

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 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:

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

Non-member Staff participating:

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (March 3, 2025)
- February End of Month-Check Report
- February End of Month-Tax Report
- February End of Month-Month to Date Fund Report
- February End of Month-Year to Date Fund Report
- February End of Month-Balancing Report

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

Visitors

None

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Harmon stated the plans for the opening ceremony for Schoolhouse Park are coming together nicely. Former Mayor McCord, past Village Administrators Kyle Hinkelman and Tyler Rench will be invited to attend the opening ceremony, which will take place prior to the first band performing. It will be held May 16th and 17th.

Councilman Mr. Leistner stated the youth baseball program will be participating, along with various other organizations.

Administrator's Report

Interim Village Administrator, Tim Cline, stated with the Schoolhouse Park opening, the Village will be shutting down University, Maple, and Buccaneer Way May 16 and 17th. All addresses affected have been sent letters. Once an exact time is named, a second letter will be sent. At the start of April, additional addresses will be sent a letter to advise them of the closing. Additionally, there will be a push on social media to inform the public about the closures and the event.

The Historical Society has asked to have the Memorial Day parade. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed with no objections.

A reminder that Pancake Day, hosted by Covington Tomorrow, will be held this Saturday at the elementary school from 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

The Police Department have been working on obtaining new Hotspots in the cruisers. Officer Russel and Sergeant Zuhl have made several contacts with Verizon to upgrade equipment and cut overall costs by about 1/3.

A Verizon representative reached out regarding the placement of a cell tower. We are working with them to find a suitable location.

Discussion Items

A Spaghetti dinner will be held tomorrow night.

Old Business

None

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New Business

Resolution R13-25 –AMENDED - A resolution authorizing the hiring of a Village Administrator – hire date amended to April 14, 2025.

Due to a change in the availability of Jordan Hodges, Resolution R13-25 was amended to reflect a start date of April 14, 2024.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Amended Resolution R13-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Amended Resolution R13-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R14-25 A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with Clune Consulting Services for the Broadway Reconstruction Project.

Mr. Cline explained this is for a Level 1 Ecological Survey, which ODOT is requiring the Village to have completed as part of the Broadway Reconstruction Project. ODOT refuses to cover any of the costs associated with the survey. For the project to continue and stay on schedule, Mr. Cline asked the Council if there were any questions, to consider waving the three-reading rule.

There were no questions.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R14-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Leistner. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R14-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Mr. Cline attended the Miami County Council meeting and was pleased to see Jordan Hodges in attendance even though he was not being paid.

Executive Session

Mayor Harmon indicated there was a need to have an 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. There is to be no action taken.

A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Blumenstock. All ayes. Motion carried and the council entered the Executive Session at 7:15 PM.

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A motion was made by Ms. Blumenstock to exit the Executive Session and seconded by Mr. Canan. All ayes. Motion carried and the council exited the Executive Session at 7:32 PM.

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer

Amy Welborn, President of Council

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