

**Village of Covington Ohio
Record of Proceedings
Covington Village Council Meeting
October 12, 2009**

Covington Village Council met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Covington Government Center with the following members present: Marc Basye, Scott Tobias, Doris Beeman, Dick Rice, Edward L. McCord and Ann Bell. Mayor Donna Kay Dewey presided at the meeting. Lenee Brosch Attorney, from the law firm of Shipman, Dixon & Livingston was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Buddy Parker, 524 S. Wall Street, was present concerning the drainage problem at his house that he had addressed to Council on August 10th – inquiring what Council's intentions were about this problem. He said there has been nothing done yet and his understanding was something would be done the next day after being at council.

There were two different issues being discussed that night – one being Pat Clark's and the other being Parker's. Clark's has been addressed with purchase of pipe and catch basin being paid for by the property owner.

Parker said water from parking lot comes off on him. He said tile was put in by person who graded parking lot. He put it in but left it open. There was a semi unloading materials and bent the pipe. Now when the ditch gets full, the water gets above it and then circulates around his house.

Tobias said storm plans will have to be reviewed to determine where drainage comes from.

Bob Kendig, Street Superintendent, said he has meeting tomorrow morning with Dick Klockner, Engineer and Lane Robbins, owner of Market Fresh, at the site. Kendig said there is a 7 ½ foot easement through there. Klockner has been working on this but needs more space. They will be asking permission from Robbins for more space.

Denny Robinson, cement contractor, was present concerning 115 North Wall Street. He asked who determined there was a problem at this address.

Steve Placeway, Zoning Inspector, said Robinson never gets permit for work – that has been a consistent issue.

Robinson said he usually left it up to property owner to get permit unless they are older people then, he gets permit for them.

Tobias said requirements and specifications are part of packet when obtaining a permit for concrete work. Also, concrete workers are supposed to be licensed for the work.

Robinson said he has worked for 35 years and didn't appreciate the comments in the newspaper about shoddy work and ruining his reputation.

Tobias said Robinson damaged the right of way at 115 North Wall Street and it was rough all the way across the front of property.

Robinson asked why he was singled out. He said there were many other places around town, citing recent work at VFW, where concrete leaked out.

Tobias said Village was going to do repair work and bill costs to Robinson.

Area needs to be saw cut and smoothed out.

Robinson said he was not finished with the job yet, according to permit he has one year to do so. He said he would remove transition block on sidewalk.

Tobias said Robinson's doesn't match newly-poured walk at neighbors.

Robinson said he didn't know West at 119 North Wall Street was going to get new sidewalk.

Tobias said West's new walkway meets design criteria.

Rice said Council has made decision - so let's move on. Tobias agreed.

Dewey asked about repair of the sidewalk.

Basye said permit was obtained after the work was done by homeowner. Placeway has said this is a habitual problem where Robinson is not getting permits for doing work in town. Basye said Council did make decision for Street Department to do work, however permit is good for one year so let him repair it.

McCord addressing Robinson said kids and people are #1 priority; when you saw that the work wasn't correct why didn't you fix it? From now on, you do your job. McCord asked if work would be completed by Trick or Treat.

Robinson said yes. It is a hazard now.

McCord said work must be completed two weeks from now, October 26th.

Robinson agreed work will be done by October 26th.

Motion was made by Basye and seconded by Beeman to rescind earlier motion and allow Denny Robinson two weeks to complete work at 115 North Wall Street.

Roll call: Basye, yes; Tobias, no; Beeman, yes; Rice, yes; McCord, yes; Bell, yes.

Jay Wackler, Chamber President, and Valerie Crossmun, MS Consultants, were present to submit trail plan for Safe Routes to School. MS Consultants did work for Versailles. Wackler said trail plan can be used in training, education and police work.

