

August 8, 2023

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 8, 2023**

The Council for the City of Covington held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Mayor Thomas Sibold, Jr. called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mayor Sibold; Vice Mayor David S. Crosier; Councilman William (Lance) Carson, Jr.; Councilman Fred F. Forbes, III; and Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Also present were Covington City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

There was a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

**Citizen Comments**

Mr. Charles Anderson, 423 West Locust Street, thanked Mr. Dressler for checking the lights on his street and stated that there were more people walking on the street now since the lights were fixed. He went on to say that more services were needed in the area for individuals with autism and families of individuals with autism. He said he would stay on top of City Council until the issue was addressed, or he would start writing letters to other sources. Mr. Dressler asked Mr. Anderson to get him a contact and the city would work on the issue.

Mrs. Vicky Anderson, 423 West Locust Street, said that autism was the most misunderstood disability, and there was no help here. She stated that parents needed to know where they can go for help.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held regarding a grant for a non-exclusive franchise license to Shentel Cable. Mayor Sibold closed the Public Hearing due to no one being for or against the license.

Mr. Carson advised he was against the agreement due to the length, which is 15 years. He said more companies were needed to choose from.

**Special Presentation**

Dwaine Paxton received the Benny Summerlin Award for his many years of service in the Department of Public Safety. Dwaine had taken a paid position with the Covington Rescue Squad and was doing a wonderful job. Steve Simon, Executive Director of Western Virginia EMS stated that the EMS Council was established in 1975 and provided localities with services regarding rescue and first aid. He said that Mr. Paxton was a strong leader within the organization and within the city. Mr. Summerlin was a strong advocate of EMS Council. Mr. Paxton held two jobs in local government, emergency medical services and a retired sheriff's deputy. Mr. Smith and Mr. Simon presented Mr. Paxton with the award.

**Approval of Minutes**

August 8, 2023

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on July 11, 2023 with a second from Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

#### Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler met with Landmark Developers on Friday at the old Rivermont School building. One million seventy five thousand dollars has been awarded for the project at the school.

Maple Avenue, from the library to the cabana has been completed with the rest to be completed by tomorrow.

There is a scrimmage at Casey Field/Boodie Albert Stadium this Friday. The first home game is on August 25<sup>th</sup>. New signs are up and the parking lot has been improved.

The city, along with Alcova will have a bonfire, music, pizza, and a band to celebrate the kick-off in the parking lot beside the field on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dressler hopes to go to bid on the pocket park as early as next week.

He met with Tom Barkin, who was impressed with the City of Covington, Virginia.

National Night Out went great. Mr. Dressler thanked Chief Smith for his involvement. He said everyone seemed to have a great time.

Mr. Dressler complimented Terri McClung and Good News Fellowship Church on the breakfast they held for community leaders.

The sidewalk at the Hawthorne Street Bridge has been fixed.

The water at the water treatment plant is fine. The city is working on recruiting another licensed employee for the plant.

There were close to 20,000 attendees at the Relay for Life held this past weekend.

Streetscene is being held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, with a cruise-in Friday night at the sports complex.

Mr. Dressler went on to honor his friend and coworker, J.B. Broughman. He stated that Mr. Broughman was a fine friend to this community.

Mayor Sibold inquired as to how many units there would be at the old Rivermont location. Mr. Dressler was unsure and stated that there some drainage issues that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Sibold thanked Mr. Dressler for his effort on Maple Avenue. Mr. Dressler advised we have very talented local contractors in the city.

#### VJCCA Grant Application

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Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the VJCCA Grant application with a second from Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve Resolution R-23-22 regarding reappropriation of funds, seconded by Mr. Hunter. The votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve Resolution R-23-23 regarding opioid settlement funds for the city, seconded by Mr. Hunter. The votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve Ordinance O-23-07 regarding a non-exclusive franchise to Shenandoah Cable (Shentel), seconded by Mr. Hunter. The votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, against; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, against.

Mr. Crosier read a resolution of respect for Joseph (J.B.) Bertrand Broughman, Jr.

Mayor Sibold read a resolution of respect for James William Tingler, Jr.

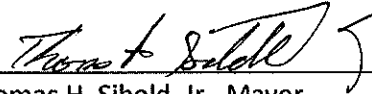
Mr. Crosier moved to approve both resolutions. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

There was no new business to come before Council.


Mayor Sibold moved to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 3711 (A)(3) of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) for the purpose of discussing real estate owned by the City of Covington.

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

  
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Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk