

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2026

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
- Derrick Canan
- Jesse Reynolds
- Steven Blei
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn
- Lee Harmon

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Lisa Cavender – Fiscal Officer
- Aaron Zuhl – Acting Police Chief

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (May 4, 2026, Meeting)
- Approval of Council Minutes (May 11, 2026, Special Meeting)
- April Check Report
- April Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- April Balancing Report
- April Income Tax Report

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Leistner. Vote: Mr. Reynolds, abstain; Mr. Leistner, aye; Ms. Welborn, aye; Mr. Canan, aye; Mr. Blei, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

Visitors

James MacDonald, a member of Covington High School FFA, explained to council that the FFA group was working on four little libraries to be placed in various locations, making books available to children to provide them with more opportunities. He was asking if it would be permitted to place one of the libraries in Schoolhouse Park. Council approved the location of a

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library in Schoolhouse Park and Jordan will get with James to work on an exact location for placement of the little library.

Swearing In Ceremony

Mayor Harmon welcomed the family of Mr. Ryan Coverstone. Mayor Harmon swore in Mr. Coverstone as a new Police Officer for the Village of Covington. The Council congratulated Mr. Coverstone.

Proclamation

Mayor Lee Harmon read and presented Proclamation 03-26 to Covington Outreach Association (COA) celebrating their 20th year anniversary. Mayor Harmon stated the COA has been instrumental in helping our community over the years. After reading the proclamation, he presented it to Annie Harrison, COA executive director. The council members expressed their appreciation and gratitude for everything the COA has done during their two decades of service for the community of Covington.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Harmon was very pleased with the success of the Schoolhouse Park Rocks festival. He stated he received many positive compliments. He thanked the Covington Events Association and all the village workers that contributed to support the success of this great festival. The bands were great and he was extremely happy the rain cleared up. He thanked the Covington Police and Fire departments and the Covington Youth Sports Association for doing a great job during the festival.

Mr. Shively, member of Covington Events Association, thanked council members for all their support and the community for attending the event. The turnout was incredible and they also had a lot of positive compliments since the event.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hodges updated council on the Broadway Utility Project and said he has received calls regarding the road closure and traffic detour, which the village is working to address these concerns. He noted the village did not receive the Brownfield grant this round. The entire one million for Miami County funding went to the City of Piqua. He will have an opportunity in the future to reapply for funds that were not distributed in other counties at a later date. He also stated he will apply again this year for the ODNR Natureworks grant. The village did receive the OPWC grant to help with State Route 48.

Mr. Hodges noted the village will be hiring for the utility department soon and interviews for the new police chief are also scheduled. Mr. Hodges thanked everyone who worked to make the Schoolhouse Park Rocks festival an amazing success. Village offices will be closed on May 25th for Memorial Day.

Discussion Items

None

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Old Business

Resolution R19-26 – A resolution approving the purchase of construction design plans, materials and construction of an amphitheater from Omnia Partners.

Mr. Hodges noted this is the third reading and would allow the Village to purchase the amphitheater from Omnia Partners purchasing cooperative for Schoolhouse Park.

A motion to approve Resolution 19-26 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

Resolution R27-26 – An emergency resolution confirming the appointment of a law enforcement officer.

Mr. Hodges stated this would allow the village to employ Ryan Coverstone as a police officer for the Village of Covington beginning as soon as possible.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 27-26 was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 27-26 was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 09-26 – An ordinance modifying the village position description plan for the utility department.

Mr. Hodges stated this ordinance was crucial to define position requirements for the utility department so that he could proceed in posting the open positions in utilities.

After discussion, a motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 09-26 was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 09-26 was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R28-26 – A resolution authorizing the transfer of surplus and/or obsolete equipment to the City of Vandalia Division of Police.

Mr. Hodges stated this resolution would allow the transfer of a body armor vest to the City of Vandalia for Tim Cline. The vests are individually fitted for each officer and have a lifespan of five years. Tim's old vest is over half of its lifespan and will not fit any of our current or new officers.

After discussion, a motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 28-26 was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 28-26 was made by Mr. Blei, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Mr. Leistner added his thanks regarding the festival and noted he was impressed with the flexibility of the association to make things run smoothly.

Mr. Canan stated it was special to see everything come together for the festival. He thanked the Covington Events Association and everyone at the village. He noted it is the best compliment to have other communities tell you how they want to have festivals like this. Mr. Canan also thanked the Covington Schools elementary students, high school choir, and the youth sports groups for their participation and support.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Blei. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Lisa Cavender, Fiscal Officer

Martin Leistner, President of Council

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