

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 18, 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
- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (August 4th meeting)
- July Check Report
- July Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- July Balancing Report
- July Income Tax Report

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

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Visitors

None

Mayor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

Jordan Hodges, Village Administrator, reported on the N. Main / Railroad Bridge closure. Mr. Hodges met with the state inspectors. Initially, it was thought there was a possibility of rehab. Upon further inspection the State Inspectors strongly feel the bridge is unable to be saved.

Mr. Hodges indicated he is currently searching for funds for the removal, as well as determining ownership of the abutment. Plans should take into consideration a bike path.

Mr. Hodges announced that Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2025.

Fort Rowday Gathering will be held Labor Day weekend at Community Park.

Discussion Items

None

Old 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.

There are no changes from the prior reads. Mr. Hodges shared with the Council there is a \$3,000 overall cost increase for the upcoming year. There is no change in the amount collected.

A motion to approve Resolution R34-25 was made by Mr. Cana, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

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Resolution R35-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a letter permitting the closure of the alley behind the Sellman’s building located at 25 North High Street, Covington, OH, 45318 for emergency exit purposes during events at the facility.

Mr. Hodges asked the Council to consider waiving the three-reading rule to grant closure of the alleyway during events. Closures would have no impact on surrounding properties. Allows for a secondary exit for the building in the event of an emergency and gives loading / unloading access.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R35-25 was made by Ms. Welborn. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

Second reading will be held on September 2, 2025.

Resolution R36-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator of the Village of Covington to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and /or Local Transportation Improvement program(s) and to execute contracts as required.

Mr. Hodges stated he is currently working with Access Engineers regarding switching out sewer lines for St. Rt. 48. Resolution R36-25 would give Mr. Hodges the ability to apply for grants for 2027. Due to grant deadlines, Mr. Hodges asked the Council to consider waiving the three-reading rule.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R36-25 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R36-25 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 08-25 – An ordinance amending the employee manual – sections 5.03.

Mr. Hodges explained there was a clerical error when the employee manual – section 5.03 was approved 12/24. The council had approved old language. Passing this ordinance makes certain the correct language is attached.

Mr. Patrizio explained typically, an ordinance cannot be retroactive but due to the clerical error, it provides clarity for the auditors.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 08-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. Mr. Reynolds – aye; Mr. Leistner – aye; Ms. Duff – aye; Mr. Canan – Abstain; Ms. Welborn – aye; Ms. Blumenstock – aye.

A motion to approve Ordinance 08-25 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds – aye; Mr. Leistner – aye; Ms. Duff – aye; Mr. Canan – Abstain; Ms. Welborn – aye; Ms. Blumenstock – aye.

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This eliminates the need for an executive session.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Tim Cline provided 1st half stats report for 2025.

Mr. Canan reported the second Farmers Market is scheduled with 30 vendors registered to participate.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Canan. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer

Amy Welborn, President of Council

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