Covington City Council
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932

September 6, 2022

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

In attendance from the public: Margo Lewis, Nancy Wallace, Trudie Dillon, Susan Fisher, Jayne White, Marty Accord, Kathy Manion, Carol Owens, Butch Scott, Hope Scott

Mayor Crain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Minutes from the August 15, 2022 Council meeting and Board of Works, and August 23, 2022 Special Council meeting were approved with the addition from Councilmember Salts that Councilmember Sare said: "If you keep this up you are going to be the ruination of this town."

Mayor Crain told everyone on the council and audience that we are going to be more respectful at the meetings because over the past couple of months it has been very disrespectful and he isn't going to let it go on.

Electric Supt. Clint Karushis brought up about the rate increases again, he feels our rates are good but we need to have a customer service fee applied to our utility bills. He feels we need a $15.00 fee for residential, $30.00 for single phase and 60.00 for 3 phase meters. Councilmember Salts said if we raise the rates we shouldn't add a customer service charge, Clint said he suggests the service fee, and not a rate increase. The cost of everything we order has increased a lot over the last 10 years so the increase is needed.

Trudie Dillon and Susan Fisher were present to represent the DAR Banner Project, she would like to have banners hung on the light poles for the Veterans in our area. Each banner would hang for 1 year and then be taken down and the family would receive the banner. She is asking the council to consider this project because they feel it will be a great benefit to the community. The committee will be in charge of getting the photo and information for all the banners.

Carol Owens stated that Veedersburg has installed Solar Panels she wondered if Covington is interested in doing this. Mayor Crain said it is a IMPA project.

Kathy Manion was presented to say she is working on her yard since receiving a letter from the City to mow and trim weeds. She also asked if a transformer pole in her alley could be changed out and Superintendent Karushis said he would check it out. She stated she doesn't want Brad Crain in her yard and feels she is being picked on for her yard and it has caused her a lot of mental anquish.

Superintendent Myers asked about what we are going to do with the pool now that the season is over. Mayor Crain said shut the valves off and leave the water in the pool and we will get the pool and bathhouse winterized.

Police Chief Foster stated we are having vandalism at the park again so the bathrooms will be locked at dark from this point on. The City will be looking into video equipment to install next year so the Police can keep an eye on the bathrooms.

Councilmember Salts asked Clint about a few items that IMPA had said we need to get taken care of, with the High School and Fountain Trust who are bigger users for transclosures because of the amount of power they use. Electrical pole testing and replacement programs also need to be looked into. Clint said we need to really look into all of this and get some of it taken care of. Bill Stonecipher is wanting to put in more grain dryers and we don't know if we can supply the electric to them at this present time on Stonebluff Road. Josh also asked about the street repairs Brad said we rescinded the monies we were awarded and we reapplied in August so we will be given the right amount of money for all the street we need to have repaired he feels we will get another 180,00 so that's double what we awarded in the first bid. Councilmember Salts also has had 2 people ask about the Street Superintendent job, and were denied an application, the City is not hiring at this time, but you are welcome to fill out an application. His concern right now is that we will have to hire outside contractors to do what Tyler may not have knowledge to do. Tyler said he feels confident he is capable to do the job he was appointed to and hopes that the council has confidence in him he just needs time to adjust to his new position. Mayor Crain stated the department is doing a good job and has handled all the water leaks and sewer problems themselves over the last couple of months. Councilmember Salts also told Mayor Crain that the new street superintendent was hired as interim and asked Mayor Crain if he understood what that meant? Mayor Crain responded with the definition.

Councilmember Martin stated that we need to vote on a stop sign at Orchard Ave and 7th Street Councilmember Martin made the motion Tanner 2nd Motion carried 5-0. He also stated he has put the Fire hydrant flushing on the City website for September 14, 2022.

Councilmember Sare asked about a new mower for the City Park it will be purchased next year.

Councilmember Smith asked about the guy going around town saying he was from the gas company and the police said they have not had any calls on it. She also asked the council about the redistricting she presented at the last meeting for next elections, there was a small discussion on the subject as it's not required. Councilmember Salts thanked Councilmember Smith for the work she did on this and presenting it to the council in a timely matter.

Councilmember Tanner asked about the mowing of the grass around the old jail, Mayor Crain asked Tyler Nolan to mow the area. He asked again about the Community Crossings grant we are just waiting on INDOT to give us a determination and readvertise bids. Matt Hesler will be looking at a few problem areas that need immediate attention. He also asked about the Grovier property again Rodney told Councilmember Tanner he is still working on it but he was putting it up for Sale. The property has to go up for Sale by October 1, 2022 and has to be sold by January 1, 2023 per the mediation agreement. Attorney Powell thinks the best option is wait until January 1, 2023 the City should buy it.

Mayor Crain asked if anyone was present to remonstrant the 2023 Budget and no one was.

Meeting Adjourned

Brad Crain
Mayor

Linda Kreekt
Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers Tanner and Smith

Councilmember Tanner made the motion to pay all claims and Mayor Crain 2nd motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned

Brad Crain
Mayor

Linda Kreekt
Clerk-Treasurer