

**Village of Covington Ohio  
Record of Proceedings  
Covington Village Council Meeting  
April 14, 2008**

Covington Village Council met in regular session on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Government Center with the following members present: Marc Bayse, Scott Tobias, Doris Beeman, George Karayannis, and Gary Bell. Mayor Lowell Yingst presided at the meeting. Grant Kerber, Law Director, was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Sandy Abel, 314 N. Wall Street, was present along with other neighbors from N. Wall St/Face Street/Lindsey Street area to ask about railroad arch demolition – what, when how – It is a mess and how much longer do we have to live in this?

The Mayor informed the group May 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date for Adrian Miller to have work done. Street has been closed until that time. He has run into a lot of problems and has asked for a couple extensions. Some delay was requested due to equipment and then weather related issues.

Tobias, Council representative to Zoning Board, said Planning and Zoning Board would discuss this at their regular meeting on Wed., April 16<sup>th</sup>. Tobias said it is private property and he would rather give Miller additional time to get work completed than leave it to Village.

Karayannis suggested Council write letter to Miller.

Tobias said Zoning Board will discuss it at their meeting.

Joyce Robertson asked if there were penalties in place if Miller didn't finish work.

Kerber informed group it is private property and Council has given permission to close street until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Village could go in and clean up but this would stop further demolition. There are also financial considerations.

Tobias said Miller has been working on it since February.

Robertson said Miller started in October.

Tobias said he is willing to give him more time to get it done.

Abel said dirt is washing down onto her gravel. Kids are riding motorbikes down the arch hill.

She was advised to call police when this happens.

Abel also informed Council her property pins were destroyed by Miller. Miller had said they wouldn't be destroyed but they are.

Robertson asked how long Council was willing to let go on.

Tobias said Planning and Zoning Board will discuss doing something different since present plan isn't working. Issue will be addressed on Wed., April 16<sup>th</sup> and persons are invited to attend. Tobias said nothing can be done until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Neighbors since Miller hasn't done anything since October.

Able asked why he wasn't checked out before permitting him to do work and Council agreed to let him close street.

Able said area was a mess and one property owner is trying to sell their home.

The Mayor said he had talked to them and takes care of their problem which dealt with another neighbor issue.

Able inquired about the dirt.

Tobias said Miller is supposed to move dirt back to the other arch, slope it and seed it.

Clyde Shafer said there four wheelers back there – he called 911 and then went with police to try and find them.

Robertson said she hadn't seen patrol car back there since arch work started.

Police Chief Lee Harmon encouraged people to call 911.

Diane Wackler said no one is allowed to be up on arch.

Harmon said that is correct.

Tobias asked people to attend Planning & Zoning Board meeting and to Council so history can be started.

Able also complained about people sitting in her driveway.

The Mayor also invited those present to attend Planning & Zoning Board Meeting.

Chris Haines and Bob Weer, representing the Covington Fire Department, were present to give Council information about the new proposed fire department building on East Broadway.

Fire department was organized in 1880. In 1938 it became a chartered corporation and broke away from Covington. Village doesn't own building or apparatus.

Fire department provides protection to Covington, Newberry Township, portion of Washington and Concord Townships. They are also primary responders to UVMC and Piqua Steel.

First Fire station was at Broadway and Pearl in 1880. Then they moved to corner of Spring and Pearl as substation. In 1930 substation was closed. In 1954 fire department moved to their present location. They purchased building for \$4,200. Post Office was part of original purchase. Post Office was sold for \$3,000. Fire Department wanted to get lot back from Post Office. In 1959 mortgage was paid off. In 1981 building at High and Spring was purchased. Fire department intended to purchase Post Office land; however it is owned by federal government and they are not willing to sell.

Covington Rescue Squad was housed in building at High and Spring. Later the squad and fire department became separated entities – Squad built a new building on Dick Minnich Drive. Building at High and Spring was sold to Scott Baskerville in 2007.

Haines said space has been a problem. The boat used for rescue hangs from the ceiling. In time of emergency, it takes time to get it down. There is no office or conference room at present station. There is a lack of parking and then that is compounded with post office traffic.

New Fire Station will be built at 801 East Broadway. The Eagles approached the fire department in 2006 about buying it which they did in 2007. Candace Goodall is architect for new building. It has been designed to support future usage and needs. There will be space for training and hands on work for continuing education. There will also be day room and kitchen. There will be sleeping quarters upstairs if ever needed in future.

Fire department building will be five bay, 2 deep apparatus area. Second story will not be equipped at this time.

There will be a training tower, two story, with manholes, confined space training capability, steel and cement stairs.

