

**Village of Covington Ohio
Record of Proceedings
Covington Village Council Meeting
March 23, 2009**

Covington Village Council met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Covington Government Center with the following members present: Marc Basye, Scott Tobias, Doris Beeman, 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.

Mark Schilling, President of Covington-Newberry Historical Society, presented five year maintenance and restoration plan for the Fort Rowdy Museum. The objective is to provide for the structural integrity of the Museum and to maintain a secure and climate-controlled environment for the preservation and display of collected historical documents and artifacts.

Year One	2009	Roof to be inspected and repaired or replaced
Year Two	2010	Windows and exit doors to be inspected and repaired or replaced.
Year Three	2011	New heating and air conditioning systems installed.
Year Four	2012	Update restrooms
Year Five	2013	Review facility size and need for expansion.

Historical consultants shall be used to determine appropriate course of action where original building materials are still intact. A list of consultants has been provided to the Society.

Schilling said there is not any specific item in any specific year; they will move ahead as they can.

Annie Harrison was also present on behalf of the Historical Society. She said Society will work with consultants and ask if decisions could be made internally. She asked if council wanted them to come back each time they get bids for work.

Bell said yes, yes you get bids, you come back to council.

Rice asked if work planned should go to Ohio Preservation Society since building is on National Historical Register.

Glen Harper, Preservations Services Manager, had visited museum with Mayor Yingst, Council President Bell, Chief. Lee Harmon and members of Historical Society in the past 18 months. Building should be kept as close to possible to original style.

Rice said they should use proper design and not change character of building.

Bell said Harper told them to stay as close as possible to original design. They are not going to come and make inspections.

Schilling said water has been problem at the building; it is coming in through roof and windows. They want to get this taken care of as soon as possible. Air conditioning would help relieve humidity in building.

Harrison said she would make some calls to make sure they are in compliance. They are using historical architects also.

Ray Kimmel, BPA Superintendant, read letter to Council from Board of Public Affairs requesting increase in water and sewer rates and four year plan.

The present water rate is \$2.20/1000 gallons and sewer rates are \$1.70/100 gallons. The four year proposal requests Cost of Living increases for 2009 through 2012 on the water side beginning with a 3.8% increase effective July 1st. The sewer rate increase structure calls for an increase of \$.60 per 1,000 gallons for 2009; \$0.40 increase in 2010 and cost of living increase for 2011 and 2012. The Cost of Living is determined by the US Department of Labor Consumer Price Index. The Board of Public Affairs will evaluate the rates on an annual basis.

The Board has applied for \$6,459,770 million dollars stimulus money through the federal government under President Obama's Stimulus Plan.

Pending projects for the Water and Sewer Departments are as follows:

- *The Water Department has received bids for the painting of the large water tower (interior and exterior) with the smaller tower scheduled to be done later this year.
- * Replacement of the Village's four inch water mains and several hydrants that are older fifty years old which are a high priority for the fire department.
- * Digging a new well to replace #7 well is a project for the very near future.
- * The price of sale (softener salt) continues to escalate.
- The wastewater plant is 28 years old with a normal life expectancy of 25 years
- *Updates are needed to stay in compliance with existing and future permits.
- * EPA mandated Phosphorus removal, in which, we must be in compliance by June 2009.
- * Sludge tanks, digester and various concrete repairs at the plant continue to be costly expense.

The last sewer rate increase was ten years ago and Covington's rates are by far the lowest in the area.

The Board recommends the increases as necessary to give the citizens of Covington the quality of water and waste removal services they have been accustomed to for many years.

Motion was made by Beeman and seconded by Rice to place Ord. 02-09A on First Reading for increasing the water rates effective July 1st. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Beeman Ord. 02-09A pass First Reading. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Beeman to place Ord. 03-09A on First Reading for increasing sewer rates effective July 1st. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Basye and seconded by Beeman Ord. 03-09A pass First Reading. Roll call: all ayes.

Jay Wackler, Chamber of Commerce President, presented a picture of the old hydraulic water plant taken by Jim O'Donnell. Picture is presented by local business, WM Web Development LLC, owned by Wackler and Cindy Miller. Wackler said there are other pictures available taken by Mr. O'Donnell and encouraged other businesses to purchase them.

Correspondence included membership forms for joining Covington-Newberry Historical Society.

Minutes of March 9th: Correction should be \$440,000 was Village's share toward downtown improvement project. Minutes then approved as written.

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

Correspondence also included in council packets from Councilmember Karayannis: He asked that One Call Now be revisited.

Beeman asked if 911 could still be reversed for this. Answer was yes. No action taken on One Call Now or other correspondence for Karayannis.

Mayor informed Council Cal L. Warner resigned last year as Park Superintendant due to health reasons. Lowell D. Smith, former employee, helped Monty Dysinger the remainder of the park season.

Advertising for assistant Park superintendant was done with Council's approval. Bell and Dysinger have reviewed the applications and it is their recommendation to hire A, John Thompson as Assistant Park Superintendent.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Tobias to hire A. John Thompson as Assistant Park Superintendent, Roll call: all ayes.

Railroad Overpass at N. Wall Street: Due to safety factor, bridge needs to be inspected by certified bridge engineer; Choice One recommended Mannik and Smith Engineers Jim Moore is certified bridge inspector. Bell contacted him who advised he would do site visit, photograph the area, check the stability of the structure and make recommendations as to demolition or restoration with narrative recommending course of action for Council. Cost would be \$3700 with project to be completed within two weeks after acceptance of contract.

Lois Newman, visitor, said she thought Adrian Miller had until the 15th to get it cleaned up. Why was he just starting on March 14th?

Kerber said Court did order him to have it done by March 15th. There is another hearing set for April 6th. It will be requested he be taken into custody at that time.

Newman said he was tearing up equipment he was using when removing dirt. He had a flat tire on piece of equipment so was running on three tires.

Motion was made by Rice and seconded by Basye to retain Mannik and Smith, structural engineers, to inspect the railroad overpass on N. Wall Street at a cost not to exceed \$3700. Roll call: all ayes.

Newman asked if Council could retrieve the money being paid to the engineers.

Kerber said there is collectability option.

Ohio Public Works Commission has awarded grant for Phase II of E. Walnut Street in the amount of \$121,792. Project will be done next year.

Bell commented on the good work session with CAIC officers on March 21st at the Covington Fire Department.

Street Committee will meet after Council.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Beeman to suspend the rules and place on Emergency Legislation Ordinance 01-09A, 2009 Appropriations. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Basye and seconded by Dewey Ordinance 01-09A pass Emergency Legislation. Roll call: all ayes.

Patrolman Phil Osting was present for Chef Harmon who was teaching class at Edison. Osting had no report.

Bob Kendig, Street Superintendent, was on vacation – no report.

Ray Kimmel, BPA Superintendent, informed Council they will be flushing hydrants March 31st through 3rd.

Bill Westfall, Fire Chief, had no report.

Motion was made by Tobias and seconded by Beeman for Executive Session at 7:40 to discuss pending legislation. Roll call: all ayes.

Motion was made by Basye and seconded by Beeman to reconvene in regular session at 7:50. Roll call: all ayes. No action taken as result of Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 with motion by Dewey.