

**MEETING MINUTES  
CALLED WORK SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLANNING COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 03, 2025**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Work Session on **Tuesday, June 03, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 West Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Mayor William E. Carson, Jr. 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; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter, Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe, and City Manager Allen Dressler. City Attorney Mark Popovich was not present.

There were no citizen speakers who signed up for the meeting; however, several citizens spoke at the end, after the City Manager's report.

The first citizen informed Mr. Dressler that two holes were patched last week on Fudge Street. He asked if there were plans to repave the street in the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. Mr. Dressler responded that Fudge Street is indeed scheduled for paving in that fiscal year.

The second citizen inquired whether the City was aware of the issue regarding transient individuals camping in Fort Young Park at night. Mr. Dressler confirmed that the City is aware of this issue, as well as a similar problem concerning unauthorized occupancy at Jeter Watson Park. He also stated that all parks, with the exceptions of Casey Field and the Jackson River Sports Complex, are only permitted for use during daylight hours. Any unauthorized use of these parks outside the approved times will be considered trespassing.

Assistant Director Jennifer McCallister and Administrative Coordinator Angela Howard from the Department of Social Services (DSS) appeared before the City Council to request additional funding for their state-mandated program under the Children's Services Act. They are seeking an additional amount of \$544,064.10 for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. This request has been formalized in City of Covington Resolution R-25-21. David Bryant, the City of Covington's Director of Finance, informed the Council that this expense is required by Virginia state law. These funds will be used to provide care and services to at-risk youth in the area.

Mr. Dressler began his report as City Manager by informing the Council that the City of Covington is preparing for the upcoming closure of the Peter's Mountain Landfill, which is scheduled for August 1, 2025. A trial closure of the landfill will take place from June 9 to June 13, 2025. During this week, signage will be placed at the base of the mountain to inform residents about the closure. In coordination with Bath and Alleghany Counties, the City of Covington will also conduct a test run transporting the city's residents' waste to the Island Ford Transfer Station.

The Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new 100-acre pad site. This site is located within the Alleghany Regional Commerce Center at the intersection of Commerce Center and Winterberry Avenue in Covington, Virginia. The project was a collaborative effort involving Alleghany County, the City of Covington, the Town of Clifton Forge, the Town of Iron Gate, and the State of Virginia. Special thanks go to Reed Walters and the team at the Alleghany County Governmental Building for their assistance in completing this project. The pad site has the capacity to accommodate buildings up to 750,000 square feet. This development is expected to lead to economic improvements for the localities in the Alleghany Highlands, and companies are already showing interest in utilizing the pad site.

Councilwoman Crowder and Mr. Dressler had an impressive and educational tour of the City of Covington's water and wastewater treatment plant. They have invited other members of the Council to join in on this tour. This tour grants an insight into this field that involves significant costs, as well as chemistry and educational requirements.

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The paving contractor is scheduled to begin pouring concrete on Thursday, June 5, 2025, in front of the new Casey Field House. This facility is in the final stages of construction and will be ready for use by the Covington Lumberjacks. The players have arrived in the area to prepare for their 2025 baseball season.

Additionally, this coming weekend, the City of Covington will host the Greenbrier Girls Softball Youth Association for their postseason tournament.

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Nashville recording artist Tim Elliott will perform at the Jackson River Sports Complex on the stage of the River Rock Amphitheater.

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, the City of Covington hosted the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce Merchant Meetup at Pocket Park, located on Main Street in downtown Covington, Virginia. This successful event provided an opportunity for the community to network with local businesses and organizations, attracting 65 attendees. Many participants expressed their appreciation for the pleasant atmosphere at Pocket Park.

The weather hasn't accommodating for swimming recently, which has limited attendance at the City of Covington's swimming pool. However, attendance has increased over the past few days as temperatures have risen to the high 80s.

With the summer season approaching, the City of Covington will employ local youth in various departments. Additionally, the City will continue to offer swimming lessons during the summer of 2025.

Construction is currently underway in the Mid-City Mall parking lot. The pipe work is expected to be completed and covered with stone by the end of this week. Contractors are also working on the concrete that surrounds the parking lot, which is anticipated to be finished next week. Once that is done, they will begin filling ditches and building the sidewalk alongside the buildings at Mid-City Mall.

Additionally, the Mini Golf facility at the Jackson River Sports Complex is in progress, with plumbing and electrical work currently being carried out.

Cosmetic renovations on the Maple Avenue Public Works building will begin soon. The building will be repainted, and new siding, windows, and window shutters will be added to make the area more inviting.

Additionally, a local artist is currently recreating historical paintings for the Hotel Collins Park.

Councilman Hunter informed Mr. Dressler about an issue concerning some one-way streets that lack signage to alert commuters. He specifically mentioned Oak Street in Covington as an example. In response, Mr. Dressler consulted with Chief of Police Christopher Smith. Chief Smith indicated that he believes Oak Street is a two-way street and assured Mr. Dressler that he would investigate the matter further.

Additionally, Councilman Hunter raised concerns regarding theft and vandalism in the park, particularly in relation to the upcoming Juneteenth celebration. Mr. Dressler responded that the City of Covington is aware of these issues and has increased the police presence in that area. He also mentioned that the City has scheduled park maintenance, including mowing.

Councilwoman Wolfe brought to Mr. Dressler's attention that there is a missing street sign..

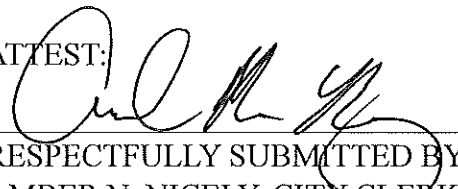
No new business to come before the Council.

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

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

  
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WILLIAM E. CARSON JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:   
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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:  
AMBER N. NICELY, CITY CLERK