

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 21, 2025

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
- Dawn Duff
- Derrick Canan
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn
- Jesse Reynolds

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Rhonda Gill – Fiscal Officer
- Tim Cline – Police Chief
- Aaron Zuhl – Police Sergeant

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (July 7th meeting)
- June Check Report
- June Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- June Balancing Report
- June Income Tax Report

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

Visitors

Jordan Haarman, Director of Procurement and Business Development, Priority Power Management, LLC, spoke with Council regarding the Gas and Electric Aggregation programs.

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He explained the Village of Covington is one of 20 combined communities their company is working with to negotiate rates for gas and electric pricing for the upcoming year. All residents are automatically enrolled if they have been in the aggregate but have the option to opt out if they choose. The average family saves approximately \$225 per year by being in the aggregate.

The Power of Attorney gives Priority Power Management, LLC the ability to lock in rates. The industry is expecting an increase in electricity due to capacity cost. Currently looking at rates as they have 60-90 days prior to end of contract. Gas bids are expected to come around August. They are looking at fixed rates to protect residents from price spikes in the winter.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Harmon shared plans have begun for Schoolhouse Park Rocks – 2026. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to join.

The splashpad has been busy. Crews are working to make repairs on the pillars at the shelter.

Administrator's Report

Jordan Hodges, Village Administrator, reported the 2025 Dur patch and crack sealing has begun. The schedule is subject to change based on equipment, material, and employee capacity/schedule.

A reminder trash trucks run on Mon/Tues/Wed each week, sometimes early in the morning. The street sweeper runs on the 1st and 2nd Friday of the month, schedule permitting.

Discussion Items

None.

Old Business

Resolution R32-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a Power of Attorney Agreement with Priority Power Management, the Village's Aggregation Consultant, authorizing Priority Power Management to facilitate the Purchase of Natural Gas and Electricity for the Village's Natural Gas and Electric Aggregation Programs.

This resolution gives the Power of Attorney to Priority Power Management, LLC to select and enter agreements for electric and gas rates. Residents will continue to get bills from AES and CenterPoint but will have the option to participate in the aggregate or select their own provider.

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A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R32-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R32-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 07-25 - An ordinance changing intersections in the Village of Covington, Ohio to three-way stop.

This ordinance is to place stop signs at Chestnut and Sharon Street. Mr. Hodges met with one resident who suggested completing a traffic study.

After some discussion, the council stated there was more concern from residents with having a sign than having no sign.

The third reading will be August 4, 2025.

New Business

Resolution R34-25 - A resolution to levy a Special Assessment for the purpose of paying the cost of lighting the streets in the Village of Covington, Ohio for the year 2026.

Mr. Hodges explained this is a yearly housekeeping item. The amounts will remain the same as the prior year.

The second reading will be August 4, 2025.

Resolution R35-25 – A resolution of the Village of Covington supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semi quinentennial (America250-OH).

America will be celebrating 250 years in 2026. Mr. Hodges shared this will be a great opportunity to work with the Historical Society to celebrate.

A great website for residents to check out and see all the things being planned throughout Ohio: <https://america250-ohio.org>.

Mr. Hodges asked the council to consider waving the three-reading rule.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R35-25 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R35-25 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

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Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Cline reported the new vehicles have arrived and are being put in use. A couple of vehicles within the village are being moved to different departments for better utilization of equipment.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Ms. Duff. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer

Amy Welborn, President of Council