

Covington City Council
329 Washington Street
Covington, IN 47932

August 1, 2022

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers: Salts, Martin, Sare, Smith, Tanner and Attorney Powell

Mayor Crain called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Minutes from the July 18 Council meeting were approved with the following addition and corrections advised by Councilmember Salts to be included.

The following corrections to the minutes include:

Councilmember Salts stated that he is video recording the Council meetings because the minutes aren't being recorded properly. Councilmember Tanner requested a list of roads to be paved with the Community Crossings Grant money. Councilmember Salts advised that he did not say that Rick Smith was fired because of an invoice. Also, Mayor Crain stated that if anyone had any other questions or accusations, they need to be referred to his attorney.

Mayor Crain stated to Salts that he wanted to make the video from the July 18 Council meeting as part of the minutes where Salts accused him of wrongdoing that was posted on the internet.

Mayor Crain stated that Ronda was in question about the invoice that Salts asked about from the last meeting from Rick Smith. Crain said Rick was embarrassed and he knew why he was fired and made up that story. Salts said he wasn't accusing Mayor Crain and was just asking a question pertaining to Rick's letter. Crain asked to make the video available to the Council and Salts said it was his video and he didn't have to. Mayor Crain asked Ronda if he told her that the invoice was his and she said yes. Crain asked Ronda if she ever asked Rick to sign off on it and she said no, never because she didn't even have a voucher for it. Crain said because it was his that she wouldn't have a voucher for it and Ronda said that is correct.

Mayor Crain addressed a question from the previous Council meeting asking if anyone can buy pipe from the supply company. Crain stated that we have ordered pipe for Brian Chumley and others doing jobs and they have reimbursed the City for it. Chumley stated that he was charged for two manholes and only received one. Mayor Crain stated the City will reimburse Chumley for one manhole if he presents the bill. Chumley asked Crain if any of the roads put out for bids was in the Shiloh development and Mayor Crain said no. Chumley also asked about the east end of Orchard Drive & Councilmember Tanner said the City purchased it to 13th St. and put in the road for Kip White for access to the land on Pearl Street behind where the Fountain Springs is now. This was done before Shiloh purchased the ground.

Marty Acord and Butch Scott were present concerning the property on 509 Fancy Street. Acord stated we have to have a licensed home inspector. Councilmember Tanner wants to be there when they do the inspection. Tanner and Crain will contact one tomorrow.

Eric Barfell was present about the letter he received from Attorney Powell for the property at 514 Jefferson Street. He had cleaned up the property and was asked to repair the hole on the side of the residence. Barfell said he would get the hole repaired.

Brad Davis asked Mayor Crain what attorney represents him and if it was for the City or personally. Crain replied that his personal attorney is his daughter, Holly Crain and the Taylor Powell represents the City.

Jenny Goepfner was present representing the Covington Nursery School and asked permission to have the Halloween Hustle 5K the last Saturday in October at the Covington Circle Trail. Permission was granted.

Henry Schmitt and Jerry Pope were present representing the Covington 4th of July Celebration committee. They presented the Council with the 2022 financial report. Schmitt reported they had a very successful year and thanked the City employees for all of their help. The Council commended the 4th of July Committee for the great job they have done on the festival. Schmitt asked permission for the 2023 4th of July Celebration from June 29 to July 4th, 2023. Permission was granted.

Olivia Osborne was present to ask about putting up a stop sign at the intersection of Orchard Avenue and 7th Street before an accident happens there. The Council will take it into consideration.

Street Supt. Nolan reported the City put in the sewer main at the trail today and are continuing north.

Mayor Crain stated that the toughest thing he's had to do in 23 years is to name a Police Chief. Three members of the Council questioned the candidates and they were given a questionnaire to fill out from Mayor Crain. Crain also contacted Tim Harty, director of the Indiana Police Academy for additional advice. Mayor Crain's selection for interim Police Chief is Shannon Foster.

Sewer Superintendent Myers reported that we are approved for the sewer project by Triad Engineering and are ready to take bids for the equipment. The deadline for the construction permit from IDEM is March of 2023. The prices of material are considerably higher now. Mayor Crain stated he wrote a letter to IDEM explaining the inflated prices from over a year ago when we started the project and asked for a 4 to 5 month extension. Construction should take from 12-15 months. Myers said he hates to put a lot of money into existing machinery as it ages that we are planning on replacing but we have to keep it working. Triad has searched out bids for equipment.

Councilmember Smith proposed to the Council to start looking into wiring the Council room soon for audio and possibly video recording equipment to enhance the meeting records.

Councilmember Sare inquired about the 8" drop off on the sides of the basketball courts at the park and would like to put gravel or asphalt on them as soon as possible so no one will be hurt.

Mayor Crain stated that we are starting on the sand volleyball court at the park which will be on the west side of the pool because there is not enough room next to the basketball courts. There were concerns of volleyballs landing in the pool even though the court will be 25 feet from the pool. Councilmember Smith stated that we might need to extend it. Councilmember Salts stated that there are still no lines on the basketball courts and Mayor Crain stated that if the Councilmembers can find anyone to paint the lines and 3-point line to let him know.

Councilmember Salts once again would like to have a list of the roads to be paved. Salts asked when the baseball and softball restrooms would be started and Mayor Crain stated that the waiver had just been received from the National Park Service from the grant and they will be complete before the next ball season. Salts asked if there is any information on the park stage and Mayor Crain stated we are still waiting on the pricing and it will be ordered as soon as the pricing is received.

Resolution 2022-1 was introduced by Mayor Crain accepting the transfer of real property from Fountain County, Indiana, 216 Union Street, Covington (old Fountain County jail). Fountain County Indiana approved the transfer at the August 1st 2022 County meeting for the use and benefit for the City of Covington. Councilmember Tanner asked if the tanks were removed and they have been removed and have tested non-hazardous. Mayor Crain stated we will tear it down and possibly build a new street and electrical garage because the current electric garage is in disrepair and the street garage could be used for storage as it is not in good shape. Councilmember Salts asked the approximate cost to have it torn down if we have a place to dispose of it. Crain stated between \$35,000 - \$50,000 and we will take bids and can dispose of it at Lape's and concrete and bricks can be disposed of on City property.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith to accept Resolution 2022-1 to accept 216 Union St. (old Fountain County Jail). Seconded by Councilmember Martin. Resolution 2022-1 was passed 4-1 with Councilmember Salts voting no.

Police officer Alexander reported the new computer in the police vehicle has been installed and is working. Foster reported the new police pickup goes into production September 9th 2022.

Electric Superintendent Karushis reported the new electric truck that was ordered in 2021 just went into production.

Brad Davis asked Mayor Crain who represents him in his capacity as Mayor & he said it is City Attorney Powell. Davis asked if the officers at the meeting were present per Crain's request and Mayor Crain said no the officers were present because he had just appointed the new Police Chief. Davis said he had heard that it was Crain's personal police force and he had them to come in to intimidate people. Davis did not know where he heard this and also asked if Crain had ever asked any officers to come to the City meeting and he replied no. Officers Foster and

Dimmitt also replied no sir to Davis. Davis asked who else was considered for the Police Chief and Crain stated Scot Brewer, Chuck Pippin, Troy Alexander and Shannon Foster.

Meeting Adjourned.


Mayor

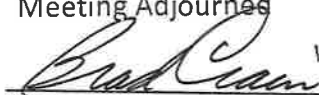

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

Present: Mayor Crain and Councilmembers Tanner and Smith

Councilmember Tanner made the motion to approve all claims and Councilmember Smith 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned


Mayor


Deputy Clerk-Treasurer