

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 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 Hollenbeck followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker. Councilman Claiborne "C.J." Entsminger, Jr. was absent.

Interim City Manager: Clay Goodman
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: Called Meeting of May 21, 2019; Called Meeting of June 4, 2019; Work Session of June 4, 2019; Regular Meeting of June 11, 2019 and Called Meeting of June 25, 2019.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented his report which included the year-to-date financial figures and noted the increase in soft billing revenue. He expressed appreciation to Dwayne Paxton and staff for the efficiency in the soft billing process. Other items included the utility tax, delinquent real estate taxes and an increase in electricity cost to the City. Mr. Bryant noted no major concerns at this time.

At this time, upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 4 to 0, to add to the agenda: (1) Approval of June checks and (2) Closed Session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A. 1 for the purpose of discussion regarding Council appointed personnel and Sec. 2.2-3711 A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters related to criminal allegations.

APPROVAL OF JUNE CHECKS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve the June checks. Mr. Entsminger absent.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Kim Byrd of the Redevelopment and Housing Authority, presented information regarding the Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the City of Covington. She addressed Council and was prepared to answer questions and concerns.

At this time, Interim Police Chief Chris Smith, introduced Officer Jesse Campbell and Officer Justin Fitzgerald, the two new Police Officers for the City of Covington. He presented a brief background on each Officer. The Officers were given the Oath of Office by the City Clerk. Council and the citizens welcomed them and expressed appreciation for their service.

Wanda Moore, representing HOPE, was present regarding the HOPE Performance Contract. City Manager Goodman noted that this allows HOPE to pursue funding sources for proposed use of the property. HOPE is working toward a possible housing project. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the HOPE Performance Contract. Motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Entsminger absent.

Discussion was held regarding the request by Allen Dressler, Director of Parks and Public Works, to apply for a DCR Trail Grant opportunity. This grant would be approximately \$150,000 with a match of \$30,000 from the City. Mr. Goodman reported that the City could provide the matching \$30,000 recommending approval for application of this grant. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded Mr. Tucker, to authorize Mr. Dressler to move forward with the DCR Funding Grant application. Motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Entsminger absent.

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Discussion was held regarding moving forward with the process for disposal of City owned property at auction and to conduct public meetings to receive input regarding the sale of the Nettleton property and the old Rivermont School building property. Mr. Goodman presented steps for this process. First would be a public meeting for citizen input regarding the Nettleton and the old Rivermont School properties. This format would be similar to the VDOT meeting for public input. Possible dates: Monday, July 29, Tuesday, July 30 or Wednesday, July 31st. A Public Hearing regarding the sale of City owned properties would be held at the regular meeting of Council on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Mr. Goodman further explained the potential for commercial/industrial use of the Nettleton property, job potential and the need for housing and commercial development. He also emphasized the importance of keeping the citizens informed and involved in the decisions regarding these properties. By consensus, Council approved moving forward with this process.

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Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to appoint Joyce Persinger to the Social Services Board.

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Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council referred the TAP Board appointment to the regular meeting in August.

No

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to appoint Stephanie Clark to the Ninth District Development Financing Board.

No

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to appoint Mayor Sibold and Vice Mayor Crosier to the Joint Services Committee. This committee includes Covington City Manager, County Administrator, two representatives of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Kevin Hall. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alleghany County Governmental Complex. The purpose of this committee is to initiate discussions regarding: (1) Funding for Sheriff Law Enforcement and Level of Service required by the City of Covington; (2) Regional Jail Funding; and (3) Reconciliation of Past Due Billings for Joint Services.

AT



REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Discussion was held regarding the Christmas Holiday for the City employees. A survey with the following options was given to employees: (1) Keep the calendar the same closing Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th; (2) Add Thursday December 26th taking additional day if Columbus day worked; (3) Work Columbus Day. Results indicated that the majority of employees were in favor of adding Thursday, December 26th and working Columbus Day. This will be on the August agenda for Council decision.

2. Requested Council add to the agenda, approval of Resolution R-19-48 authorizing the City Manager to sign agreement regarding North Peak Tower Access Road subject to agreement of parties and approval by City Attorney. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 4 to 0 to add to the agenda, approval of Resolution R-19-48.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-19-05 regarding the Utility Deposit Program. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Mr. Hunter, FOR; Mr. Tucker, FOR. Mr. Entsminger absent.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve Resolution R-19-48 regarding authorization of the City Manager to sign the North Peak Tower Access Road Agreement subject to agreement of parties and approval of the City Attorney. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Mr. Hunter, FOR; Mr. Tucker, FOR. Mr. Entsminger absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hunter expressed concerns regarding grass situations that need addressed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Bernie Moncrief expressed concerns regarding people walking their dogs and not cleaning up after them. This has become an ongoing problem in his neighborhood and on the property of the Church.

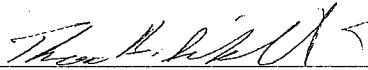
CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to move into closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 for the purpose of discussion regarding Council appointed personnel and Sec. 2.2-3711 A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific matters related to criminal allegations.

Following the closed session, Council reconvened and voted 4 to 0 to certify that only the items stated were discussed. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Mr. Hunter, FOR; and Mr. Tucker, FOR. Mr. Entsminger absent.

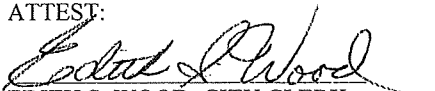
No action taken at this time.

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