

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in 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.. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker. Councilwoman Mary Ann Beirne was absent.

City Manager: Richard Douglas
City Attorney: Mark Popovich

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Work Session of November 6, 2018 and Regular Meeting of November 13, 2018.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented the monthly financial report. He noted an increase in soft billing revenue and explained expenditures for public safety and infrastructure improvements. A called meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 for the presentation of the Annual Audit Report and to consider acceptance of the report. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the monthly financial report. Motion carried by aye vote of Council.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Mr. James Moore III of the Virginia Department of Health, presented the 50 Year Flouridation Award to the City of Covington. He read the award letter in its entirety and expressed congratulations to the community for this achievement. Keith Lipps, Supervisor of the Water Treatment Plant, and staff were present to receive this award.

Allen Dressler, Director of Parks and Public Works, presented the City the Game Time Award in recognition of the Jeter- Watson Playground. He expressed appreciation to Council for the financial support. He also thanked the staff for preparations for the Holiday Season and all of the hard work during the 20 inches of snow event.

Marla Akridge, Executive Director of the Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation, was unable to attend regarding a Drone Zone ARC Grant #2 and review of the Feasibility Study. City Manager Douglas presented information regarding this grant. He recommended Council authorize the EDC Director to apply for a \$250,000 grant to provide for Drone Zone construction costs and the commitment of \$200,000 in City Funds and \$50,000 in-kind commitment as the local match. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the application for the Drone Zone Grant as stated. Motion carried 3 to 0. Councilwoman Beirne absent. Vice Mayor Crosier delayed.

City Manager Douglas presented information regarding reorganizational changes at the Peter's Mountain Landfill which would include a new position of Operation Superintendent and salary adjustment in the amount of \$10,904.23. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the reorganization of staff at the Peter's Mountain Landfill with salary adjustment in the amount of \$10,904.23. Motion carried 3 to 0. Councilwoman Beirne absent. Vice Mayor Crosier, delayed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted 3 to 0 to approve the Minimum Housing List. Ms. Beirne absent; Vice Mayor Crosier delayed.

Discussion was held regarding the credit card processing contract. Mr. Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, requested that an account card acceptance policy be put in place with a maximum amount to be accepted for payment of utility bills and other fees. Mr. Hunter expressed concern regarding the cost to the city of approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year to offer this service. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to award the credit card processing contract to Open Edge Payment and Global Payment Direct. Motion carried 4 to 0. Ms. Beirne absent.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to appoint Mr. Bob McCallister to the Community Services Board to fill the unexpired term of Robin Mieras.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to appoint Councilman Hunter to the Local Office on Aging Advisory Council.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Upcoming meetings and events include: (1) Tuesday, Dec. 18th at 6:30 p.m. called meeting to receive the annual audit; (2) Friday, Dec. 21st at 12:00 noon, the staff and Council Christmas luncheon; (3) Tues, Jan. 1, 2019 work session cancelled; (4) Budget meetings with staff and budget session with Alleghany County Board of Supervisors to be determined.
2. Roadway closure for the "Bluff Project" will occur in March 2019.
3. Mattern & Craig recommendation regarding application to VDOT for the FY 2020 Bridge Program rehabilitation of the Rayon Bridge. The engineer is optimistic that the City is in a favorable position to receive grant funding. By consensus, Council agreed to commit up to \$350,000 for engineering costs for the Rayon Bridge replacement if grant funding is awarded.
4. CHA has submitted an application to VDOT for the FY 2020 Paving Program for the remainder of Alleghany Ave. and Thacker Avenue walkway. Bidding of construction of Maple Ave. Phase 2 in the next few months.
5. Advertisement will be made for health insurance services in January.
6. A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled for the Jackson Street CDBG project in late January as part of the CDBG application process.
7. Noted possible agenda items for January Council meeting.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-12 regarding revision of City Code Section 8-3 to eliminate the renewal requirement for Special Use Permits. Motion carried 4 to 0. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For. Ms. Beirne absent.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, To approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-18-13 regarding revision of City Code Appendix B, Zoning, Light Industry (M-1) Sec. 7, to change the setback regulations by reducing it to 25 feet. Motion carried 4 to 0. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For. Councilwoman Beirne absent.

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NEW BUSINESS

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Mr. Hunter noted pot holes that need repaired.

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Mayor Sibold expressed appreciation to the Public Works Dept. for the great job they are doing.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS

Josh Haynes inquired about the status of the fence on Edgemont Drive that needs repaired. He also inquired about preventing smoking at City events, outdoor concerts, parades, etc. City Attorney Popovich presented options to address this issue.

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CLOSED SESSION

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A closed session was held pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) regarding real property/real estate. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, 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 further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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



EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK

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