On the second story they will be able to simulate fires.

Fire Dept will be letting bids in April 2008; construction could start as early as summer 2008. They have potential buyers for current building at Spring and Pearl.

All their equipment is paid for. They are in pretty good financial state.

They feel drainage problem in East end should be helped with fire department plans – swail to be built in front of building and they will have green space. Water will spill off to front.

Fire department could provide housing in event of disaster. Also, there will be display cases with historic artifacts in the building.

Haines said the Fire Department is conscious on the contracts they have and does not anticipate coming back to Council asking for more money. Only reason would be if cost of air packs and other equipment costs increased substantially.

Haines said they have received substantial donations from citizens in the community for the new fire department building.

Mayor Yingst thanked all the departments for their assistance during the recent VFW fire on March 25<sup>th</sup> as well as those who helped direct traffic.

In response to questions, Haines said signage would be on the West end of the building. There will be no flashing lights on Broadway; however, signs may be needed citing emergency vehicles. Fire apparatus will exit out back.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Karayannis to excuse Donna K. Dewey, Councilmember, from meeting. Roll call: all ayes.

Minutes of March 24<sup>th</sup> were approved as written.

Fund Balances were reviewed.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Karayannis for payment of the bills. Roll call: all ayes.

Bids for Walnut Street Main Replacement Project: Kerber informed Council There was some questions about the apparent low bidder for the project. He had neglected to include employer identification number on bid sheet and there was some question about prior experience.

Kerber said Council can give notice to the apparent low bidder to protest the award of the project to the next apparent low bidder giving him five days to make objections. Council could choose not to award the bid for the reason of failure to fully complete bid sheet with employer identification number.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Beeman to award the Walnut Street Water Main Replacement project to the next apparent low bidder contingent upon response from apparent low bidder. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Tobias instructing Clerk to send notice to apparent low bidder giving him five days to protest based on his failure to submit employer identification number on original bid sheet. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Karayannis to advertise for certified lifeguards for the Covington Community Park Pool. Roll call: all ayes.

Karayannis said the abandoned house at 105-107 South High Street which had burned several years ago is a blight on the community as well as a safety hazard issue. There are old tires and a gas can sitting inside the house.

House is going to Sheriff's sale on June 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be July or late August when it is sold.

Karayannis asked about the new Nuisance Abatement Policy.

Kerber said to seek determination court action would have to be initiated to request a hearing to determine finding of nuisance. Any monies expended could be lien on property. If liens are more than actual value of land, would you be willing to waive liens?

Any subsequent purchaser would be put on notice that property is not in compliance with Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. Paperwork should be in place for new owner.

Karayannis asked if no one purchases it, then whose is it?

Kerber will check on this.

Rudy's Inc. presented a zoning change at their property on Hazel Street to construct a new office building. They will also be attending the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting on Wednesday evening.

Public hearing will be set after Planning & Zoning Board have discussed the zoning change and talked with Rudy representatives.

Motion was made by Tobias and seconded by Bell to adopt Resolution 01-08 requesting the County Auditor to certify taxes for renewal/replacement of 1.6 levy. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Tobias to adopt Resolution 02-08 requesting the County Auditor to certify taxes for renewal/replacement of 2.2 levy. Roll call: all ayes.

Police Chief Lee Harmon reported the Safety Committee had met prior to Council. They reviewed plans in event of disaster and will be making one plan in conjunction with Miami County Disaster Plan.

Street Committee will meet after Council.

OSU Strategic Plan for Covington meeting will be Tuesday at 6:30 at the Covington Church of the Brethren basement.

Planning and Zoning Board will meet Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Covington Government Center.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Beeman to purchase a new computer for the Fiscal Officer at an approximate cost of \$885.00. Roll Call: All ayes.

Police Chief Lee Harmon thanked the Street Department and Councilmember Gary Bell for their help with traffic control during the March 25<sup>th</sup> VFW fire.

Bob Kendig, Street Superintendent had nothing to report.

Ray Burns, BPA Superintendent reported the priest at St Teresa Church had attended a recent Board of Public Affairs meeting asking to hook into Village sewer system.

Board asked what direction is Covington going to go with future expansion. Question is how big of a pipe should be installed?

St. Teresa Church may want to have recreation stand/shelter on their grounds also.

Church is still working things out.

Logical expansion in future would be to the East.

When Church presents plans, Council can take action.

Fire Chief Bill Westfall also thanked everyone who helped with VFW fire. Fire had significant head start before fire department arrived. Fire department had two main state roads closed off in effort to fight fire.

Fire department didn't run low on water pressure.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 with motion from Bell.