

Covington City Council
329 Washington Street
Covington IN 47932
July 6, 2026
6:00 p.m.

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

Present from the public: Marlea Crain, Nancy Wallace, Carol Owens, Joe & Sandy Whitaker, Terry Martin, Yvonne Clem, Tom Land, Natalie Rice Keith Asbury, Sandee Frey, Gail Freeman, Debi Hole, Randy Ponder, Toni Ponder, Trent French, Emily French, Jon Schrock, Larry Schrock, Bert Roof, Chet Powell, Chelsea Paddock, Julie Powell, Scott Powell, Denise Dismore, Stephanie Bennett

Minutes from June 1, 2026 Council meeting and Board of Works and June 15, 2026 Board of Works meeting were approved.

Joe and Sandy Whitaker were present about Grubb Implement taking out the sidewalk on Liberty Street and putting gravel on the City easement, they are questioning why they were allowed to do this when it's a city right of way, they want the city sidewalk back on that side of Liberty Street. They questioned if he got permission? Councilmember Randles talked to Brandon Ricketts and he stated Mayor Crain gave him permission to tear out the sidewalk. The sidewalk in question is from 2nd to half way to 3rd on Liberty. Mayor Crain will talk to Brandon Ricketts about putting the sidewalks back in and give him a date to be finished by and Mayor Crain will let Whitakers know when this has to be finished.

Supt. KC Smith let the Council know Keaton Fye has turned in his 2 week notice, Supt Smith recommends Aaron Vickery be moved up to Class B status effective today July 6, 2026. Councilmember Smith made the motion Councilmember Copenhaver 2nd to increase Vickery pay. Motion carried 5-0.

Supt Myers said the flow testing needs to be done on the wells by National Water Services for \$2,250.00 this takes care of all 3 wells and all reports. Councilmember Copenhaver made the motion Councilmember Bolser 2nd Motion carried 5-0. USG water solutions did the water tower inspection and it needs repainted but not sandblasted just recoated Greg will get a quote in the next week and one from Pittsburg tanks also. Lab cabinets should be here July 12th. IDEM inspector will be on site tomorrow morning for annual inspection.

Fire Chief Kagels said the fire department just finished up a 7 day hot event at the City Park for the 4th of July Celebration and all went well. Garth stated 2 new fireman showing interest and

are starting to train with the department. The department is still looking into a tanker truck and hopefully be able to replace the rescue squad before too long.

Trent & Emily French were present about the quality of the You Tube Video of the Council meetings and what can be done about the sound quality as it is difficult to hear. Mayor Crain stated the City would need to invest in better quality equipment. Trent also asked about residents being notified of Boil Orders, Power Outages, etc, Mayor Crain stated the City tries to get it out on social media, and the city website www.covingtonin.net

Randy Ponder was questioning why he has air in his water lines? He stated this has been an issue for some time now. Supt. Smith will pull his meter tomorrow morning and check at the source. Supt. Smith will get the fire hydrants installed in the new subdivision off of River Road as soon as we receive them.

Councilmember Bolser said he is receiving complaints on houses in town not mowing and cleaning up their properties. A complaint form is on the city website (www.covingtonin.net) that can be filled out and submitted to the City Building.

Councilmember Copenhaver asked about sidewalks being tore out by the city and replaced at half the cost to the city and half the cost to the property owner. Mayor Crain feels we need to pass the new form where we tear out and pay ½ of the cost of replacing after the quote has been given. No further action was taken on this.

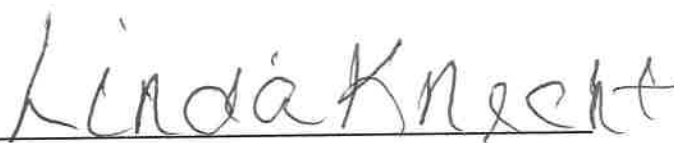
Randy Ponder asked about the legality of the annexation of his house he said his property taxes after being annexed into city have gone up. He feels they shouldn't pay full city taxes since he doesn't have all services, sidewalks, etc. he does receive Electric, Water, Wastewater, and trash collection in this area.

Stephanie Bennett asked if the annexation was approved by the current city council and the Council stated it was. Attorney Powell stated the ordinance was published in The Fountain County Neighbor after it was signed by the Council. Stephanie wants all advertisements, when the council approved the annexation, prior minutes, petition of who signed in favor of the annexation as she is questioning all the legalities. Stephanie stated she didn't want to be annexed into the City. Mayor Crain stated Mike Ahrens took the paper around for signatures of all in favor of being annexed into the City. Clerk-Treasurer Knecht will look into this tomorrow and have the paper work ready for people to view in a few days.

Meeting Adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

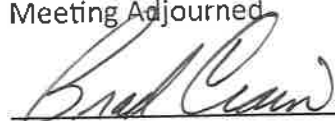
Board of Works

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmember: Copenhaver, Easter

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

Clerk-Treasurer Knecht presented a waste water adjustment Councilmember Easter made the motion to approve Councilmember Copenhaver 2nd Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer

Board of Works

July 20, 2026

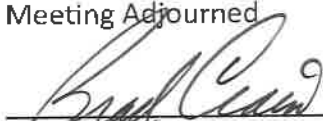
4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Crain, Councilmembers: Easter

Absent: Councilmember Copenhaver

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

Meeting Adjourned



Mayor



Clerk-Treasurer