bid out the project once funding is made available.

Ms. Martin asked about funding. Mr. Hinkelman said the Village is still awaiting to here from the State of Ohio related to specific Brownfield Funding. Mr. Hinkelman noted that the sooner Council agrees to have this engineering done, the faster the timeline will go, as engineering has to be completed before the project can be bid out.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any additional questions, and there were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R27-22 was made by Ms. Amy Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R27-22 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

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Resolution R28-22 - A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Covington Savings and Loan Association.

Mr. Hinkelman explained the Village is required to have an up-to-date memorandum of understanding with the Covington Savings and Loan Association related to the amount of money that the bank can hold for the Village of Covington. This agreement was generally standard and requires updating every 3-5 years.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R28-22 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Ms. Julie Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R28-22 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance No. 10-22 – An ordinance amending the official zoning map of the Village of Covington and changing the zoning designation of Parcel H19-011442 from “R-2” and “NB” to “HS” Highway Service District.

Mr. Hinkelman explained Ordinance 10-22, which is a rezoning of the property on US41 noted as parcel ID H19-011442, but currently holds a Mexican restaurant. He noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the case 4-0 at their meeting. Mr. Hinkelman explained that currently the property has multiple zoning districts, including flood plain zoning. He noted that the owners asking to modify the “NB” and “R-2” district portions of the site to a unified “HS” Highway Service District designation. He noted there would be no changes to the “F” Floodplain designation on the parcel.

Mr. Hinkelman asked if there were any questions on the Ordinance, and there were none.

He noted that the second reading on the case would be June 20, 2022, with the third and final reading being held on June 28.

Police Chief and Elected Officials’ Comments

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None.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Canan. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.



Fiscal Officer



Mayor

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