

**Village of Covington Ohio
Record of Proceedings
October 22, 2007**

Covington Village Council met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Government Center with the following members present: R. Scott Tobias, George Karayannis, Donna K. Dewey, 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.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Karayannis to excuse Luther Landis from the meeting. Roll call: and ayes.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Karayannis to excuse Doris Beeman from the meeting, Roll call: and ayes.

Kenneth Magato, 178 N. High Street, was present informing Council that city drain sewage keeps coming into his basement. Board of Public Affairs employees were there for two hours on Friday and two hours on Saturday working.

Ray Kimmel, BPA Supt., said there will be a camera unit from the County here that will help pinpoint the area causing the problems. There have been problems at this location in the spring; they don't know if they have to dig it out until the pinpoint area with camera.

Jay Wackler, representing the Covington Area Improvement Corporation (CAIC), was present requesting funding for CAIX to pursue a plan for Covington's future. Wackler gave a historic review of the CAIC stating its purpose was an industrial park and new housing section. They did develop an industrial park and Brookstone.

There is no formal cohesive plan at this time. Wackler said CAIC need professional assessment that would include interviewing community leaders as well as residents of the community.

One of the choices for the plan is from Ohio State University which provides this service all over the State and is subsidized by local governments such as Covington. They will bring people to Covington and interview approximately 25 people including retail, industry, clergy, civic and local government. Wackler said 25 people have been identified.

OSU has large library; Covington will receive written documents telling us where we are and where we stand in competing with other communities. This would give conformity to the community.

Wackler said we cannot survive without a plan. He doesn't know if industry will continue to be here or for how long.

CAIC wants a unified plan. Covington's cost for subsidizing the study through OSU would be an investment of \$5,000.00. We must keep re-investing in our community to keep revitalized.

Study should start in January 2008.

Karayannis said some Council members were not aware of work CAIC has done do need to give them update. Tobias asked of twenty-five people to be interviewed would be a cross-section of the community a – mix of residents and industry, etc. This study would tell how community should grow.

The Mayor said he has been a part of CAIC for a number of years. He definitely feels Covington needs this and Village should come up with the funding. He further said he was at the OSU meeting and it was very good. He wants to make sure the people work with meet the criteria of our town.

Darke County had a similar study but it was not done through OSU.

Karayannis said Village should not work outside CAIC; the recommendations would come from CAIC.

The Mayor said CAIC has not made official vote as to go with OSU.

Bell said if Council funded it they would be part of it.

Mark Landis was present to ask how Council liked the fireworks at the Fort Rowdy gathering. Maybe Council would like to contribute toward funding next year. He doesn't know if fireworks will be on July 4th yet.

Minutes for October 8th were approved as written.

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

Mark Schilling and Carolyn Blankenship were present concerning the Cov-Newberry Historical Museum. Schilling informed Council they are not in the business to take buildings from Ohio Historical Register. They did take another vote for the metal doors; while the vote was not unanimous there was a majority who did vote to replace wood doors with metal doors.

Hepner's from Piqua would put in three metal insulated doors that would open out rather than in. Cost is \$2,600. Wood doors would be \$3,000 apiece.

Schilling said they do not have the money for this and would like to get it done before winter and is seeking Council approval.

Schilling and Village have received information from Ohio historical Society suggesting a five year plan be drafted.

Schilling said this was their intent.

Bell said he met with Mr. Harper for Ohio Hist. Society when he was in town along with the Mayor and Chief Harmon and representatives for Museum. It was Bell's understanding from Mr. Harper the Museum would not be taken off Register if metal doors were put on building. He would come in and take building off Register if siding was put on building. If there is an in-kind resemblance he doesn't think Mr. Harper would object so Bell said he doesn't have any objection to the metal doors.

Blankenship said the wooden doors have been there for years; the integrity of the building is questioned. She said she has been in preservation work for years. She said replaced in-kind if possible.

Schilling said the doors are inside doors. Doors are approximately 150 years old.

Tobias asked of the doors were handmade.

Schilling said the use of the doors is different. It appears that one of the doors was cut down. Two doors on the bottom floor have transoms. Also, they would keep the wooden doors; they do not plan to destroy them. There would be easier maintenance with metal doors; wooden doors are causing water problems that are causing plaster problems.

Blankenship said she would like to see five year study done before metal doors are installed. She is one of two living members who fought to save the Historical Museum – you don't replace you repair.

The Mayor said there is a lot of difference in prices – metal vs wood.

Tobias asked if one door at a time could be done.

Schilling said the upstairs door is the worse one – there is just the shell on the outside bottom.

Motion was made by and seconded by Karayannis granting permission for Historical Museum to have metal doors.

Tobias said maintain the historical value of building is his question.

