

**Village of Covington Ohio
Record of Proceedings
Covington Village Council Meeting
March 9, 2009**

Covington Village Council met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Covington Government Center with the following members present: Marc Basye, Scott Tobias, Doris Beeman, and Donna K. Dewey and Dick Rice. Mayor Gary L. Bell presided at the meeting. Grant Kerber, Law Director, was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Mayor Bell read the following: O would like to welcome Dick Rice as my appointment to fill our vacant council seat.

I was impressed with all the applicants' qualifications, but with Dick's previous experience on council serving as Chairperson of our Finance Committee, his involvement with the planning of our remodeling project as Chairman of our lands & Building Committee (which he later dumped in my lap when he left Council), his knowledge of the history of our Village and his dedication to serving our community, I felt that Dick was the best qualified candidate to fill this capacity.

My only hesitation in appointing Dick, my council colleagues, as you will know, our Council meetings will probably last another 20 - 30 minutes longer with Dick on Board.

I'm sure I have the backing of Council in making this appointment, and for the record, Dick was sworn into this position by me on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. And Dick, we welcome you. Take your seat.

Roll call followed the remarks by Mayor Bell.

Councilmember Karayannis had sent an email informing the Mayor and Council he was out of town on Business and would not be present.

Motion was made by Tobias and seconded by Basye to excuse Councilmember Karayannis from the meeting. Roll call: Basye; yes; Tobias, yes; Beeman, yes; Dewey, no; Tide, no.

Dewey, President of Council, welcomed Dick Rice to Council on behalf of the other Council members. She cited his involvement with the restoration of the Government Center, his good attitude and how he serves on Council in the best interest of the community.

Bell had a proclamation prepared to read for the American Red Cross and declaring the month of March as Red Cross month. No one was present from the Red Cross.

Chief Harmon had received the Red Cross flag at another meeting – flag will be flown the month of March in front of the Government Center.

Minutes were approved as written.

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

Correspondence: Federal stimulus money in the amount of \$3,000.000 has been applied for by Karayannis for the Newberry Theater.

A memo to Council members assuring them the Fiscal Officer was working to get the information for the State Auditor's Office in an effort to get this resolved as quickly as possible.

Time Warner Cable – another channel setup charge.

Council Committee Assignments for 2009 were distributed to Council members.

The Mayor had also written a memo to Council asking them to decide which date was best for meeting with CAIC officers. Dates being March 21st or March 28th.

Work Session meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 10:00 in the new Covington, Fire Department training room. After the meeting, tours of the new fire department will be given to Council members.

Following memo was given to Council members: In 2001 Council submitted a grant for downtown improvements to the State of Ohio in the amount of \$840,000. Would Council like to submit downtown improvement project for funding through the Federal Stimulation Program? The Fiscal Officer was advised by grant consultant to submit project for \$1,600,000 since the original grant had been submitted so long ago.

Tobias said original grant was for \$840,000 with Village's share being approximately \$240,000. Grant covered two blocks of the downtown area. After few years Village's share had grown to \$600,000. Grant project area was from spring Street North to alley midway over the hill. (across from Covington Savings & Loan) Expanding area of project would be good.

Motion was made by Tobias and seconded by Beeman to submit cost of \$2,100,000 for downtown revitalization program through Federal Stimulus Money. Roll call: all ayes.

Police & Fire committee had no report.

Planning & Zoning Board will meet March 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Financial Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 16th with BPA and to complete 2009 Appropriations.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Beeman to place Res. 09-01R on Third Reading concerning Solid Waste. Roll call; all ayes.

Motion was made by Rice and seconded by Tobias Res. 09-01R pass Third Reading. Roll call: all ayes.

Department Reports: Chief Lee Harmon introduced Pat Johnson to Council. Harmon recommended Johnson as Auxiliary Patrolman. Johnson worked in Bradford prior to the department going to MCSO. He resides in Tipp City, married and has two children. He works at Kroger's full time in Risk Management. He had worked formerly for Clinton County Sheriff's Department.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Beeman to accept Chief Harmon's recommendation of Pat Johnson to Police Auxiliary on usual one year probation. Toll call: all ayes.

Oath was administered to Johnson by Mayor Bell.

Fire Chief Bill Westfall presented two names to fill two vacancies on the Fire Department. Both would be on one year probation.

Corey Patty lives here and is attending Columbus College. He will be receiving Level 1 and 2 at Sinclair.

Motion was made by Beeman and seconded by Rice to accept Cory Patty on Fire Department roster with usual one year probation. Roll call: Basye; yes; Tobias, abstain: Beeman, yes; Dewey, abstain: Rice, yes.

Second name was Chad Angle. He is completing training at Sinclair. He is also on Rescue Squad and comes recommended by them.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Beeman to accept Chad Angle on Fire Department roster with usual one year probation. Roll call: all ayes.

Ray Kimmel, BPA Superintendant, had no report.

Mayor Bell read the following statement to Council: "I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Adam Burke, CEO of pbm Products LLC, last Tuesday in my office. I've discovered with my time serving as Council President that when meeting with business representatives looking to expand or relocate to our Covington community, you ask an important question – "Do you want this public yet?" Most of the time the answer is "No., we are still in negotiations dealing with leases, purchasing land, etc. But these are our plans." Sometimes I'm told "However, you may release these details." I have learned to develop a trust and confidentiality with these business people.

Adam and I talked about my family and history living in Covington. I told him if he had come to visit Thursday or Friday, I would have had him bring his tennis shoes and play Bell's Crazy Kick Ball while I subbed for Mr. Barbee's P.E classes, introduce him to our Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Earl, and take a tour of our school facilities and our village.

Mr. Burke jumped at the opportunity saying he would be back in April, bring his tennis shoes and spend the day.

After our meeting, I walked out of the Government Center so proud, buttons ready to bust, smiling from ear to ear, and I could not tell anyone what I knew was coming down the road.

I did cheat, I told my dog. When I come home in the afternoon, Cami was sitting on the kitchen floor waiting for me to feed her. With her head tilted, floppy ears perked up, I told her what was coming to Covington.

I can release this information to you, pbm Products LLC is hoping to start within the next few weeks interviewing job applicants. Interviews are planned to be held at the Miami County Job Center. The hiring event will be advertised in local newspapers and on the Ohio Means Job website.

pbm is looking to put significant and I mean significant capital (Mr. Burke asked me not to disclose dollar figure) in to the plant in April and early May. He told me that they want to be involved in the community with financial contributions to our community projects; I reminded him from our previous discussions of our needs for help with funding Covington's 175th anniversary celebration, and he said to count the company in. He informed me of their hopeful operational plans. I believe good things will be coming to Covington with pbm Products, LLC.

Also, when I was in my office Saturday morning, I noticed several people walking around downtown looking at some of our vacant buildings. So, being nosey, W walked over and introduced myself. It's possible we could have a branch of an independent realtor locating here. Just a possibility. But I will follow up.

I get discouraged when I hear of statements that Council is not doing anything to improve the growth of our community by seeking and attracting business and industry to locate here. Be assured we are. We just work behind the scenes developing trust and confidentiality with prospective businesses and industry interest as their plans unfold."

Council member Basye said he will be working the next two Saturdays and will be unable to attend Wok Session. Also, he may be out of town for the April 13th Council meeting.

Motion was made by Dewey to adjourn at 7:30.