

Covington City Council
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932

January 8, 2024

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers: Copenhaver, Martin, Easter, Smith, Randles, Attorney Powell.

In Attendance from the public: Nancy Wallace, Margo Lewis, Marlea Crain, Carol Owens

Mayor Crain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes from December 4, 2023 Council meeting and Board of works and December 18, 2023 Board of works were approved.

Mayor Crain made his appointments for 2024.

Mayor Pro-Temp: Justin Martin

Board of Works: Randy Randles, Kathy Easter, Mayor Crain

Collector of Utilities: Linda Knecht

Meter Reader: Matt Keele

Electric Supt (Acting): Gene Fye

Street, Sewer, & Water Distribution Supt: K.C. Smith

Water Pumping & Wastewater Supt: Greg Myers

Chief of Police: Shannon Foster

Fire Chief: Garth Kagels

Animal Control officer: Kedric Sowers

City Attorney: Taylor Powell

Zoning Administrator: Jerry Crain

Council Liaisons:

Electric Department: Paula Copenhaver

Street Department: Randy Randles

Water & Wastewater Department: Justin Martin

Police & Fire Departments: Brad Smith

Park & Recreation: Kathy Easter

The City has received 1 bid to tear down the Jail where the City will build a new Street and Electric Garage. The bid was received from Burke Excavating with project to begin February 2024 being completed by March 31, 2024 at a cost of \$58,000.00. Councilmember Smith asked about any hazardous waste remaining in the building? Mayor Crain advised the old Jail doesn't contain any, Councilmember Copenhaver asked about any under ground tanks and Mayor Crain advised they have already been removed. The contract does state the City will be responsible for the concrete/brick drop/disposal fees. Cost of other disposables, like steel, glass etc, will be

covered by Burke Excavating. Councilmember Smith made the motion to go ahead and accept the bid Councilmember Martin 2nd Motion carried 5-0.

Supt. KC Smith said his department is ready for the snow and all trucks are prepared.

Supt. Greg Myers asked about the bidding process for the wastewater project? Mayor Crain stated we have bought all the equipment and are now ready to put out the bids. We are still waiting on Baker Tilly to do a financial study since it's been 4 months, Mayor Crain told them to cancel the contract and we will find another study to see what we need to do to finance the project, without raising the rates too high. Mayor Crain will check into what our other options are to finance the project besides bonds. The goal is to have 1 company do the whole project.

Fire Chief Kagels stated the fire department had 230 plus runs for 2023, the new truck will be delivered by the end of February. The Fire department is still looking for people interested in being on the fire department. The fire department is updating the community room for the public to rent it hasn't been updated in many years.

Police Chief Foster announced that Hailey Aukerman has passed all testing to be a 1st class patrolman and her pay needs to be increased as of January 1, 2024. Chief Foster asked permission to get an estimate to insulate the police department so it is sound proof for interviews. Chief Foster gave a report for 2023 runs and traffic stops. Councilmember Smith made the motion to approve Hailey Aukerman pay increase Councilmember Copenhaver 2nd Motion carried 5-0.

Council Reports:

Randy Randles stated that he is happy to be on the council and do things the right way, he wants everyone to feel that he is approachable to ask questions about their concerns. He would like to see all the department heads at the meetings and is looking forward to the next 3 years.

Brad Smith asked about the status of drilling the new well, Mayor Crain said we have stopped on that issue for now. We are looking into boring under the river and we will just be tapping onto our current wells to run water into Covington instead of under the bridge where our water lines are now. This will be a 12" pipe at a cost of 250,000.00 to 300,000.00. Councilmember Smith asked about the annexation on River Road Attorney Powell is working on it and we are probably atleast 60 days out and have to have a public meeting. The Annexation has not begun on Peach Lane and will be discussed at a later date.

Councilmember Smith complained about the intersection of 3rd and Liberty and would like to have something done, he would like to have a Stop sign east bound on Liberty and 3rd. Attorney

Powell will work on an ordinance to add the stop sign at 3rd and Liberty heading east and have it ready for 1st reading at the February 5, 2024 Council meeting.

Kathy Easter Thanked everyone for voting her in and she is very excited about being on the council and serving the public. She said she hears a lot of people asking about having more rental properties in Covington.

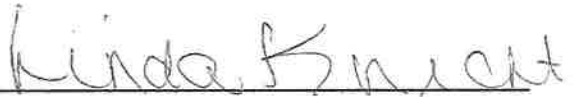
Paula Copenhaver said she is happy to be serving on the City Council and making the city very nice place to live and stay.

Mayor Crain stated he will have figures at the next meeting for the waste water treatment plant project.

Meeting adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

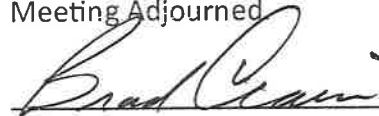
Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmember Easter, Randles

Councilmember Easter made the motion to transfer \$50,000.00 from Electric operating to Electric Depreciation for the purchase of a 2014 Ford 550 Chipper Truck. Mayor Crain 2nd Motion carried 3-0

Councilmember Randles made the motion to pay all claims Councilmember Easter 2nd Motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Easter made the motion to approve waste water adjustments for Eboni Haley, William Kovacic Mayor Crain 2nd motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932

January 22, 2024

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers Randles, Easter

Councilmember Randles made the motion to pay all claims Councilmember Easter 2nd motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Treasurer Knecht presented the Board of Works with a check that needs to be adjusted off the books as it is now over 2 years old and never cashed. Councilmember Easter made the motion to adjust the check off the books Councilmember Randles 2nd motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Knecht stated we need to transfer \$20,000 from Wastewater operating to Wastewater depreciation to cover payment on the blowers at the Waste Water Plant. Councilmember Randles made the motion to make the transfer Councilmember Easter 2nd motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer