

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 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
- Derrick Canan
- Steven Blei
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn

Non-member Staff participating:

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (March 16, 2026, Meeting)

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

Visitors

None

Mayor's Report

Mayor Harmon attended the Miami County Awards Ceremony honoring our law enforcement and he congratulated Russell McNeil as our 2025 Officer of the Year and he thanked Jordan and Julie for attending. He also attended the Covington Chamber of Commerce meeting on April 1st and it was exciting to see so many people in attendance.

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Administrator's Report

Mr. Hodges stated he is working with ODOT on the school zone area around Chestnut Street and noted they are looking at completing the project in the summer after school is out. He noted that the site survey for the internet and communications project was completed and that he is waiting for proposals to come back. Mr. Hodges announced the Broadway St. Rt. 36 project is beginning and after speaking with ODOT, they have agreed to additional paving at the south end of town at St. Rt. 41 and 48 when they are here in 2028 for the Broadway project.

Mr. Hodges noted information about the America 250 Covington sponsored events can be found on the village website and the dates are as follows:

Schoolhouse Park Rocks Festival – May 15-16, 2026
American 250 Covington – July 18, 2026

Discussion Items

Mr. Hodges noted the packet regarding stop signs shows the signs that were not installed last year and the recommendation on whether to move forward with installing them or not. Chief Tim Cline noted his recommendation to only move forward and install the signs at N. Grant and Ash St. and N. Ludlow and Maple St. It would be recommended to rescind installing the other signs.

Mr. Hodges presented a proposal to make a minor modification to the building to create a small conference room in the government building that can be used for executive sessions, interviews, and business meetings in general. It is believed this would be a good addition to the building and Mr. Hodges will proceed with the project.

Mr. Hodges next presented three special event permit applications for review. One was for a 3 v 3 basketball tournament hosted by Bucc Boosters, one for the Farmer's Market at Schoolhouse Park on various monthly dates, and one for the Memorial Day Parade. All agreed to approve the above permits.

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

Mr. Hodges stated this is the third reading of this resolution and the Planning Commission did a wonderful job looking at the proposals for this project and he 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.

A motion to approve Resolution 07-26 was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

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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 this is the second reading and 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.

Third reading will be held on April 20, 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 is the third reading and 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.

A motion to approve Ordinance 05-26 was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

.New Business

Ordinance 07-26 – An ordinance adopting park rental policies and procedures for the Village of Covington.

Mr. Hodges stated this ordinance would adopt formal park rental policies and procedures for the Village which is necessary with the addition of Schoolhouse Park and the plan to allow rentals of the north and south shelter areas.

Second reading will be held on April 20, 2026.

Resolution R10-26 – A resolution authorizing the renewal of health insurance for village employees.

Mr. Hodges explained the health insurance renewal for the village employees was very favorable with an increase of 3.46% for the plan year 2026-2027. This renewal came in well under the current market, which is averaging around 9% or higher in our area.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R10-26 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. Vote: Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Leistner, aye; Ms. Welborn, aye; Mr. Canan, abstain; Mr. Blei, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 10-26 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. Vote: Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Leistner, aye; Ms. Welborn, aye; Mr. Canan, abstain; Mr. Blei, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

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Resolution R11-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with Duke’s Root Control Inc.

Mr. Hodges explained this agreement is an annual service that is necessary for root control within the sewer lines to destroy tree roots present in pipes and to deter regrowth.

Second reading with be held on April 20, 2026.

Resolution R12-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to complete a grant application with UVMC.

Mr. Hodges stated this would allow him to apply for a grant with UVMC for Schoolhouse Park improvements located within the Village.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R12-26 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. Vote: Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Leistner, nay; Ms. Welborn, nay; Mr. Canan, nay; Mr. Blei, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion did not pass.

Second reading with be held on April 20, 2026.

Resolution R13-26 – A resolution approving the creation of a mural on private property.

Mr. Hodges stated this resolution would approve the painting of a mural on the private property at 102 S. High St.

Second reading with be held on April 20, 2026.

Resolution R14-26 – A resolution declaring the intention to proceed under the alternative tax document format provided under Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.281.

Mr. Hodges explained this is an annually required housekeeping item for the Miami County Budget Commission.

Second reading with be held on April 20, 2026.

Resolution R15-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into agreement with Sentry Siren, Inc.

Mr. Hodges stated this resolution would approve the purchase of tornado sirens from Sentry Siren, Inc. based on the quote of \$70,677.99 for the emergency management system in the village.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R15-26 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 15-26 was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock All ayes. Motion passed.

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Resolution R17-26 – A resolution approving Omnia Partners as a purchasing cooperative option for the Village of Covington, Ohio.

Mr. Hodges noted this would allow the Village to participate in the national cooperative purchasing contracts from OMNIA Partners. Mr. Patrizio stated this would also allow the village to purchase from them in the future as well.

Second reading will be held on April 20, 2026.

Resolution R18-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to issue permits for encroachments located within the right of way of the Broadway Reconstruction Project.

Mr. Hodges stated that OR Colan identified four properties that have encroachments located within the right of way on Broadway Street and those properties need permitted by the Village of Covington.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R18-26 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 18-26 was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Cline thanked Jordan Hodges and Julie Blumenstock for attending the Miami County Law Enforcement Ceremony where Russell McNeil was recognized as our 2025 Officer of the Year. He also stated his appreciation for the feedback and help on the tornado sirens project.

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. There is to be no action taken.

A motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Entered executive session at 8:00 p.m.

A motion to leave executive session was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed at 9:11 p.m.

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Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Leistner. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Lisa Cavender, Fiscal Officer

Martin Leistner, President of Council