

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2018

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The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, October 9, 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. Bill Gilliland 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: Mark Popovich

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the following Minutes as presented: Work Session of September 4, 2018; Regular Meeting of September 11, 2018 and Called Meeting of September 25, 2018.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented the monthly report. Following the report, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ingrid Barber, Executive Director, Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board, gave a presentation for the CIT Assessment Site Grant. The grant application is for \$373,625 and would aide Covington and Alleghany County police officers with the care and processing for those with mental health issues. This would be housed at the hospital. This grant application has been worked on for a couple years. Ms. Barber is requesting \$8,236 from the two localities; request is \$6,094 from Alleghany County and request is \$2,142 from the City of Covington. She will know in approximately 3 weeks if the grant is approved. The first payment would be due January 2019, which is in the current budget year. David Bryant mentioned that he could have the budget appropriation ready next month if this is approved.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve the Proclamation for "Extra Mile Day".

The appointment to the Covington Planning Commission, held by Wes Walker, has expired. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Josh Haynes to the Covington Planning Commission for new term of 4 years.

There was discussion on an appointment to LOA. These meetings are held in Roanoke. This item on the agenda was tabled.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Reminded Council of upcoming meetings/events.
2. Contractor has completed exterior inspection of five of six water tanks, interior inspection of two tanks scheduled, engineer developing plan to abandon High Acres tank, results/recommendations may be presented in November.

3. Mattern & Craig completed a bearing device repair on Rayon Bridge on October 5, cost \$10,000. This is not a long term fix. Engineering firm will begin application to VDOT for State of Good Repair funding for a long term fix.
4. Towing Advisory Committee will meet October 30.
5. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will meet October 11 to review draft plan.
6. Alleghany County included Covington in a regional housing study (at no cost to City). Mr. Douglas thanked the County for including the City. This study is to assess housing supply and demand issues, staff will be participating in consultant selection process October 11.
7. City/County/EDC staff will meet with County Attorney on October 31 to discuss industrial site selection report and possible revenue sharing agreement.
8. Covington EMS will begin paid staffing on October 15; staff is working with AMR on contract for as-needed response. The Rescue Squad will provide an important role in answering second/additional calls and maintain involvement in most aspects of the EMS operation.
9. An inoperable rescue boat stored at the fire house will be transferred to WestRock for their use.
10. Covington and Alleghany County continue to discuss a potential joint 911 dispatch center and are jointly advertising for shared 911/CAD records management software. The County is funding a feasibility study for space in the jail or City Hall that could be used for a joint 911 dispatch center.

#### ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

City Manager, Richard Douglas presented information regarding Resolution R-18-45 for new refuse truck. There was discussion that there was a new refuse truck purchased 2 years ago. There was consensus that the fleet needs to be purchased in this method and not several trucks purchased in one year which causes them all to need replacement again at the same time in the future. The financial report that was given in the meeting by Mr. Bryant confirmed that the solid waste portion fee on the utility bill covers payment for this truck.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve the Resolution R-18-45 for purchase of new refuse truck.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Crosier spoke to a citizen in his district that moved from Alleghany County to Covington and the DMV did not let the City know they had moved and now have a late fee of \$62.00 for personal property. There was discussion that individuals need to let the locality they live in know they have moved so that it can be recorded properly. The Commission of Revenue cannot issue a refund, the Council has to make this decision. Mr. Popovich mentioned that it is a decision that the Council can make. This will be placed on the November agenda.

Mr. Hunter noted that there are several lights out on Madison Avenue. Mr. Douglas will have Dominion Power re-notified. There are lights on Lee Avenue that go on and off in 15 minute intervals. Eric Tyree, Development Services for the City of Covington, mentioned that it's the amnion light that causes this. Another light out is on the 1900 block of Clark Avenue.

Vice Mayor Crosier mentioned that the Jackson Street committee members (CDBG) for the are continuing to ask for another community meeting. Mr. Douglas has asked the city engineering firm, CHA, to set this up and he will remind him again to get this set before cold weather.

Mr. Hunter asked about the location of the stop sign at Lexington & Oak. Mr. Douglas will check into this.

Mayor Sibold spoke about his attendance at the Mayors' conference and VML annual conference in Hampton, VA. The conference topics included: knowing your community; communication; honesty, sharing ideals, social media, team work and involving citizens. Mayor Sibold stated that the conference was a very informative event.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Darrell Crawford spoke about the \$25,000 matching grant for a boat ramp at the Sport Complex, he mentioned there is a ramp nearby and a plan for a bridge to go from the Complex to Walmart. He stated that the money could be used for streets and other projects that are needed. He asked when is the reassessment to begin because that may bring in more funds. Mr. Douglas stated that the reassessment footwork has begun.

Mr. Crawford also noticed a truck with grind from the streets going somewhere other than to City property. He thought that the milling, from City streets to do paving, was to be kept by the City. Mr. Douglas will check, he stated that it may have been going there for storage only.

Mr. Josh Haynes mentioned a fence that has been hit and is almost down on Rayon Drive. It hasn't been maintained and grass is growing tall, he is concerned that it will cause snakes there where people walk dogs.


Vice Mayor Crosier mentioned that a neighbor near Cherry Street and Oak feeds cats and she says they are not her cats. Mr. Douglas noted that there is a limit of cats that the Humane Society can take. There was discussion of trapping the cats and having them fixed. There is cost to this process. Mr. Douglas will have the animal control officer check into this.

CLOSED SESSION

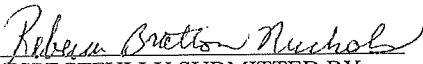
Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to move into closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) regarding real property.

Following the closed session, Council reconvened and voted to certify that only the item stated was discussed.

No action taken at this time.

  
THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY  
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS  
SUBSTITUTE CITY CLERK