Roll call on motion: Karayannis, yes; Dewey, no; Bell, yes; Tobias, no.

Kerber said since full Council is not present the Mayor could not break the tie vote.

Schilling said they are also looking at central air/heat – climate control. Documents will suffer with humidity, cold weather, heat, etc. They are looking into this.

Adrian Miller met prior to meeting with Planning & Zoning Board about the Wall Street Overpass demolition. Tobias said Miller had submitted a proposal. He now has Village on insurance – no performance bond is needed at this time. He has increased cost of construction to \$25,000, he must control drainage; enter and exit, grade back and seed, maintain Pearl and Wall Street slopes.

Miller has agreed to this and Planning & Zoning Board have approved request.

Request of street closure would be from Oct. 23rd to Nov. 23rd.

Miller said he would notify Village ten days before expiration if more time is needed.

Village will mark utilities.

Motion was made by Bell and seconded by Karayannis to grant Miller permission to close street for one month as per agreement. Roll call: all ayes.

The Mayor said he will call Steve Placeway, Zoning Inspector, who will sign permit Tuesday. Permit can be picked up Wed. Morning..

Sandy Abel, a neighbor in the area, said she feels this would be a big mistake. She would be surprised if job was finished.

The Mayor said they (Planning & Zoning Board) feel this won't happen. He has moved dirt from Wall Street to Pearl Street and has plans for retaining walls. Tobias said he will match slope.

The Mayor said he has a request to barricade Wright Street from High to Pearl for Candelight Christmas on Nov. 9th, 10th and 11th.

Motion was made by Tobias and seconded by Karayannis to grant the barricade of Wright Street during the Candelight Christmas. Roll call: all ayes.

The Mayor said there was discussion at last Chamber meeting about the old Christmas wreaths. He talked to Gary Fessler about Village hanging some from his building facing onto parking lot. Mr. Fessler agreed.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Karayannis to hang several wreaths from Fessler building and pay electric for them.

Bell asked about liability.

The Mayor said it would be different than trees or other Christmas lights. Bob Kendig, Street Supt. Has made brackets for the wreaths to hang from.

Roll call on motion: all ayes.

Bell informed Council he and the Fiscal Officer had met with Larry Johnson from Swartzel/Affiliated Insurance Company about Village insurance. The Ohio plan serves 650 public entities. Premium with Ohio Plan would be \$21,053 for \$3,000,000 liability. Renewal rate with PEP is \$43,000 for \$3,000,000 liability insurance.

Ohio Plan covers employees, law enforcement, elected officials.

Dick Rice former Councilmember and insurance company official, has reviewed both plans.

Motion was then made by Bell and seconded by Dewey to accept Ohio Plan for Village insurance. Roll Call: all ayes.

Ohio Plan also has hospitalization insurance that we are looking into.

Street Committee will meet after Council.

Kimmel said they are looking into new jet vac machine. Since Bob Kendig and Street Dept. use this for storm sewers, Kimmel is asking if Council would pay half for the new machine. With confined space safety, vacuum would suck out grit.

Piqua and Troy machines have been borrowed in the past.

New unit could be leased for five to seven years. Cost is \$174,000 or \$175,000. Kimmel said they have looked at some used ones but they are in pretty bad shape.

He said he just needed idea from Council if they would pay half.

He Doesn't know size; there will be a demo next Friday.

1981 unit owned by EPA has reached its limit.

There is also an older unit in Piqua that Board is looking at. It is a jet machine not jet vac.

He asked of Council was interested.

Bell asked percentage of use by Street Dept. Kendig said it may be 60 to 40% usage. How many times a year would it be used?

Kendig said with vacuum it could be used on catch basins and they would use it a lot in the beginning.

Jeff Shields was present said vacuum can be used for a lot of things, Raising water valve boxes, cleaning out lots of things. Troy has a pull behind jet now. They are looking into a 3 cu yd in several years. They just had their current jet reworked.

With lease of jet vac for Village the cost would be \$15,000 annually and \$15,000 annually for BPA.

Finrock did work on Walnut Street for grant that Richard Klockner, Engineer, needed done. Cost for five hours was \$1,000. Village would \$500 and Klockner is paying \$500.

There is a lot of maintenance with jet vac.

Kendig said they can rent jet vac for \$3,000 a week.

Street Committee and Financial Committee will look into this.

Kendig asked permission to lift cylinder lead rebuilt or purchase a new one. Cost for new one is \$700; repair of rebuild is \$400 to \$600.

Motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Karayannis to purchase new lift cylinder at \$700. Roll call: all ayes.

Office Phil Osting from the Police Department and Fire Chief Bill Westfall had no report.

Motion was made by Dewey to adjourn at 8:25.

Signed Fiscal Officer Kay McKinney