

**MEETING MINUTES  
CALLED WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Called Work session meeting on **Monday, May 19, 2025**, at **5 p.m.** in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 West Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Mayor William E. Carson Jr. called the meeting to order. Mayor Carson asked City Clerk Amber Nicely to show that all Council members were present.

Council members in attendance were Mayor Carson, Vice Mayor Fred Forbes III, Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder, and Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe. Also in attendance was City Manager Allen Dressler. Councilman Hunter and City Attorney Mark Popovich were absent.

**AGENDA**

The City of Covington Council members convened recently for an important meeting with City Manager Allen Dressler and City Finance Director David Bryant to deliberate on the proposed budget and fee schedule for the forthcoming fiscal year, which will run from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. During this session, several key points were discussed.

1. No increases in tax rates:
  - a. Real estate tax remains at \$0.85 per \$100 assessed value.
  - b. Personal Property tax at \$3.08, and machinery and tools tax at \$2.76.
2. Increases in service fees for residents:
  - a. Residential Water utility increase: from \$27.50 to \$29.50 (up \$2.00)
  - b. Residential Wastewater utility increase: from \$34.50 to \$38.50 (up \$4.00)
  - c. Residential Refuse collection utility fee: from \$28.00 to \$32.00 (up \$4.00)
3. Commercial service fees will also rise:
  - a. Commercial Water utility fees will increase by 7.25% to the minimum base rate.
  - b. Commercial Wastewater utility fees will climb by 11.59% to the minimum base rate.
  - c. Commercial Refuse collection fees will increase by 14.28%.

These proposed budget changes demonstrate the City of Covington's commitment to effective budget management that ensures essential services while keeping costs affordable for the City of Covington's residents.

Mayor Carson motioned to adjourn the meeting, with Vice Mayor Forbes seconding. Followed up with an all-in-favor vote of "aye" by the Council.

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

  
WILLIAM E. CARSON JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:  
  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:  
AMBER NACOLE NICELY, CITY CLERK