

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 13, 2023**

The Council for the City of Covington held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 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. with the following members present: Mayor Sibold; Vice Mayor David S. Crosier; Councilman William E. Carson, Jr.; Councilman Fred F. Forbes; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Also present were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

The invocation was given by Pastor Doug Hollenbeck followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Appointments

Council voted on an appointment to the Economic Development Corporation. The individuals running were Eunice Clark and Kathy Cucci. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, Kathy Cucci; Mr. Forbes, Kathy Cucci, Mr. Hunter, Eunice Clark; Vice Mayor Crosier, Kathy Cucci; Mayor Sibold, Kathy Cucci. There were four votes for Mrs. Cucci and one vote for Mrs. Clark.

Mayor Sibold requested to table an appointment to the Ninth District Development Financing Board of Directors until next month.

Council recommended three people to the Board of Equalization including Katherine "Kathy" Lytle, Robert K. Bennett, II, and Richard W. Fuhrman. This will go to the judge for approval.

Commissioner of Revenue Cathy Kimberlin advised Pearson's Appraisal has finished speaking with citizens and will turn the final book over on June 30th, 2023.

She requested the pay rate for the new members of the Board of Equalization be set at 15 dollars hourly due to the increased minimum wage. Mr. Crosier motioned to approve this amount with a second from Mr. Forbes. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

The following minutes were approved by Council on a motion from Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter and the rest of Council with "aye" votes:

May 2, 2023-Work Session
May 9, 2023
May 16, 2023-Called Meeting/Budget

City Manager's Report

Employee Recognition

Mr. Dressler recognizes city employees Michal Mines and Gisela Roldan. Mike is the Building Official and Zoning Official as well as facility maintenance for the City of Covington. Gisela is the administrative assistant and has been with the city for 11 months. They are both located at the old School Board office located on Walnut Street.

He recognized the city's new Code Enforcer, Tony Smallwood.

Mr. Dressler introduced Ms. Terri McClung, the city's Small Business Coordinator, who has been employed by the city for two months. She has spent the last 15 years with the Economic Development Corporation. He appreciates her attitude and willingness to get out and meet people. Ms. McClung is also very active with Olde Town Covington.

Mr. Dressler also recognized city employees Robert Howard, 22 year city employee and Deputy Director of Operations for Public Works, Lonnie Givens, 43 years as the city's lead mechanic, and Anthony Lowry from the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

He announced that Thomas Smals, from the Parks and Recreation Department, would be the new Director of Parks and Recreation beginning July 1, 2023. Mr. Smals has a bachelor-of-science degree from Radford University.

Mr. Dressler also commended Kevin Pettitt for his work in making Covington a beautiful place.

Mr. Dressler stated that he was comfortable with the staff we have today, and he will be comfortable with the staff who will be leading us tomorrow.

Casey Field

Mr. Dressler stated that Casey Field was in the cosmetic phase and would be completed by the start of football season.

Maple Avenue/Phase 3

Work is continuing on the sidewalk, and they are getting close to Loving Funeral Home.

Pocket Park

There will be a final draft with the engineering firm completed by the end of the week for the pocket park on Main Street.

Mr. Dressler gave a shout out to Patrick Madigan for his camera work.

Virginia Managers' Association

Mr. Dressler just returned from a VA Managers' Association meeting and said it was encouraging to hear nice things about Covington from other localities. He said that issues with the workforce are common in all areas.

Street Paving

Paving will be aggressive. All but one section of the Hunter's Hill area has been completed. A small area that was missed will be fixed as soon as possible. The parking lot at Jeter Watson Park has been repaved.

Terri McClung, Small Business Coordinator, has located a contact for the old Applebee's restaurant. The city would like to market that piece of property, if they can communicate with the current owner.

EQ Basin Project

The city was granted an extension until December 31, 2023, but Mr. Dressler says he hopes they are finished by October.

Water Treatment Plant

There are a good group of new employees at the water treatment plant.

Juneteenth Celebration

The Juneteenth Celebration will take place on Saturday, June 17th, from 10 a.m. until early evening at the Jeter Watson Center.

A dozen girls' fast pitch teams are coming to play at the park this weekend.

Mr. Dressler expressed his thanks to the Police Department and their communication with the City Manager's office.

The following resolutions and ordinances were passed by Council:

Resolution R-23-19-Approval of a Police K9 Vest-On a motion by Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Forbes, all members were in favor of approving this resolution with the roll call votes as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Ordinance O-23-04-Approval of Budget FY 23/24-On a motion by Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, all members were in favor of approving this ordinance with the roll call votes as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Ordinance O-23-05-Approval of Real Estate Tax-On a motion by Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, all members were in favor of approving this ordinance with the roll call votes as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Ordinance O-23-06-Approval of Personal Property Taxes-On a motion by Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, all members were in favor of approving this ordinance with the roll call votes as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

New Business


Mr. Hunter said that he is hearing good things regarding Hunter's Hill. He advised that there were bushes growing out over the roadway at the first turn. Mr. Dressler stated that the city would address the issue.

Mr. Carson expressed his thanks to the city employees for what they do, as the city would not run without them.

Mayor Sibold complimented the staff on the paving progress.


He reminded citizens of the Juneteenth Celebration to be held at shelter at the Jeter Watson Center from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

With no further business to come before Council, Mr. Crosier motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.



Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:



Kyla D. Crosier, Clerk