

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

President Martin Leistner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

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

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Lisa Cavender – Fiscal Officer
- David Friend – Police Chief

Excused Absence:

- Derrick Canan
- Lee Harmon

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (August 17, 2026, Meeting)
- August Check Report
- August Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- August Balancing Report
- August 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

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

Administrator's Report

None

Discussion Items

Mr. Hodges asked council members if any of them plan to attend the State of the County Event. Both Ms. Welborn and Ms. Blumenstock plan to attend.

Old Business

Resolution 43-26 – A resolution accepting the Miami County Budget Commission Rates of Tax for the Year 2026.

Mr. Hodges stated this is the second reading for the annual rate certification required to be approved and sent to the Miami County Budget Commission by October 1, 2026. The approval of this resolution certifies the rates of tax to be levied for collection in the Village of Covington.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 43-26 was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution 43-26 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Blei. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

Ordinance 13-26 – An ordinance for operating or riding on an electric bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device.

Mr. Hodges stated that this ordinance is to enact rules and regulations regarding a helmet safety law while operating e-bikes, e-scooters, or electric personal assistive mobility devices. Ms. Welborn asked about the differences between the classes and Chief Friend noted it is the size of the motor and speed they travel. After a small discussion, this will serve as a first reading.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Ordinance 15-26 – An ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance 01-16 regulating vehicular parking on High Street and city owned municipal parking lots.

Mr. Hodges stated the only thing changing is the parking time for village owned lots. The current no parking time from 11pm – 5am is being changed to 2am – 5am.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Ordinance 16-26 – An ordinance repealing and replacing the High Street Banner Program with The Banner Program within the Village of Covington.

Mr. Hodges stated this will replace the current program to allow the village to put the Hometown Heroes banners on other poles throughout the village in addition to the poles on High Street.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

Resolution 44-26 – A resolution to adopt a Cybersecurity Program pursuant to R.C. 9.64.

Mr. Hodges explained that in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code 9.64, enacted through House Bill 96, the village is required to adopt a cybersecurity program to safeguard public data and information technology resources. The village would like to adopt the NIST Cybersecurity Framework which is the generally accepted best practice.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Resolution 45-26 – A resolution declaring certain equipment and materials as surplus and authorizing the Village Administrator to dispose of said equipment.

Mr. Hodges explained that the resolution would allow him to dispose of obsolete equipment and materials. The village will hold an auction for all items in the old Sellman's building soon after the resolution passes.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Resolution 46-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to accept a donation.

Hodges explained that the resolution would allow him to accept a tree donation from the Alpha Garden Club to be planted in Schoolhouse Park. Sandy Fisher and Mary McCormick from the Alpha Garden Club were in attendance and stated they would donate three red maple trees to be planted at Schoolhouse Park in the spring. Ms. Fisher stated the club was originally founded in Covington and the organization is nearing their 100th year. The club has a long history of civic beautification. Mr. Hodges and Council thanked the garden club for their contribution.

Mr. Leistner believes the trees are a great idea but expressed concerns about root growth years from now. Kathryn Brautigm, U.S. Department of Forestry, was also in attendance and she replied that the trees will be placed on a 10-foot strip of land that will not interfere with the parking lot or sidewalk.

Ms. Welborn noted she would like to see a plaque at the park honoring the contribution of club expressing how cool it is to know the Alpha Garden Club was started in Covington.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Resolution 47-26 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Covington Events Association.

Mr. Hodges explained that the resolution would allow him to enter into a MOU for event management and coordination with the Covington Events Association.

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Resolution 48-26 – A resolution authorizing the clerk to approve an application for agricultural district.

Mr. Hodges explained that village received an application from the Miami County Auditor's office requesting approval of agricultural property. This approval would permit a reduction of taxes for the agricultural property.

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com

Second reading will be October 5, 2026.

Council also approved the special event application for the Sluggers Halloween Tournament and a Letter of Opposition to Grid Growth to be sent to the Ohio Siting Power Board.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Friend provided council with a quarterly update for the police department noting the number and types of calls they responded to daily and throughout the third quarter.

Ms. Welborn stated that she spoke with Linda Daniel and Linda wanted to thank Jordan and Council for everything they have done to get the amphitheater project back on track.

Mr. Leistner noted it was a good day for the Farmer's Market but stated that he did notice a parking issue with a car blocking the alley for a few hours. His hope is that we can improve upon this issue for future events moving forward.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Ms. Welborn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Lisa Cavender, Fiscal Officer

Martin Leistner, President of Council

VILLAGE OF COVINGTON

1 South High Street, Covington, OH 45318
phone: (937) 473-3420 | www.villageofcovington.com