

Covington City Council
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932
6:00 p.m.

August 4, 2025

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers: Copenhaver, Martin, Easter, Smith, Randles

Absent: Attorney Powell

Present from the public: Marlea Crain, Nancy Wallace, Margo Lewis, Carol Owens, Dale White

Minutes from July 7, 2025 Council meeting and Board of Works and July 21, 2025 Board of Works were approved.

Dale White was present to update the council on the additions to the Covington Circle Trail.

Dale stated they have received a lot of good comments on the new part of the trail and the top coat should be put on this week, the river does flood so suggests waiting until the river recedes to be on the new part of the trail it only happens an average of 5 to 7 times a year he explained not all of the new part of the trail is in the floodplain. Golf Carts are not allowed on the trail or anything motorized this is a condition of the grant that was received to partially fund the trail. Dale is asking for the Police department to monitor the golf carts, ATV's that are going on the new part of the trail new gravel will be brought into the parking lot by September.

Councilmember Smith asked about signage for the new trail and other parts of the trail for no motorized vehicles Dale stated the City could order signs but need DNR approval in the floodplain areas for signage. Councilmember Randles asked about monies budgeted for maintenance of the trail and Dale said money is available from the Foundation. Dale stated the Foundation will accept pre-bids August 27th for the abandoned railroad bridge work September 15th meeting at the bridge to look at the project and September 24th the bids are due, the work will have to be complete by May 2026. Dale handed out a packet on Wabash River Blue Way project for public access sites on the river and included Rent.Fun Kayak rental locker. The Foundation has purchased these rentals and it's a kiosk the fee is set at \$25.00 for 2 hours and will be placed along the river where public access is available they are looking at a location for a kiosk in Covington on the South side of Washington Street that is on a city easement where the blacktop meets the gravel before the boat dock. The Council is in support of everything the Foundation is doing to get the trail complete.

Fire Department Garth and Bart stated the concrete is ready to be poured on the pad just trying to find someone to pour for the training station it should be done by September. Garth said classes start in August then 2 more classes will be held after that, Garth stated we don't have

the numbers right now but Garth is working with the State on this issue. The fire department found a tanker to purchase from Lebanon IN and it will fit in the station it is built on a 2016 chassis with a new tank and pump the tanker is 3,000 gallons for \$229,000.00 it has 83,000 miles on it. Mayor Crain would like to know what our current 2007 tanker mileage is. Garth feels this is one of the better deals he has found and feels we need to move on it. The Mayor and Fire Department will go look at the tanker when everyone's schedule allows.

Supt. Myers reported the City Pool closed Sunday for the season and the school will use it for 2 weeks starting next week. IDEM has been here twice for water inspection and Waste Water inspection we have to address a few issues by August 21, 2025. Backflow prevention needs to be put in at waste water treatment plant and Greg has a quote for this. 9 or 10 properties in town need to have back flow preventer and tested once a year and filed with the City, Greg feels they have the back flows installed but have never had them tested the cost is on the owner and not the City. Water tower needs inspected it's been 5 years Pittsburg tower and paint will be here within 8 weeks. Number 3 well needs pedestal and casings painted and Marc Dewlen has been contacted for a price. Waste Water inspection went well but a letter of completion needs to be sent and filed. NPDS permit needs to be redone and Greg has the application and Mayor Crain will get it signed.

Chief Foster is asking permission to buy a new 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD for \$55,5090.00 from Heartland Ford and lighting and cage package from JTN Service, Inc. for \$6,980.80 this will replace the 2018 Explorer. Councilmember Copenhaver made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2026 Explorer and light package Councilmember Smith 2nd Motion carried 5-0.

Council Reports:

Councilmember Randles asked about open projects that still haven't been finished in the City Park and other areas of the town as he has been asked about by citizens a lot of the open projects are just waiting on companies to get back with us about when they can finish up. Mayor Crain has had multiple complaints on weeds at the City Park they say they are native plants but you can't see your kids playing on the playground and feel it's a danger. The Council feels that maybe all the native plants need to be cut back so they aren't so tall. A long discussion was held on what to do with the plants the Council will go down and check out the situation.

Councilmember Smith asked about the dirt issues that are in the City water, Supt. KC Smith stated a lot of the issues are in peoples own plumbing. Mayor Crain feels the water being

purchased at the water pump on the hill stirs the water up more this year because of the semi's hauling water to the solar farm site. KC stated the City will flush hydrants in September the date will be on the September Utility bills and on the City Website www.covingtonin.net. Mayor Crain said the City will start replacing old lines soon and will start on 2nd Street with fire hydrants checked during this time also.

Councilmember Martin asked about the intersection of 5th and Liberty Street because you can't see heading South to cross Liberty Street due to cars parked along Liberty Street. The Council agrees that something needs to be done and parking needs eliminated. Mayor Crain will get ahold of the State Highway Dept. and see what can be done. He also stated the State had reached out last week and may make the intersection at Liberty and 3rd a 4 way stop which is now a 3 way Stop.

Councilmember Copenhaver asked about writing grants for projects that the City has planned. She stated she has a friend that is a grant writer and would like to meet with department heads to see if some of the upcoming projects could be covered by grants. Mayor Crain is working with a grant writer that lives in Covington for an upcoming water project.

Mayor Crain said the City needs to condemn the properties at 514 Jefferson Street owned by Eric Barfell, land north of Electric department they don't mow and we need to find out who owns it, 110 Pearl Street owned by Deana Noble, and 509 Water Street owned by Crystal Cooper. Mayor Crain will get with City Attorney to get this into action and see what can be done.

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers Martin, Smith

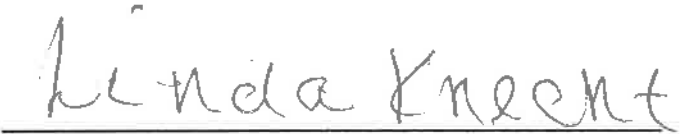
Councilmember Martin made the motion to pay all claims Councilmember Smith 2nd Motion carried 3-0

A request from Clerk-Treasurer Knecht to transfer \$65,000 from Water Operating to Water Depreciation for expenses on new water lines on Stringtown Road. Councilmember Martin made the motion Mayor Crain 2nd motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

August 18, 2025

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers: Martin, Smith

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

Clerk Treasurer Knecht presented the Board of Works with a waste water adjustment for Alexis Sloan Councilmember Martin made the motion to adjust the waste water Councilmember Smith 2nd Motion carried 3-0.

The City will be flushing hydrants Wednesday September 17th.

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer