

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 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. The Invocation was given by Rev. Steve Noel followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilwoman Stephanie R. Clark and Councilman William B. Zimmerman, Jr. Councilman S. Allan Tucker Absent.

City Manager: Richard Douglas
City Attorney: Theresa Fontana

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Work Session of March 1, 2016 and Regular Meeting of March 8, 2016.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held regarding tax exempt status for Safehomes, a non-profit organization. Tammy Mann, representing Safehomes, spoke on behalf of the tax exemption request. She noted the valuable service provided to families in crisis and the need to utilize funding for the families. No further comments were heard from the citizens present.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Derrick Mays of the Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services, presented information regarding accreditation by the Virginia Law Enforcement Commission for the Police Dept. He noted that this process was beneficial to limit potential liability, enhance professionalism, allow for more transparency and have policies in place to show professionalism to the community. He explained the process and the length of time required for completion. This was usually 18 months but the process allowed up to 36 months.

At this time, Police Chief J. B. Broughman introduced 6 officers who have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant: Sergeant Debbie Clark with 14 years of experience; Sergeant Chris Bowles with 12 years of experience; Detective Sergeant Juan Roldan with 8 years with the Covington Police Dept.; Sergeant Heather Lane with 7 years of experience; Sergeant Charles Burger with 9 years of experience in law enforcement; and Sergeant Richard Baker with 8 years of experience. Chief Broughman shared information regarding training, experience and responsibilities of each Officer. Council congratulated each Officer and thanked them for their service.

Dwayne Paxton and Ryan Muterspaugh spoke to Council regarding Emergency Medical Services in the area. They expressed concerns regarding the need to assist local volunteers with call response and personnel. Volunteers have to meet high standards for patient care and with training time and call response time, they are in need of help as the volunteers also have jobs that can be difficult to leave. They discussed three possible options and are looking to the local governing bodies for assistance. Council was very aware of this need and expressed a desire to obtain information necessary to proceed and make best decisions.

Discussion was held regarding approval of funding for Interstate "Attraction Sign" contract for promotion of tourism. No action was necessary at this time.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the right of way easement for the soccer field at the Jackson River Sports Complex. Motion carried 4 to 0.

City Manager Douglas presented information regarding the change to the procurement policy. This would allow Department Heads to authorize up to \$2,500 for purchase. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the change to the procurement policy for Department Heads purchases up to \$2,500. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mrs. Clark, to approve Resolution R-16-13 regarding the 2016 Personal Property Discount. Motion carried 4 to 0.

City Manager Douglas and Director of Central Accounting David Bryant, presented the draft Budget for 2016/2017. Mr. Douglas explained he wanted to continue to build the fund balance and noted the need to do an independent salary study for the City and begin analysis for the landfill as this will be a major decision.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted to appoint Mr. Milton Helton to the TAP Board of Directors.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, Council voted to appoint Mr. Richard Douglas, City Manager, to the Roanoke Valley, Alleghany Regional Commission.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Douglas expressed his appreciation to Council and staff for the warm welcome and support of Council. He will be meeting with city employees, looking at facilities and working on budget.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-16-01 regarding rezoning request by Eddie Clemons to rezone 229 E. Chestnut St. from R-3 to C-3 to allow parking for customers and company owned vehicles waiting for repair.

Upon a motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-16-02 regarding rezoning request by Gerald Franson to rezone 175 N. Maple Ave. from C-1 to C-2 for retail and a restaurant.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mrs. Clark, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-16-03 regarding tax exempt status for Jackson River Enterprises, a non-profit organization.

Upon a motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-16-04 regarding tax exempt status for Safehomes, a non-profit organization.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-16-10 regarding changes for fixed personnel costs regarding the new city manager in the amount of \$24,630.

No action was required regarding Resolution R-16-11 VRS Employer Contribution Alternate Rate Election. The City will be using the standard rate.

On a motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted to add to the agenda, Resolution R-16-12 regarding IDA Bonds.

Following discussion and explanation, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve Resolution R-16-12 regarding IDA Bonds. Motion carried 4 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Clark: (1) Inquired about paving on Alleghany and Cherry St. There is a hole that needs addressed; (2) Inquired about a possible crosswalk for the safety of employees crossing the four lane to get to their cars.

Mr. Zimmerman: Lights out on the bridge at Wendy's need to be addressed.

Vice Mayor Crosier: Expressed the need to make plans and decisions to assist the EMS situation in the area. He noted that this is a safety and liability issue.

Mayor Sibold: (1) Inquired about the paving schedule and the need to have pot holes repaired on Edgemont Drive and Mallow Road; (2) Noted the upcoming cleanup projects; (3) Referred to a letter received regarding possible recreation area behind the old Jeter Watson School.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Resident expressed concerns regarding trash along Edgemont Drive and concerns regarding tractor trailer traffic on Edgemont Dr. He noted this traffic is a safety issue.

Ms. Jones presented information regarding the upcoming Olde Town Covington project "Paint the Town". She asked for volunteers and noted the local companies assisting with the paint.

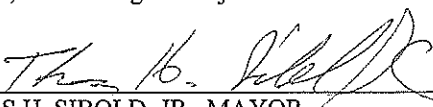
Jimmy Crawford, former Mayor, welcomed Mr. Douglas as the new city manager. He expressed concerns regarding the wooden sidewalk at Wal-Mart and the issue of parking cars on Edgemont Drive.

Allen Dressler, Director of Parks and Recreation, informed Council that Saturday is Youth Tournament Softball Opening Day. He has 44 teams coming to the area.

Harrison Scott, former Mayor, expressed concerns regarding the situation and needs of the local rescue squads.

Nicole Rickett expressed her concerns regarding the situation with the local EMS. She noted the need for communication and assistance.

No further business to come before the 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