

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2018

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. The Invocation was given by Rev. Doug Williams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilwoman Mary Ann Beirne, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Manager: Richard Douglas
City Attorney: Susan Waddell

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 10, 2018 as presented. No work session was held in July.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented an overview of revenues and expenditures. Police Chief Morgan presented an update on the soft billing and the transition to a new billing company. At this time, there is approximately \$199,000 to be billed. Mr. Bryant continued his report with an explanation of joint services costs, water fund and waste water fund. He expressed congratulations to the water plant staff for their efficiency. Mr. Bryant concluded with a cautionary note regarding the substantial, ongoing projects and the need to evaluate the money involved. Following the report, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the monthly financial report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to appoint Mayor Sibold to the CLEO Consortium Board with City Manager Douglas as alternate.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Upcoming meetings/events included: Work Session on Sept. 4 with public safety update by Police Chief Morgan; No work session for October due to VML Conference; Work Session Nov. 6th, minimum housing prioritization list update and dedication of City Park gazebo in memory of Councilman Zimmerman; At a date to be determined, a joint meeting with the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors regarding joint projects (drone zone feasibility study, comprehensive plan, industrial site assessment, etc.)
2. Congratulations to Keith Lipes and staff at the Covington Water Plant on winning second place in the 2018 water taste competition through the Virginia Rural Water Association
3. Chief Morgan has recognized Sergeant Heather Lane, Sergeant Chris Bowles, Officer Davey Smith and Covington Rescue Squad member Paula Smallwood with a lifesaving award for response to a citizen suffering a cardiac event.
4. Police Dept. has received positive feedback on their recent video as part of the law enforcement lip sync challenge and has been actively engaged in other community events.
5. Expressed appreciation to Public Works staff for the hours of hard work cleaning the Rivermont School property. The property was recently shown to a developer and can now be better marketed for redevelopment.

6. Staff has met with DEQ and continues to work on a Waste Water Treatment Plant consent order for construction of an equalization basin and a \$4.5 million grant/loan.
7. Meetings have been held regarding possible consolidation of E-911 dispatch operations.
8. Following completion of title search, four properties owned by Donald Wolfe on North Rockbridge have been transferred to the City.
9. Advertising has been prepared for bids for five drainage improvement projects.
10. Paving projects were noted that are anticipated for completion in the next few month.
11. VDOT has awarded Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding with 20% local match, for Maple Avenue Phase 2 construction. No funding was awarded for the Thacker Avenue sidewalk at Wal-Mart. A meeting will be held with VDOT on August 27th to discuss alternative funding options.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-07 regarding designation of TAP/BSCI as a Land Bank Entity within the City of Covington. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-08 regarding amending Chapter 20 Fire Prevention and Protection of the City Code to Establish the Emergency Medical Services Department and EMS Chief. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-09 regarding rezoning request of D.D. Kerns Company to rezone specific lots located at S. Maple Ave. and S. Lexington Ave. from R-3 to M-1. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Following discussion and explanation regarding safety and drainage issues, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-10 regarding amending the City Code Section 38-2 to prohibit the blowing of grass onto city streets and sidewalks and providing a civil penalty. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-11 amending the Solid Waste Fee Schedule Section 38-4 Peter's Mountain Landfill. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-34 regarding School Fund Grant in the amount of \$42,000. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-35 regarding Police Safety Program/VML Insurance Programs in the amount of \$4,000 and DMV Speed Grant in the amount of \$4,800. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve: (a) Contract for Peter's Mountain Landfill Project and (b) Appropriation Resolution R-18-36 in the amount of \$178,785. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Mayor Sibold expressed concerns regarding Appropriation Resolution R-18-37 as there was no final total listed for the re-appropriation of funds for previously approved projects. Each project and amount was listed separately on the document, but no final total was listed. Vice Mayor Crosier inquired about the Fire Program and EMS Grant. City Manager Douglas stated that there was no new money involved. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-37 re-appropriation of funds. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-38 regarding Waste Water Lift Station Project in the amount of \$706,107.85 (carry over funds). Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-39 regarding Water Improvement Project in the amount of \$154,963.51 (carry over funds). Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-40 regarding E-911 equipment in the amount of \$1,369,959.27 (carry over funds). Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Councilwoman Beirne, FOR; Councilman Hunter, FOR; Councilman Tucker, FOR.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hunter: Inquired about the number of resource officers for the City schools. Chief Morgan responded with information and explanation of current allocation of officers for the schools. Vice Mayor Crosier inquired about the possibility of metal detectors in the schools.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ron Leichter, on behalf of Kars Unlimited, expressed appreciation to Council and the Parks and Recreation Dept. for a successful 40th Street Scene. He noted they had a good attendance and great fireworks.

Clarence Hunter, a resident of Walnut Street, expressed concerns regarding health and safety issues with an apartment house on Walnut. He noted that there was a problem with cats, roaches, rats, and mice due to the condition of the property. The grass is also a problem. City Manager Douglas responded that staff will look into the property.

Virginia Nuckols, also a resident of Walnut Street, expressed her concerns regarding the apartment property. She has contacted the Health Department and feels the property needs to be torn down. It is currently in foreclosure.

Chad Thomas expressed appreciation for the paving projects in the City and at the High School. He inquired if additional paving could be done from the edge of the street pavement to the wall at Burton Field as this needs to be addressed.

Bert Seay addressed the Rayon Bridge regarding a weight limit. City Manager Douglas responded that as of this time, a weight limit has not been set. This bridge is inspected annually and this could change.

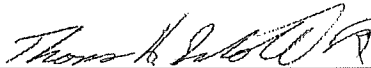
Josh Haynes inquired about a lot at the corner of Highland and Oak that has inoperable cars. He also noted a fence area near the river on Edgemont Drive that is falling down and needs addressed. He felt this is bad for visitors to the Jackson River Sports Complex.

Paula Smallwood expressed appreciation to all individuals who assisted with the recent lifesaving call. She felt that caring for the community is everyone working together.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A. 4 regarding economic development was held. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to move into closed session for the purpose as stated. Following the closed session, Council reconvened and voted to certify that only the item stated was discussed. No action taken at this time.

No further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.



THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AND AS SUCH,
EX-OFFICIO OFFICER OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON,
VIRGINIA

ATTEST:


EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK