MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 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. Pete Moore followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

City Manager: Richard Douglas
Attorney: Mike Lockaby

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Work Session of April 5, 2016; Regular Meeting of April 12, 2016; Called Meeting of April 19, 2016 and Recessed Meeting of April 26, 2016.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing was held to receive nominations for 2 appointments to the Covington City School Board. The following individuals were nominated for appointment to the School Board: (1) Tammy Scruggs-Duncan; (2) Eddie Clemons; (3) Betty Graves; and (4) Bert Baker. Interviews will be held at the June work session.

A Public Hearing was held regarding the request by Frank Haynes for renewal of a Special Use Permit to board 1 horse and 1 cow on property located at 2563 and 2529 Holloway Drive. There were no comments from the citizens present. The Public Hearing was closed. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mrs. Clark, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve renewal of the Special Use Permit for Mr. Frank Haynes as stated.

A Public Hearing was held regarding the request by Delbert Smith for renewal of a Special Use Permit to operate a business for the purpose of selling produce in an accessory building located at 562 Madison Avenue. There were no comments from the citizens present. The Public Hearing was closed. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve renewal of the Special Use Permit for Mr. Delbert Smith as stated.

A Public Hearing was held regarding the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget. There were no comments from the citizens present. The Public Hearing was closed.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ingrid Barber, Executive Director of the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board, and Ed Stein, Commonwealth Attorney, presented information regarding the Jail Services Committee. It was noted that 40% of the inmates have a problem with substance abuse. Mental health issues also need to be addressed. Discussion was held regarding budget needs for additional programs and staffing.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Working with VDOT to identify ownership of lights on the bridge on Durant Road so lighting can be restored.

2. Options are being researched regarding EMS services. The Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Manager met with the Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad Captain and City Manager are reviewing the Buena Vista model as well as other options.

3. Bid award for the Maple Street Streetscape Project is due June 7th.

4. CHA Engineering Firm is putting together a list of immediate needs for the water plant. At this time an estimate of $130,000 is needed for necessary capital improvements.

5. Met with the Superintendent and Chairman of the Covington School Board regarding fixing the roof at CHS at a cost of $750,000. A bond loan could be obtained at 0% interest with the City providing 10%.

6. Mr. Douglas congratulated Mr. John Lanford on his position as Administrator of Alleghany County.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve, on second reading, tax exempt status for Safehomes, a non-profit organization.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Resolution R-16-14 regarding exemption of vendor fees for the "Cork and Pork" Festival.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mrs. Clark, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Resolution R-16-15 regarding exemption of vendor fees for "Street Scene" Car Show.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-16-16 regarding paving on Rugby Ave. in the amount of $23,145.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Clark: Expressed views regarding an elected School Board. She stated that making appointments to the School Board is a difficult job an felt there is a need for elected School Board members. Vice Mayor Crosier also expressed agreement with an elected School Board.

Mr. Tucker: Agreed with the elected School Board process noting that this would provide a way for individuals who wanted to be on the School Board. He felt election of School Board members was a good idea.

Mr. Zimmerman: (1) Noted new trees on Alleghany Avenue; (2) Directional signs for I 64 need replaced as they are unreadable; (3) Expressed appreciation for the new flag at City Hall; (4) Inquired about the flower baskets in the Downtown area; (5) Wanted to express congratulations to new businesses; and (6) Inquired about relocation of "Little Caesars Pizza".

Vice Mayor Crosier: (1) Noted lights on Edgemont Drive and Lewis Street need addressed; (2) Trash along the bluff at Durant Road and Jackson Street needs addressed.

Mayor Sibold: No items at this time.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ron Leichter expressed concerns regarding trash along Edgemont Drive, truck traffic and safety issues and the need to repair pot holes that are really bad.

Betty Graves discussed need for use of Jeter Watson Field and what the community could do to assist. She also expressed concerns regarding paving needs on Alleghany Ave. and Cherry Street.

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