

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2026

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

Council Members Present:

- Jesse Reynolds
- Julie Blumenstock
- Steven Blei
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Lisa Cavender – Fiscal Officer
- Tim Cline – Police Chief

Excused Absence:

- Derrick Canan

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (March 2, 2026, Meeting)
- February Check Report
- February Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- February Balancing Report
- February Income Tax Report

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

Visitors

None

Mayor's Report

None

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Administrator's Report

Mr. Hodges stated he is working with ODOT on the school zone area around Chestnut Street. He is also working on the internet and communications services project waiting for completion of the site survey. Mr. Hodges announced the dates for the community garages sales are scheduled for Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6.

Discussion Items

Mr. Hodges noted the Capital Improvement Plan Utility and Roadway Project location map was attached for their review. Access Engineering was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict; however, Ray Kimmel and Greg Vandegrift are in attendance for any questions that may arise. Both Ray and Greg agreed with the proposed plan presented.

Chief Cline presented the proposals for the new tornado sirens. He received quotes from Federal Signal and Sentry Siren. The Federal Signal quote was \$70,442 without electrical and the Sentry Siren was \$70,677 and completely solar powered. After discussion, the decision to move forward with Sentry Siren will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Council reviewed and discussed the Schoolhouse Park and Community Park Large Shelter rental policies and procedures. Mr. Hodges noted that no insurance is required for parties under fifty and tables are only to be moved within the shelter; although, more seating may be needed. After discussion, Mr. Hodges noted he would finalize the policies and get them on the agenda for the next meeting.

Council discussed potential changes to stop sign placement throughout the village, focusing on safety concerns, traffic flow, and resident feedback. Multiple intersections were reviewed for possible conversion to three-way or four-way stops, removal of existing signs, or installation of new ones. Mr. Hodges noted that several previously approved stop signs were never installed, though the reason is unclear. Chief Tim Cline confirmed there is a backlog of available signs and emphasized that past installations have helped reduce speeding and cut-through traffic, particularly on N. Pearl St., S. Pearl St., and Wall Street. Council members expressed mixed views. Some supported maintaining or increasing stop signs to improve safety, while others cautioned against overuse and potential driver confusion. Mayor Lee Harmon recommended a cautious approach, warning that removing stop signs could increase danger. Council agreed to postpone changes until a complete list of uninstalled signs is compiled and the reasons for the delays are determined. No final decisions were made.

Old Business

Resolution R07-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with Choice One Engineering for engineering work on the multi-use trail concept plan

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Mr. Hodges stated that the Planning Commission did a wonderful job looking at the proposals for this project and recommends partnering with Choice One. This is the first step for the project and will include help looking at grant opportunities in 2027 as well.

Third reading will be held on April 6, 2026.

Ordinance 05-26 – An ordinance to repeal and replace in full Article VIII – Provisions for Zoning District – 805.07 Landscaping Plan to the Village of Covington, State of Ohio Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Hodges stated this ordinance will update the landscaping plan in section 805.07 of the zoning ordinance. This item has been discussed for many months and recommended by the Planning Commission.

Third reading will be held on April 6, 2026.

New Business

Resolution R09-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with American Structurepoint Inc. for zoning code audit and zoning code rewrite.

Mr. Hodges stated that the current zoning code is outdated and can be confusing at times. The Planning Commission reviewed proposals and recommends partnering with American Structurepoint, Inc. for the zoning code audit and rewrite.

Second reading will be held on April 6, 2026.

Ordinance 06-26 – An ordinance approving, adopting, and enacting American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2026 Edition, as the Code of Ordinances for the Village of Covington, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Hodges stated this an annual item to approve the new edition of the Ohio Basic Code.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 06-26 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 06-26 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Cline announced that Russell McNeil is our 2025 Officer of the Year and will be recognized at the 11th annual Miami County Law Enforcement Ceremony on March 31, 2026, at 6 p.m.

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Executive Session

Mayor Hamon indicated there was a need to have an 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 and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code. There is to be no action taken.

A motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Entered executive session at 8:10 p.m.

A motion to leave executive session was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed at 9:13 p.m.

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Lisa Cavender, Fiscal Officer

Martin Leistner, President of Council