

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADDITIONAL 24-25 FY CSA FUNDS
TUESDAY, JUNE, 10, 2025

The Council for the City of Covington held a regular meeting on **Tuesday, June 10, 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 Fred Forbes III, Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder, and Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe. Also in attendance was Director of Finance David Bryant. Mayor Carson and City Attorney Mark Popovich were not present.

Preacher Pete Moore delivered the invocation.

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING: Vice Mayor Forbes opened the Public Hearing. To consider an amendment and appropriation to the City Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$544,065.00. This funding request would be appropriated to the CSA (Children's Services Act) Department Section in the Department of Social Services. **No speakers for or against the Public Hearing. Vice Mayor Forbes closed the Public Hearing.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marie Fitzpatrick informed the Council about the upcoming 85th anniversary of Green Pastures Park in Clifton Forge. She also informed the Council of the upcoming Juneteenth events in the Alleghany Highlands.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA *(Portion of meeting used to add or make changes.)*

The council approved the agenda for tonight's meeting with no additions or corrections with Councilman Hunter making the motion to approve the agenda as given. Second by Councilwoman Wolfe. With an all in favor "aye" vote.

CONSENT OF AGENDA *(Corrections and approval of Meeting Minutes)*

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| 1. Public Hearing for Planning Commission & Work Session. | May 06, 2025 |
| 2. Regular Meeting | May 13, 2025 |
| 3. Called Meeting to hold 25/26 Fiscal Year Budget Work Session | May 19, 2025 |

Vice Mayor Forbes read out the list of the May 2025 meeting minutes to approve. Councilwoman Wolfe motioned to approve all three minutes with Councilwoman Crowder seconding the motion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

- To consider and vote on Resolution R-25-17:** Allow changes to the city budget at the fund level instead of the function level.
Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.
- To consider and vote on Resolution R-25-18:** Perpetual Cemetery Care Fund 801.
Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.
- To consider and vote on Resolution R-25-19:** Opioid Settlement Recoveries - Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA), Individual Distribution Award (No City Match).
Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.
- To consider and vote on Resolution R-25-20:** General Fund - Parks and Recreation Donations for Youth Day from Local Businesses.

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Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.

5. **To consider and vote on Resolution R-25-21:** General Fund - State CSA Children At Risk General Fund, Transfer from surplus, and Alleghany Highlands CSA Foster Care- Payment at Risk Youth Per CSA.

Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.

6. **To consider and vote on Resolution R-25-22:** Police Department - DARE Contributions expenses for the DARE program.

Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.

APPOINTMENTS

To consider appointing two representatives to the Alleghany Highlands Regional Library Board: Allow changes to the city budget at the fund level instead of the function level.

1. To consider Lynda Thompson for placement upon the AHRL Board.

Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.

2. To consider Nova Wright as replacement upon the AHRL Board.

Roll call vote was done, Councilwoman Crowder, For, Councilman Hunter, For, Councilwoman Wolfe, For, and Vice Mayor Forbes, For.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

Mr. Dressler started his report to the Council.

Mr. Dressler invited everyone to the Juneteenth Celebration that will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at the Jeter Watson Park.

The Peter's Mountain Landfill closure test run was a success. Public workers took citizens to refuse to Island Ford Transfer Station during this closure.

Mr. Dressler showed appreciation to the City's Finance teams for working on the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

Paving is still ongoing throughout the City. On streets that needed to be repaired due to Columbia Gas pipeline upgrades.

The Casey Field House will be ready for the City Manager to perform his final inspection on Thursday June 12, 2025.

The Mid-City Mall Parking lot project is ongoing.

The City of Covington's Public Works building is currently undergoing improvements. The siding has been removed, and other improvements are scheduled for the near future.

The Mini Golf Course at the Jackson River Sports Complex is nearing completion. Electricity and Plumbing have been installed. The playground was installed. Mr. Dressler has already received many compliments on how nice the Mini Golf Course, Park, and walking trail have turned out. James Quantz, an Eagle Scout, is currently working on getting furniture for the Mini Golf Course. Mr. Quantz will use this project for his Eagle Scout project.

Greenbrier Youth Girls Softball was using the Jackson River Sports Complex for their tournaments. It rained over the weekend, but the Parks and Recreation staff were able to get the fields dry and ready for use for the girls.

VTARC is interested in an aquaponics program for our area youth for STEM. This project will engage our local children in technology and educate them on how to cultivate their own produce and plants.

Vice Mayor Forbes motioned to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Closed Session. with Councilman Hunter seconding. Followed up with an all in favor vote of "aye" by the Council.

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Vice Mayor Fred Forbes requested a motion to enter a closed session under Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) and (8) of the Code of Virginia. To enter into closed session for the limited purpose of: Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of the public body related to properties in the City and County.
 Councilwoman Crowder made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hunter. The council moved into a closed session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2025

CLOSED SESSION MOTION:

I move that the Covington City Council enter into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the limited purpose of:

1. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION BY CITY COUNCIL

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby move for certification pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the City Council of the City of Covington.

ROLL CALL VOTE (REQUIRED)	Initial Your Vote:	
	FOR:	AGAINST:
Mayor William E. Carson	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE (JUN - Clerk)	
Vice Mayor Fred Forbes III		
Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder	SSC	
Councilman Raymond C. Hunter	RCH	
Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe	SW	
Total Votes:		

ATTEST:

AMBER N. NICELY, CITY CLERK

WILLIAM E. CARSON JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
 AMBER N. NICELY, CITY CLERK