

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 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
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn
- Jesse Reynolds
- Derrick Canan

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Lisa Cavender – Fiscal Officer
- Tim Cline – Police Chief
- Frank Patrizio – Legal Counsel

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (November 3, 2025, meeting)
- October Check Report
- October Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- October Balancing Report
- October Income Tax Report

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Leistner. Mr. Reynolds – Abstain; Mr. Leistner – aye; Ms. Duff – aye; Mr. Canan – aye; Ms. Welborn – aye; Ms. Blumenstock – aye.

Visitors

State Representative Rodney Creech, R-District 40, visited to introduce himself to council. He is running for the open Senate seat currently held by State Senator Steve Huffman, who cannot run again due to term limits. Creech is trying to meet as many people as he can and he offered his business card to council, noting his cell number, so he can be reached directly.

Mayor's Report

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Mayor Harmon shared he attended the Covington-Newberry Historical Society Chili Cookoff. It was a nice function with lots of chili.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hodges announced the celebration of Stillwater Dam is scheduled for November 21, 2025, at 11 a.m., weather permitting.

Offices will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

Hometown Christmas will be held on Friday, November 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Hodges updated council that both the damaged poles in the village will be covered by insurance, less the deductible.

Mr. Hodges also notified council about a letter the village received from the Miami County Budget Commission with a recommendation to consider a reduction in property tax, creating a .55 mill reduction. He said he will need to respond by December 5 to the request and he will find out more information to update council at the next meeting.

Discussion Items

None

Old Business

Resolution R38-25 – A resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with PEP and the Village of Covington for the Bonds/Faithful performance coverage.

This coverage is in line with the requirements of ORC and takes the place of a surety bond.

A motion to approve Resolution R38-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business

Resolution R42-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a Fire and Emergency Medical contract with Covington Fire and Rescue, Inc. for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Mr. Hodges stated the contract is for three years instead of one and the payment for services will be the revenues received from the levies, net of collection fees.

Second reading will be held December 1, 2025.

Resolution R43-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a contract to employ Frank J. Patrizio and McCulloch, Felger, Fite and Gutmann Co. L.P.A. as legal counsel for the Village of Covington.

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Mr. Hodges explained the contract is for two years through December 31, 2027.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 43-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R43-25 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed

Resolution R44-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to submit an application for an Ohio Department of Development Grant.

Mr. Hodges stated the grant would be used for the demolition, reconstruction, and redevelopment of the old Sellman's Warehouse property and that he has provided for a match of \$40,000 in the application. The building has asbestos and he no longer has an interested buyer for the property.

Second reading will be held December 1, 2025

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Police Chief Tim Cline provided council with the third quarter statistics for his department noting the department just hit 6,000 calls for service, the largest number since 2010.

Ms. Blumenstock stated she had toured the Miami County Jail in the Safety Building on Saturday, Nov. 15. The tour was very enlightening and shows there is a need for improvements.

Ms. Welborn congratulated Jordan and Ashley Lear on the future opening of their 1835 Building event venue.

Executive Session

There was a need to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code

Mayor Harmon stated they would return after executive session to address the last two agenda items.

A motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Entered executive session at 7:30 p.m..

A motion to leave executive session was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed at 9:04 p.m.

New Business

Ordinance 12-25 – An ordinance repealing and replacing the salary ordinance for the Village of Covington.

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Mr. Hodges presented everyone with Exhibit A for this Ordinance which would provide for a 3% COLA effective January 1, 2026, and there were no questions.

Second reading will be held December 1, 2025.

Ordinance 13-25 – An ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Covington, State of Ohio, during the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2026.

Mr. Hodges presented everyone with Exhibit A for this Ordinance and there were no questions.

Second reading will be held December 1, 2025.

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Lisa Cavender, Fiscal Officer

Amy Welborn, President of Council

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