

COVINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 19, 2025

Council President, Amy Welborn, 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
- Jess Reynolds
- Martin Leistner
- Amy Welborn

Non-member Staff participating:

- Jordan Hodges – Village Administrator
- Rhonda Gill – Fiscal Officer
- Frank Patrizio, Legal Counsel
- Tim Cline – Police Chief
- Phil Russell, Police Officer

Excused Absence:

None

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Approval of Council Minutes (May 5, 2025)
- March/April Check Report
- March/April Fund Report/YTD Fund Report
- March/April Balancing Report
- March/April Income Tax Report

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A motion was made to accept the consent agenda by Mr. Canan, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Leistner, aye; Ms. Duff, aye; Mr. Canan, aye; Ms. Welborn, abstain; Ms. Blumenstock, aye. Motion passed.

Visitors

None

Mayor's Report

Chief Cline introduced Jennifer Knisley, from the Child Advocacy Center, Isaiah's Place, Troy, Ohio. Chief Cline expressed the appreciation from the law enforcement side for the expertise and professionalism provided by the Center during investigations of crimes committed with juveniles.

Jennifer explained the various services provided to the surrounding communities and the continued growth in the facilities.

Administrator's Report

Jordan Hodges, Village Administrator, thanked the employees, vendors, community, police, and all those who came out to support the Schoolhouse Park Rock event. There was a great turnout.

Mr. Hodges reported that if the weather holds out, the paving company hopes to be paving at Main Street, Bridge Street, and Wright Street tomorrow.

There were open bids for the Dam project on Friday, May 16th. Three bids are currently being reviewed.

Stillwater Run is currently having the paving and sidewalks installed.

Village of Covington garage sales will be held June 6th and 7th.

Memorial Day May 26th. Thanks to all who served and to those who gave the ultimate price.

Discussion Items

Large trash pickup will be held the week after the garage sales. All questions should be directed to the Village office.

The Memorial Day Parade is being handled by the Covington-Newberry Township Historical Society. Kay McKinney, spokesperson, shared there were numerous military and emergency vehicles participating in the parade. An announcer will introduce each parade participant. The

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council members were invited to participate in the parade. The parade will begin at 1:00 PM at the Government Center and end at Highland Cemetery for a memorial service

Old Business

Ordinance 05-25 – An ordinance changing intersections in the Village of Covington, Ohio to three-way stop.

Mr. Hodges spoke with Ben Denson, Public Works supervisor, was in favor as it would assist in stopping traffic during snow removal.

Chief Cline shared complaints began when the WWTP project began due to sound and gravel kicking up.

Mr. Leistner shared the concern that complaints began when the project began. There was some discussion.

The cost of both signs would be approximately \$300; plus, the time it would take for village employees to install.

Residents are encouraged to share their opinion by contacting the Village office or to attend the third reading on June 2, 2025.

New Business

Resolution R21-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to apply for a park grant with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

Mr. Hodges shared this is a grant opportunity to receive \$32,000 to replace two structures at Covington Community Park. Pictures of the large shelter and the restrooms by the small ball diamond need major repairs.

Brandon Studebaker provided a quote, however, to make repairs to the large shelter would be more than 50% over the grant amount. In addition, the current facility is not ADA compliant.

Mr. Hodges stated he is looking for input regarding having our guys tear down the restrooms and haul away the debris. Mary Canan has reached out to some companies for temporary porta-potties at a cost of \$1,800 - \$2,000, to be placed near the small ball diamond. The restrooms are not in the flood plain.

Resolution R22-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a contract with the Covington Exempted School District to provide Resource Officer Services.

Chief Cline explained last years contract was for one year. The contract permits the department to pull the SRO in an emergency. The proposed contract was present to the school board and passed four to one.

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The proposed contract is for three years with 3% increases each year. It includes event rates. The current contract will end June 30, 2025, with the proposed contract beginning July 1, 2025.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R22-25 was made by Ms. Blumenstock, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to accept Resolution R22-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R23-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with Spectrum Business to provide internet and phone services.

Spectrum Business is currently our internet and phone services provider. Currently, there is no phone service at the new WWTP. During the demo process, the old equipment was all ruined. Spectrum is offering to replace the equipment with no replacement cost, lower our current charges, but extend our current contract.

Spectrum has been difficult to work with and had ample time to remove their equipment. There was much discussion. If the Village signs the contract, we will not pay the \$3,500 equipment replacement costs. The council wishes to look into other options.

Mr. Patrizio stated his office uses Ring Central and has been pleased.

No action taken.

Resolution R24-25 – A resolution authorizing an Electrical Easement Agreement with Dayton Power and Light (AES).

Mr. Hodges explained this is an easement out at WWTP, running power to the new plant. It allows AES to have access to do repairs. There will be no changes to this resolution.

A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R24-25 was made by Ms. Duff, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R24-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Welborn. All ayes. Motion passed.

Resolution R25-25 – A resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to notify the Ohio Department of Transportation that the Village believes the proposed storm sewage line in Community Park will have Des Minibus impact upon the park.

OPDT is requiring the village to take environmental precautions prior to doing work to ensure trash and debris do not enter the river at Community Park.

This is all part of the St. Rt. 36 project and allows things to continue to move forward.

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A motion to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution R25-25 was made by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion to approve Resolution R25-25 was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Duff. All ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief and Elected Official's Comments

Chief Cline thanked everyone who helped with the Schoolhouse Park Rock festival. West Milton sent two officers for both days to assist. Miami County EMA allowed use of barricades at no cost. Miami County Hazmat Team allowed the use of the hazmat truck. Ben Denson and the public works department moved items Thursday, Friday, and today. Covington Fire & Rescue helped fill cones. The officers had long days. It was a fantastic event, and planning has already begun for next year.

Thank you to the Community Chest for sponsoring the drone show. Thank you to the many additional sponsors.

Mayor Harmon reminded residents that petitions need to be turned in for anyone running in the upcoming elections for expiring council seats.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A final motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leistner, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Lee Harmon, Mayor

Rhonda Gill, Fiscal Officer

Amy Welborn, President of Council

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