

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2024

Mayor Lee Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following roll call was taken for council:

Council Members Present:

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

Non-member Staff participating:

- Rhonda Gill - Fiscal Officer
- Tim Cline – Police Chief

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes March 18, 2024)

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

Visitors

Linda Williams, Y'All's Country Club, 196 N. High Street, Covington, OH, expressed her thanks to Mr. Tyler Rench, for clarifying the paperwork associated with the demo project adjacent to her business and home. She noted for the record she was not forced to sign any paperwork and had her legal counsel review prior to signing. All paperwork is now complete.

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Lee Harmon reported Po Shy will be holding the Roger's Drum Show on April 27, 2024.

Administrator's Report

Tyler Rench, Village Administrator, stated there is welding of pipe today on the WWTP construction project. The crews will smooth out the intersection of Bridge and Main Street.

The Government Center remodel is coming along. Chief Tim Cline shared as of last week the project is approximately 90 % finished with the roofing. There is some wait time with some of the various project items. The north side entrance is down, and the memorial bricks have been removed by the Street department until a location can be determined for placement.

Residents will notice there is plywood on the windows, which will remain until the windows are completed.

Lead time for door frames is adding time to the internal schedule but not causing a delay for the project overall.

The crews are ready to dig for footers for the front, but the weather has caused a delay.

Mr. Rench reported the Dodd Street fire hydrant issue is being addressed. The village is waiting for an adjuster to review.

Mr. Rench updates that there have been a couple of storm drains repaired.

Mr. Rench indicated that the splashpad at Schoolhouse Park has been plumbed and tested. The east side of the park has a sidewalk where AES placed a power pole and there are guide wires in the way. Windstream commented that the village the lines will be removed they are currently working with tornado cleanup and has slowed down progress in other communities.

Grass seeding has been completed at the Rudy property. M & T is ready to seed after Westerheide has completed. Once Westerheide has completed their work, there will be a punch list to insure all items are completed.

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The Village is working through some items to determine whether the parking lot at Schoolhouse Park can be paved. There was some general discussion regarding the information previously received.

There is a handrail that was removed during demolition. The contractor does not have in the contract to replace the handrail. Westerheide Construction has agreed to provide the labor if the Village supplies the handrail.

Discussion

Mayor Harmon asked to discuss Ordinance O1-23, section 4. He shared there have been complaints from property owners who own rentals and are required to place a deposit each time a tenant moves out and they must put the utility bills back in their name.

Mr. Rench reported he had checked with area communities and those communities only have deposits required by tenants. There was general discussion and council members were asked to think on ideas/suggestions for handling and requiring deposits on how to handle utility accounts.

Chief Cline spoke with other Police Chiefs on Military Leave Policy is handled within their departments. The Troy Police Chief supplied a copy of the Ohio Revised Code Section 59:23.05, which details military leave. The Village follows the Ohio Revised Code; therefore, no new policy needs to be passed. The Village of Covington can move forward with our existing policy.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution 12-24 – A resolution authorizing the renewal of health insurance for Village employees.

Mr. Rench explained this is a yearly process to renew the health insurance. The premiums increase will be 7.12% overall, which is lower than many other communities are seeing with their premium increases.

Ms. Welborn inquired as to why Bradford employees do not pay any of their premiums but are in the same program as the Village of Covington. Mayor Harmon explained Bradford generally has a lower pay rate than Covington and factors insurance in with their pay scale.

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Mr. Rench asked the council to consider waiving the three-reading rule to allow all necessary paperwork to be completed for implementation of the new premiums as of May 1, 2024.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 12-24 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.

A motion to approve Resolution 12-24 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. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Cline asked residents to pay attention to the weather over the next 24-30 hours.

Chief Cline reminded residents of the Solar Eclipse on Monday. There are no anticipated changes. Expect gridlock. OSP and ODOT anticipate St. Rt. 48 and St. Rt. 36 will have traffic issues.

He noted the State of Ohio has announced they are providing a program that the village can file for reimbursement to assist in covering the overtime required by the Police Department.

Ms. Blumenstock shared she received several compliments pertaining to Tyler Rench for the good job he is doing from various residents and business owners.

Ms. Duff inquired if there were any updates pertaining to wires hanging in the alleys. Chief Cline indicated he had notified Windstream. If wires are not across a state highway, there is no guarantee as to when Windstream will be there to take them down.

Adjournment

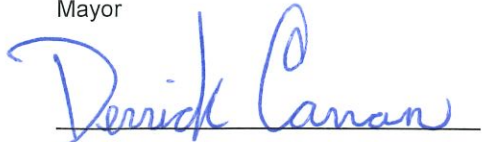
A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. K. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derrick Canan", written over a horizontal line.

Council President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Fiscal Officer

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