

**MEETING MINUTES
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A REZONE REQUEST
AND WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY, 01, 2025**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Joint Public Hearing with the City of Covington's Planning Commission on **Tuesday, July 01, 2025**, at **6 PM** in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 West Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Vice Mayor Fred Forbes called the meeting to order. Vice Mayor Forbes asked City Clerk Amber Nicely to show all council members in attendance with the exception of Mayor William E Carson, Jr.

Council members in attendance were Vice Mayor Forbes; Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder; and Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe. Also in attendance was City Manager Allen Dressler, City Attorney Mark Popovich and Director of Finance David Bryant. Mayor Carson was not present.

Vice Mayor Forbes opened the Public Hearing and handed the meeting over to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission then took attendance. The members present were Mr. C.W. Smith, Mr. Gene Mundy, Mr. Wayne Lamb, and Mr. John Crowder. Also in attendance was Eric Tyree, the Building Official for the City of Covington.

The joint public hearing was held to consider the rezoning request for two lots located on Locust Street, specifically tax map Section 11, Block A, Lots 8 and 9, commonly referred to as 201 W. Locust St. Mr. Tyree informed the Planning Commission and Council that the applicant withdrew their rezoning request at 3:48 PM on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. As a result, a public hearing was no longer necessary. The Planning Commission adjourned its portion of the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Vice Mayor Forbes motioned for the City Council to take a break until 6:30 PM to reconvene for their work session meeting. Councilwoman Crowder, Councilman Hunter, and Councilwoman Wolfe all voted in favor with an "aye."

The Covington City Council called their work session meeting to order at **6:30 PM** on **Tuesday, July 01, 2025**, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The council approved the agenda for tonight's meeting with no additions or corrections. Agenda was approved via "aye" votes from Vice Mayor Forbes, Councilwoman Crowder, Councilman Hunter, and Councilwoman Wolfe.

Vice Mayor Forbes turned the meeting over to Mr. Dressler, who presented his City Manager's report to the Council.

Mr. Dressler began his report by expressing appreciation for the Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, Ms. Rebecca Nuckols, who plays a vital role in keeping the City and the City Manager organized.

He also thanked the Central Accounting and Finance team for their hard work and dedication in creating the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year budget.

Mr. Dressler recently attended the Virginia City Manager's Association conference, where he was approached by other Virginia local government leaders who complimented the City of Covington. He noted that local governments across Virginia are facing similar challenges, including issues related to water, sewer, and trash services, as well as how to fund these necessities for citizens.

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The new field house at Cougar Stadium is complete, and tours of the facility have been given to members of the Covington City Council, the Alleghany Foundation, and media representatives.

A local intergovernmental meeting was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, with the Town of Clifton Forge, the City of Covington, the Town of Iron Gate, and the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors. This meeting provided an opportunity for the localities to discuss the challenges they face.

The Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce will install four electric vehicle chargers throughout the City of Covington. The City is currently awaiting the installation, and the two known locations are the Riverside parking lot beside the Alleghany Highlands Public Library and on Main Street near the Farmer's Market.

The City is also exploring solar power options for the greenhouse available to Alleghany Highlands middle school students. A study has been conducted, and in collaboration with the Alleghany Foundation, the City is hopeful about having solar power installed. This initiative aims to educate school-aged children about solar power technology.

Renovations are underway at Casey Field beneath the Boodie Albert Stadium, where the officials' area and part of the men's restroom have been cleaned out and gutted. The renovations will provide new public men's and women's restrooms, with an anticipated completion date of September 1, 2025. Future plans include a new officials' room, new visitors' room, and updates to the current ladies' locker room.

The Public Works office on Maple Avenue has new windows and a new rock foundation, improving the area significantly.

The new mini golf course at the Jackson River Sports Complex is nearing completion, with the walking trail and playground finished. Lights have also been installed around the mini golf course, adding to the appeal of the area.

The lights on Field E are currently being replaced. Funding for this project came from leftover school money to benefit the athletes using Field E.

Construction continues on the Mid City Mall parking lot, where Columbia Gas is on-site working on their portion of the project. The sewer is installed and operational, and a large drainpipe has been installed to manage water runoff from business roofs during rainfall. Recently heavy rain has allowed the new system to be tested, leading to improvements where necessary. Once Columbia Gas completes their portion, new stone and sidewalks will be installed.

On Thursday, July 3, 2025, the Town of Clifton Forge will hold fireworks and activities.

On Friday, July 4, 2025, there will be music, fireworks, bounce houses, and vendors at the Jackson River Sports Complex.

Mr. Dressler concluded his report.

No old business for Council to discuss.

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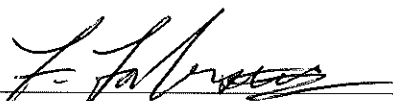
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ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Forbes requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Hunter motioned to adjourn with a second motion from Councilwoman Wolfe. Followed up with an all in favor vote of "aye" by the Council.

With no further business coming before the Council, the City Council work session for July 01, 2025, was adjourned.



FRED F. FORBES III, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
AMBER N. NICELY, CITY CLERK