

**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY, 13, 2025**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Regular session meeting on **Tuesday, May 13, 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. 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; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter, and Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe. Also in attendance were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

Pastor Steve Noel delivered the meeting invocation.

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Carson requested a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Mayor Forbes made the motion to approve and Councilman Hunter second the motion. With all in favor "aye."

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen speakers.

CONSENT TO MINUTES

Vice Mayor Forbes motioned to approve the following meeting minutes. Councilwoman Wolfe seconded the motion. The Council approved the following meeting minutes without any corrections, with an all in favor "aye" from Council.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Public Hearing for O-25-02 & Work Session. | April 01, 2025 |
| 2. Regular Meeting. | April 08, 2025 |

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Vice Mayor Forbes started the section for ordinances and resolutions.

1. **To Consider Resolution R-25-14:** Opioid Settlement Recoveries Expenses – Walgreen Payment 3 = \$2,154.84.
Motioned for approval by Vice Mayor Forbes. Motion seconded by Councilman Hunter. With an all in favor "aye" vote from Council.
2. **To Consider Resolution R-25-15:** Donations to Parks & Rec Youth Day (Multiple Businesses – No City Match). Also, Donations to the Police Department's Shop with a Cop and Nite Out activities (Local Business – No City Match).
Motioned for approval by Vice Mayor Forbes and seconded by Councilman Hunter. With an all in favor "aye" vote from Council.
3. **To Consider Resolution R-25-16:** Wastewater Fund – Transfer surplus funds from the Water fund to the Wastewater fund.
Motioned for approval by Vice Mayor Forbes and seconded by Councilman Hunter. With an all in favor "aye" vote from Council.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Carson began the Appointments portion.

1. **Appoint a representative to the Covington Housing Authority.** (Available as of 03-31-2025 when Richard "Bert" Baker's term expired.) To consider Christopher Mentz for placement upon the Covington Housing Authority.
Mayor Carson Motioned for approval to appoint Christopher Mentz upon the Covington Housing Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe. With an all in favor "aye" vote from Council.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

Mr. Dressler began his City Manager's report by inviting Chief of Police Christopher J. Smith to the podium. This week is National Police Week, and tonight, Mr. Dressler took the opportunity to award Chief Smith with a pin recognizing his 20 years of service.

Mr. Dressler had a Zoom meeting with the Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation (VTARC) regarding the STEM program that will begin in the fall. Mr. Dressler has already met with school personnel, business representatives, and other key staff members in the community. The team at VTARC is excited and looks forward to working with the youth in our area.

Received bids for improvements on the Public Works Building on Maple Avenue.

Paving is ongoing throughout the City of Covington. Completed paved area roads include Royal Avenue, Marion Avenue, and the adjacent streets that connect to these roads. Craig Avenue is next. After the paving of Craig Avenue is completed, paving will be as follows Parklin Heights, Pitcher's Ridge, Idlewild, Asbury Park, Fudge Street, Mid City Mall Parking lot and Cedar Hill Cemetery.

**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY, 13, 2025**

On Friday, May 9, 2025, the city will host a concert to kick off the Gran Fondo race at the Hotel Collins Park. The band Phat Pocket will perform, and food will be provided by Puff's BBQ. The race began on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at Main Street in Covington, Virginia, and cyclists will race through the Alleghany Highlands, finishing at the Clifton Forge School of the Arts in Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Adult slow pitch games were on Saturday, May, 10, 2025.

Youth Day, an event similar to the Bike Rodeo, was held on Saturday May 10, 2025. City Hall received many compliments regarding the facilities, services, and the overall execution of Youth Day.

This weekend, the Greenbrier Girls Softball League will return to the Jackson River Sports Complex for their postseason tournament. This weekend features the oldest age group, while the two younger age groups will compete in two weeks.

On Friday May 23, 2025, from 12 PM until 2PM, the city will hold their annual Employee Appreciation Lunch at the Jackson River Sports Complex.

On Saturday May 24, 2025, from 10AM until 4 PM the Veteran's in the Park car show will be held at the Jackson River Sports Complex and starts. All proceeds will go to the local VFW.

On Saturday night, May 24, 2025, will be the City's Summer kick off, from there will be live music, food, and activities for the children.

The City Pool will also open on Saturday, May 24, 2025.

Mr. Dressler concluded his City Manager's Report and opened the floor for questions.

Councilman Hunter inquired, "When will the city begin work on the alleyways?" Mr. Dressler responded that, at this time, the city is providing temporary patches for the alleys until the budget for 2025-2026 can be approved. Once the 2025-2026 budget is passed, there are plans to address the alley issues.

Vice Mayor Forbes then asked if Mr. Dressler had heard any updates regarding the VFW and their struggles to obtain new members. Mr. Dressler informed Vice Mayor Forbes that the VFW is making progress and is heading in a more positive direction. The city is aware of the challenges the VFW is facing, and the organization keeps the city informed whenever they require assistance.

OLD BUSINESS

The Council has scheduled the meetings to discuss the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. The primary meeting will take place on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5 PM. If a second meeting is necessary, it will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5 PM.

PRESENTATION OF THE TRANSFER STATION JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH ALLEGHANY COUNTY & BATH COUNTY

Mr. Dressler informed the Council that the Transfer Station Joint Use Agreement with Alleghany County and Bath County will enable the city to dispose of its citizens' refuse once the Peter's Mountain Landfill closes on August 1, 2025. The city will continue to offer Spring and Fall clean-up as a free service to its residents. Mr. Dressler recommends that the Council move forward with this agreement.

Mayor Carson motions for approval with a second by Councilman Hunter. Mayor Carson requested a roll call vote to approve the Transfer Station Joint Use Agreement. Roll call vote results as follows, Councilwoman Crowder, for, Councilman Hunter, for, Councilwoman Wolfe, for, Vice Mayor Forbes, for, and Mayor Carson, for.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

Vice Mayor Fred Forbes made a motion to enter a closed session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The purpose of this closed session is to discuss and evaluate the personnel appointed by the City Council. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion, and the Council then moved into closed session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13th, 2025

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13th, 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 and evaluation of City Council appointed personnel.

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.

Initial Your Vote:		FOR:	AGAINST:
ROLL CALL VOTE (REQUIRED)			
Mayor William E. Carson		WEC	
Vice Mayor Fred Forbes III		F.F.	
Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder		SSC	
Councilman Raymond C. Hunter		RCH	
Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe		SSW	
Total Votes:		5	

ATTEST:

AMBER N. NICELY, CITY CLERK

WILLIAM E. CARSON JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

AMBER NACOLE NICELY, CITY CLERK