Crossmun said Safe Routes to School is how students may be walking to school and ways to keep them safe. Five or six years ago, federal government offered monies to all states at 100% infrastructure for school crossings, education for police and watch plans. Money is offered for encouragement for healthy walking and healthy living. Application has to be submitted to put plan into place showing where our deficits are. Plan has to be submitted by November 2nd. Wackler said Bike Path people have combined with Bicycle Friendly Community. Benefits are health in riding bicycles, safety, education and school buses covers everything but eight blocks. Plan for Versailles was \$5,000.00. Village kept \$1,000.00 for administrative fees. Wackler said Crossmun then writes Safe Routes to Schools, Phase II. Official needs to sign to initiate Safe Routes to Schools Plan.

Minutes to September 28th were approved as written.

Fund balances were reviewed. Motion was made by McCord and seconded by Bell for payment of bills. Roll call: all ayes.

Correspondence: Thank you card from Frank & Joanee Campbell for flowers for Paul Campbell, Frank's brother who died.

Letter dated September 26, 2009 from Orndorff Family as follows:

"Dear Members of the Covington City Council: My father, Henry L. Orndorff, Jr. passed on November 26, 2002. At that time, it was our wish to have shuffleboard courts built in Covington to honor our father who loved the sport but always had to travel to Greenville or Florida to shuffle. Our family set up a shuffleboard account where people could send memorials to accomplish the above task.

After 6 1/2 years nothing has been done to start the construction of shuffleboard courts in Covington.

As a family, we have decided we would like the \$1,000.00 used to purchase a nice metal bench and have the bench placed beside the flag pole at the Covington Municipal building in

honor of our parents, Evelyn and Harry Orndorff, who have been life-long residents of Covington.

We have asked Lowell Yingst to help us with this project. He has been giving his time and working so diligently with our family to get this accomplished as soon as possible. With the help of Mr. Yingst, we have the selected bench location. My mother, Evelyn Orndorff, is 90 years old and would like this project completed quickly. We are hopeful you will honor this request and work on this project will move rapidly. Thank You. Sincerely, Charlotte L. Orndorff Secrest, Gladys O. Krehlik, Evelyn Orndorff.”

Rice said he had not heard anything more concerning Veteran’s Memorial on the South side of the building. This is where Lands & Building Committee had considered placing proposed bench. Family could be given option of moving bench if Veteran’s Memorial becomes reality.

Motion was made by Rice and seconded by Beeman granting permission for the bench to be placed in the flag pole area contingent should Village proceed with Veteran’s Memorial on the South side of building. Roll call; all ayes.

Tobias said cement slab would have to be poured there

Bob Kendig, Street Superintendent, said slab should be poured in the next week or two.

Rice will get more information concerning Veteran’s Memorial.

Report submitted by Elaine Christian, Income Tax Collector, show taxes down \$51,755.39 as of October 8th compared to same time last year. The Mayor spoke to Christian about this and asked her to attend meeting in the next month or so to keep council abreast of tax collections.

There was also correspondence from Covington Fire Department concerning their fund-raising drive.

Motion was made by McCord and seconded by Rice to add to tonight’s agenda a Special council meeting for Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss 2006-2007 audit report. Roll call; all ayes.

Basye asked if there was a maximum fine in sidewalk and/or curb gutter work is not completed

Tobias said contractor has to be licensed to do work.

The Mayor told Steve Placeway, Zoning Inspector, to inspect the work at 115 North Wall Street on October 26th to make sure it’s done right. Robinson, also, has to get license prior to doing work.

McCord asked letter be sent to Robinson advising him we will not tolerate this in our Village.

Dewey, also, advised Police Department and Street Department Superintendant if they saw work at 115 North Wall Street ascertain if he has permit before work is begun.

Tobias said they will have to remove work for non-conformance at their expense.

It was Robinson’s intent to remove slab of cement on sidewalk.

Dewey said it was just not contractors, some people are just allowed to do what they want to do.

McCord said Planning & Zoning Board needs to come up with solution if it’s a problem.

