

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2025

Council President, Amy Welborn, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

- Amy Welborn
- Julie Blumenstock
- Dawn Duff
- Derrick Canan
- Jess Reynolds
- Martin Leistner

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Tim Cline – Interim Village Administrator
- Rhonda Gill – Fiscal Officer
- Frank Patrizio, Legal Counsel

Excused Absence:

- Lee Harmon, Mayor

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (April 7, 2025)

A motion was made to accept the consent agenda by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

Visitors

None

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Mayor's Report

None.

Administrator's Report

Jordan Hodges, Village Administrator, reported the WWTP is moving along well and finalizing items.

Schoolhouse Park is currently getting paved and should be finished by tomorrow. This will be nice with Schoolhouse Park Rock Festival coming up May 16 and May 17, 2025.

We are currently working with ODNR and the engineers regarding Stillwater Dam and will hold a pre-bid meeting next week.

Mr. Hodges thanked Chief Tim Cline for his help in transitioning him into his new position as Village Administrator and for introducing him to staff members.

Suggestions were made to paint a couple of areas of sidewalk at Schoolhouse Park to notify walkers of a change in height.

Discussion Items

Tim Cline, Interim Village Administrator, discussed mass notification systems such as Code Red and 811. Both are owned by Code Red. There is a three-year contract requirement which would run approximately \$1,500 per year.

The council did request mass notification systems be further investigated and obtain additional information. Mr. Cline indicated he is waiting to hear from a few additional vendors.

Residents would opt in and indicate if they wished to receive notification via mail, text, or phone call. The system could be used to notify residents of severe weather conditions.

Mr. Cline went on to say the Village is also exploring outdoor warning systems. Federal Signal originally installed the current siren approximately in 1997-1999. The expected life span is 30 years. Federal Signal indicated they would not be able to fix ours in the even it broke.

Mr. Cline presented the council with a printout showing comparisons with surrounding communities. Various options for consideration were included in the printouts, such as the number of sirens. Due to associated costs, this would be a budget item for 2026, and grant funding may be an option.

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Mr. Cline recommended placement of three sirens, each reaching approximately 6,500 feet. The cost would be over \$105,000 with Federal Signal.

The council members agreed it would be worthwhile to continue to obtain information for additional sirens.

Currently there is a three-way stop at the corner of Bridge and Main Streets. The Police Department is okay if it is or is not made permanent. The Public Works supervisor, Ben Denson, indicated it makes it easier for the crews to move their large vehicles. The temporary stop signs were put in place originally to slow traffic before hitting the existing gravel due to construction of WWTP.

Ms. Blumenstock stated as a council member, she would like to see the stop signs put in permanently.

An ordinance will be brought to the next meeting for consideration to make the stop signs permanent on the corner of Bridge and Main Streets.

Old Business

Ordinance O4-25 – An ordinance amending the employee manual – Sections 6.05.

Mr. Hodges expressed his desire to keep safety in mind, such as purchasing items in high-vis and wants to be certain the policy always covers those requirements. The proposed policy is written so individual employees can only purchase boots and pants. The department heads would replace other items, such as outerwear.

The third reading will be May 5, 2025.

New Business

Resolution R15-25 – 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 simply a formality and passed each year.

Second reading will be May 5, 2025.

Resolution R16-25 – A resolution authorizing the renewal of Health Insurance for Village Employees.

The health insurance premiums will have a small increase of 2% this year. Due to the hard work of Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer, and Benefits Analysis, we were able to keep the increase very low.

To allow for continued health insurance coverage for all employees, the council was asked to consider waving the three-reading rule.

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A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R16-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Leistner, aye; Ms. Duff, aye; Mr. Canan, abstain; Ms. Welborn, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R16-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Leistner, aye; Ms. Duff, aye; Mr. Canan, abstain; Ms. Welborn, aye; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

Resolution R17-25 – A resolution removing Tim Cline as an authorized signatory on all accounts needed to conduct business on behalf of the Village of Covington.

Due to hiring the new Village Administrator, Ms. Welborn asked the council to consider waiving the three-reading rule for Resolution R17-25 to remove Tim Cline effective immediately.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R17-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R17-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R18-25 – A resolution authorizing Jordan Hodges, Village Administrator, Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer, and Lee Harmon, Mayor as signatories on Covington Savings and Loan, Minster Bank, and U.S. Bank accounts.

Due to hiring the new Village Administrator, Ms. Welbron asked the council to consider waiving the three-reading rule for Resolution R18-25 to add Jordan Hodges effective immediately.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R18-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R18-25 was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Mr. Patrizio advised the Village needs to notify the public of the upcoming elections, if there is interest in running for any available seats.

Executive Session

None

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Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer

Amy Welborn, President of Council

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