

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Mayor, Lee Harmon, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

- Julie Blumenstock
- Dawn Duff
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn
- Jesse Reynolds

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Rhonda Gill – Fiscal Officer
- Aaron Zuhl – Police Sergeant
- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel

Excused Absent:

- Derrick Canan

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (August 18th meeting)

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

Visitors

Glen Hollopeter, 1000 E. Broadway St., Covington, OH, expressed his support in closing the alley behind 1835 Events for scheduled events.

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Mr. Jordan Lear, owner of 1835 Events, 25 N. High Street, Covington, OH, wished to share his appreciation of all the support for consideration regarding the closing of the alley during events.

Jeanne Scott, 126 S. High St., Covington, OH, shared her support of the closing of the alley behind 1835 Events during events held at the facility.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Lee Harmon announced the unexpected passing of the Village of Versailles Fire Chief, Brian Pierce.

Administrator's Report

Jordan Hodges, Village Administrator, reported the Village has received a second proposal to remove the bridge on the N. Main. There are power lines underneath that must be removed before proceeding.

No questions were asked by council.

The DRD is moving forward. Ms. Welborn and Mr. Hodges went to Bellefontaine and met with an organization called Small Nations. Covington is working on plans for development of the downtown area and were pleased with what the representatives from Small Nations had to share.

Hometown Christmas Committee has begun meeting for the upcoming event. The next meeting will be held on September 29th. The committee welcomes new member participation and ideas.

The Planning Commission meeting will be on September 16th at 7:00 PM.

The splash pad is anticipated to close and winterize at the beginning of October, unless it gets cold sooner.

Currently working with Access Engineering to create a 5–10-year plan. Applying for grants and budgeting. Rough plans, no figures currently. Taking into consideration for replacement of underground utilities.

Discussion Items

Mr. Leistner shared he had heard concerns from residents to get rid of stop signs. Members of the council voiced their concern as to why residents did not express their concerns earlier as the

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community was given the opportunity to share their views. The ordinance was presented with three reads prior to passing with no opposition.

Mr. Hodges as if any member of the council is approached about House Bill 331, they direct them to the village office.

Mr. Patrizio stated if the Village had services provided, they are fine. It is a concern if a council seat is left vacant and no one runs to fill the vacancy.

Old Business

Resolution R35-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a letter permitting the closure of the alley behind the Sellman’s building located at 25 North High Street, Covington, OH, 45318 for emergency exit purposes during events at the facility.

Mr. Hodges shared the Village has received numerous letters of support for the approval of the alley closures during events.

Mr. Leistner wished to clarify to the public that the Village and the Village Council have not been putting up roadblocks for the Lear’s and the opening of 1835 Events. It is the intent to be clear on information received and expectations prior to passing any legislation.

Mr. Hodges shared he had met with Mr. Lear and they worked out an agreement that they felt resolved some of the questions and concerns held by council members. It is attached as “Exhibit A” to Resolution R35-25. Mr. Hodges asked the council to amend Resolution R35-25 to include Exhibit A.

A motion to amend Resolution R35-25 to include Exhibit A was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R35-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R35-25 was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

None

Police Chief and Elected Official’s Comments

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Some questions were raised pertaining to the future plans for the Sellman building held by the Village of Covington.

Mr. Hodges reported there is the possibility of applying for a future Brownfield grant to have it removed, however it is not available until 2027.

Executive Session

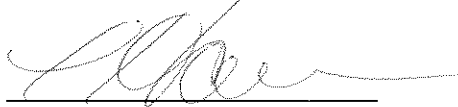
There was a need to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

A motion to go into Executive Session at 7:47 PM was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

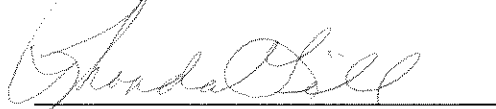
A motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:00 PM was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Adjournment

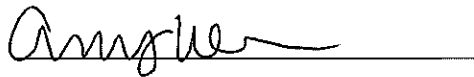
A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.



Lee Harmgn, Mayor



Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer



Amy Welborn, President of Council

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