

Covington City Council
Mayor
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932

Clerk-Treasurer

May 1, 2023

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

In attendance from the public: Carol Owens, Dale White, Alan Mears, Polly Chumley, Brian Chumley, Margo Lewis, Nancy Wallace, Marlea Crain, Keddy Sowers, Scott Powell, Duane Lathrop, Pam Hicks, Tony Hicks, Butch Strawser, Butch Scott, Hope Scott.

Mayor Crain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from the April 17, 2023 council and board of works meeting were approved.

Dale White was present for an update on the Covington Circle Trail from May of last year. Dale reported on the 5 Crossings Park that is owned by the County. He talked about all of the work that the foundation and County are wanting to do to the trail along the river. He also said they are still trying to get property owners along 2nd Street to let them have permission to run trail from river to Sandhill road to connect to the park. The Foundation has the funding to redo all the trail near the river and under the bridge to 2nd street through County monies, foundation monies, and READI Grant monies this will take around 2 years to complete. Dale would like the city to

agree to developing the existing railroad bridge into a pedestrian trail as long as the city agrees to accepting the deed from the individual who owns it, the city would then have the bridge as an asset to the city. Mayor Crain asked Dale how we would connect under the bridge to 2nd street and then sandhill road to connect to the park trail, he feels that the river isn't out of the banks often enough to not go ahead with this project maybe the City, County and Foundation could take care of the trail when it does flood and has to be cleaned up due to the debris from the flooding of the river. All Councilmembers and the Mayor had many questions for Dale about responsibility of the bridge and etc., a lengthy discussion was held. Councilmember Salts made the motion to accept the deed and have it recorded on the property Councilmember Tanner 2nd motion carried 4-1. Councilmember Smith voted against.

Mayor Crain announced Tuesday May 9, 2023 Mental Health America-Wabash Valley Region will be hosting Mental Awareness month at 9:30 a.m. at Warren County learning center, Mayor Crain said he will be attending and presenting and signing a proclamation, everyone is invited to attend just let Clerk-Treasurer Knecht know if they are interested.

Mayor Crain has received 1 bid for the large pavilion for roofing and removing trim and siding and replace with new that will match everything in the park. Mayor Crain said any posts that are bad will be replaced and painted, install new LED lights. Councilmember Sare made the motion to

accept the bid from River Run Roofing for 52,275.00 Councilmember Martin 2nd motion carried 5-0.

Bart Crowder from the Fire Department reported flow testing was done last week for insurance, we had 550-1200 gallons a minute, he is asking permission to test all hydrants in the city but not all at once and color code each hydrant as to the flow, he also turned in the quarterly reports on runs for the department. The fire department is working on getting the drive at the station wider and the approaches to the fire station better for when the new fire truck arrives. Bart Crowder asked if the city will pay for the drive improvement, the city has been helping move the stone around and get packed down.

Greg Myers said Ortman has been at the wells and the crack on #3 well has been repaired and it will be back on line, they said the city needs to abandoned the old #1 well soon.

Chief Foster was present to say that Seth Persinger graduated from Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and is now a First Class Patrolman effective May 1, 2023. Chief Foster also graduated from Chief school with his credits.

Councilmember Tanner asked about the Jeffries property on 4th and Park Avenue, if something isn't done soon the City will take over and have it all hauled off. Councilmember Tanner asked about the old jail we haven't received the deed from the county.

Councilmember Smith asked about the testing on the new well Mayor Crain said the one on the Railroad grade isn't good enough either so we will be looking for another site to find enough water to supply the city. Councilmember Smith made motion to try for another location on the test well Councilmember Tanner 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Sare asked about the new restrooms at the ball diamonds and Mayor Crain said they were finished.

Councilmember Salts asked about the SBOA audit report on the MVH restricted funds. Clerk-Treasurer Knecht and Mayor Crain are in contact with SBOA about this and it will be made right, the SBOA says the City has to have an MVH and MVH restricted fund.

Alan Mears was present to thank the council for fixing 5th and Union he also said there is a culvert on the west side that is plugged again. Superintendent Nolan is waiting for a sewer jet nozzle to get this unplugged so it will drain and not destroy the new blacktop that was put down. He would like it taken care of a few times of year. Superintendent Nolan will take care of the situation when he gets the new equipment.

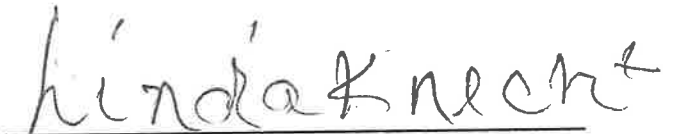
Hope Scott asked about Brad signing a proclamation for the Mental Health Awareness what else are they are going to do besides signing the proclamation it needs to be talked about and provide educational materials. Dale White said the Community Foundation has had a couple donations made for educational activities for the schools to put on convocations about mental awareness.

Mayor Crain announced that Tony Bader has been hired as Park Caretaker and Ashlee Cadman as assistant animal control officer. The City pool has been pumped out and will be power washed when the weather is better, as of now the pool should be open for Memorial Day weekend.

Meeting Adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmember Martin, Sare

Councilmember Martin made the motion to approve all claims Councilmember Sare 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Sare made the motion to allow waste water adjustment for Homer Shaffer Councilmember Martin 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Sare made the motion to move Seth Persinger to First Class patrolman effective May 1, 2023. Councilmember Martin 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



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Executive Council Meeting
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932

May 8, 2023

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers: Salts, Martin, Sare, Smth, Tanner.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Crain at 5:00 p.m. only to discuss Ordinance 2023-3 pay increases for hourly and salary employees.

Bob Tanner asked about the plan on KC Smith and Tyler Nolan being over the same departments? Mayor Crain would like KC Smith to get his waste water license so he would have that when Greg Myers retires because he is the employee that has the only city water distribution license. Councilmember Salts thinks we shouldn't have 2 Superintendents over the same departments so there shouldn't have been a new position created for Director of Utilities. Councilmember Sare stood up for Tyler Nolan and said he was the only one that would take the position. Councilmember Salts and Sare had a discussion on the matter with no resolution. The Council agreed on a few changes and will present ordinance 2023-3 at the May 15, 2023 Council meeting for a vote.

Meeting Adjourned.




Clerk-Treasurer