The Mayor said the Police and Street Superintendent are riding around; if they see work, they should ascertain if there is a permit.

McCord said it’s not clear who is to get permit. Contractors should get permit.

Tobias said contractor should ask homeowner if they have permit. If they don’t have one, then the contractor should get it

McCord said contractor should get permit so he has it before work is started.

Rice said contractor is licensed, he should get permit.

Tobias said there are times when homeowner does work himself; then he still has to get permit.

Dewey asked when do you need permit.

Placeway said before work is begun.

Basye reported two items, snow plow and Salt spreader were sold on govdeal. Sale spreader sold for \$343.00; and snow blade for \$310.00.

Police Officer job descriptions were distributed to council members in their packets.

Rice said this should be referred to ordinance Committee; job descriptions were created but not adopted.

Hiring procedures were reviewed. There were a couple punctuation errors to be corrected.

The Mayor said she thought it would be beneficial to have Department Head on Review Team.

Beeman said Ordinance committee said no; it will be the Mayor and two or three council members related to hiring position.

Changes will be made then placed back on agenda. Applications for employment; remove elementary school and medical history.

Motion was made by McCord and seconded by Rice to have special meeting on Tuesday October 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss 2006-2007 audit. Roll call: all ayes.

Basye informed Council Street Committee had discussed recycling bins at the park. They are filled with trash not recyclables. As a result materials cannot be recycled but rather are taken to Transfer Station. Street department has to clean up mess around recycling bins

Rice said council is not against recycling; this will have to be reviewed at next Street committee meeting.

Recycling bin may have to be placed somewhere else.

Motion was made by Basye and seconded by Tobias for letter to be written to Waste Management advising them recycling bins are to be removed from the park by October 30th. Roll call: all ayes.

Rice said council committee had discussed table for department heads. Price of \$269 for 94x47 table was presented to council.

The Mayor said with taxes down, she can't justify spending money on this. At this time, all unnecessary expenses should be stopped or curtailed. She said there have been repercussions about the recently purchased chairs for the Executive Room.

Rice said with excess of people here, chairs have to be moved from executive room to council chambers. There expenses are things that should have been done four years ago.

Dewey said economically, we need to tighten our belts.

Basye said our department heads need respect from Council. They should have table that matches council table.

Time clock on agenda was tabled at this time and will be placed on next meeting agenda.

Wall unit at cost of \$119.99 advising meeting times, utility payment location, etc.

Dewey said this is another item we don't need to purchase at this time.

Additional Security Cameras: Tice said in looking at placement of cameras, the Mayor and Police Chief had requested additional cameras.

Dewey said due to the budget and lesser taxes collected, cameras are not needed at this time.

Rice said Council has already appropriated monies for cameras and placement.

Dewey said the quote for camera systems is \$7,535.00 for an estimate. Further, Jim Hogue from HIS came here on September 18th unannounced.

Rice said he had left message with Frank Campbell, Police Clerk, on Tuesday, September 15th that man would be here Friday.

The Mayor said she was here on Friday most of the day but to one appeared. At approximately 3:30 she called Chief Lee Harmon who advised her Hogue had just arrived.

The Mayor and Police Chief walked around the building, inside and out, looking for placement of 13 cameras as written on the estimate. They ended up in community room where Dewey said she asked Jim Hogue how could you give estimate without going through the building. He said someone went through the building. You didn't know?

Dewey said not to her knowledge had anyone gone through building. Hogue was surprised.

Dewey said she is not opposed to cameras but feels there should be more than one proposal for comparison. Also, she had expressed there should be a second quote in telephone conversation with Rice who said I agree, we can do that.

Dewey said Hogue, who was here from H.I.S., agreed there should be more than one proposal. He explained warranty and extended warranty.

Mayor said she told him she wanted itemized prices, references and proof of insurance. To date, she has only received proof of insurance. She asked how did they come up with estimate when no one went through the building.

Rice said one of the owners of H.I.S. is Brian Gray, a former police officer with our department. He was familiar with building so he gave estimate.

The Mayor said she should have been notified.

She and Police Chief were here until 5:00 p.m. with Hogue.

Rice said he works on Council 7 days a week; he doesn't inform Mayor of everything he does. Further he is chairman of the lands and buildings committee and assumed responsibility. In the future Rice said he would let Mayor know what he is doing. Dewey said she would appreciate that. The Mayor should be better informed of what is going on especially if it has to do with Village monies.

Rice said he was told that Mayor and Police Chief who had met with Hogue had requested additional cameras.

Rice said he was not going to re-open it.

Tobias asked security cameras be tabled, move onto next item on the agenda.

McCord said it can't be discussed without motion. He then asked Chief Harmon for a yes or no answer to question: Is it good for officers to have cameras in here?

Harmon said he couldn't answer yes or no.

Motion was made by McCord to rescind previous vote on purchase of cameras because of monies, but he is in favor of security cameras.

Dewey said she, too was for security cameras. She was on Lands & Building Committee from Day 1 of the renovation of the government center and doesn't recall security cameras in the plans or being discussed.

There has been no contract signed with H.I.S. for security cameras.

Rice said he had told them.

Brosh said there could be consequences.

McCord said he was going to vote his conscience for the people, employees; where we are, what we are, safety comes first; maybe we went about it the wrong way.

Dewey said we all feel security cameras should be here but not in the way it was handled. Ex-employee, now co-owner of company, comes through the building. We need second proposal for this amount of money.

Basye said it was already voted on; he doesn't want to be here until 11:30.

Rice said all of the council members and Mayor were at the Lands & Building Committee when cameras were discussed; that is the reason it was brought up to council.

Changing locks at Government Center: Rice said Council members need access to their mailboxes and the ability to go from community room to council chambers without going outdoors. He said he had contacted Under Lock & Key but was told doors could only have two keys.

She suggested having mailboxes placed in copy room.

Beeman reported Ordinance Committee will meet October 20th after Special-Called Council meeting.

Police & Fire Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. prior to the first Council meeting of the month.

Motion was made by McCord and seconded by Rice to accept job descriptions of Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal Officer. Roll call: all ayes.

175th Anniversary Committee meeting will be October 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Department training room.

Police & Fire Committee will meet after tonight's Council meeting.

Rice asked permission to use the Large Shelter at the Park on November 1st for bereavement program working with children and the cost be waved. Motion was made by McCord and seconded by Beeman for this request of park shelter use on November 1st. Roll call: all ayes.

Chief Harmon asked permission to use park on October 25th at 4:00 for Costume Judging sponsored by Optimist and Chamber of Commerce.

Motion was made by Rice and seconded by McCord for Optimist and Chamber to use park for costume judging contest. Roll call: all ayes.

Harmon also reported an officer will have surgery on his knee and could be off at least two weeks. This could involve some overtime on next payroll sheets.

603 E. Spring Street was condemned as reported earlier. It is owned by 5/3 Bank as result of Sheriff's Sale.

People who bought 105-107 S. High Street are working on it as of this date.

Harmon talked to Mr. Larry Scott who owns Starbrook building. Scott advised he would have building and grounds cleaned up by end of October.

Trick or Treat is October 29 from 6:00 to 8:00.

Bob Kendig, Street Superintendant, had no report.

Ire Chief Bill Westfall reported they will be using old fire station on Spring and Pearl for Trick or Treat. Squad will also be there.

No one was present for BPA report

Motion was made by Rice and seconded by Tobias for an Executive Session at 9:20 to discuss personnel. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Rice and seconded by Tobias to reconvene in regular session at 10:08 with action taken being job expectations of Fiscal Officer and Village Council due to last audit. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion adjourned at 10:08 with motion by Bell.