

**MEETING MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET
THURSDAY, JUNE, 12, 2025**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Called Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 12, 2025**, at **6 PM** 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 all council members in attendance with the exception of Vice Mayor Fred Forbes.

Council members in attendance were Mayor Carson, Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder, and Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe. Also in attendance were City Manager Allen Dressler and Director of Finance David Bryant. Vice Mayor Forbes and City Attorney Mark Popovich were not present.

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

The council approved the agenda for tonight's meeting with no additions or corrections.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2025-2026 Fiscal Year City of Covington Budget. To consider the adoption of the City of Covington Budget and Fee Schedule for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, under Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia.

- No proposed tax rate increases
- Real Estate remains at \$0.85/\$100.
- Personal Property remains at \$3.08/\$100.
- Machinery & Tools remain at \$2.76/\$100.
- Proposed increase on Water Residential (non-metered) of \$2.00 from \$27.50 to \$29.50
- Proposed increase on Wastewater Residential (non-metered) of \$4.00 from \$34.50 to \$38.50
- Proposed increase on Residential Refuse Collection of \$4.00 from \$28.00 to \$32.00
- Proposed an increase in Commercial Water fees of 7.25% to the base minimum rate and separate usage volumes.
- Proposed an increase in Commercial Wastewater fees of 11.59% to the base minimum rate and separate usage volumes.
- Proposed increase in Commercial Refuse Collection of 14.28% to the base minimum rate and separate usage volumes.

With no speakers for or against the Public Hearing, Mayor Carson requested a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilman Hunter motion to close the Public Hearing with Councilwoman Wolfe seconding the motion. Mayor Carson Closed the meeting with an all in favor vote of "aye."

ADJOURNMENT

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.

POST ADJOURNMENT CITIZEN COMMENTS

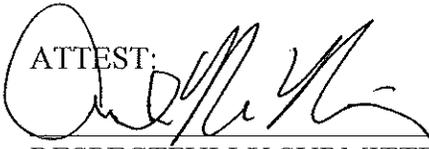
Citizen Eunice Wright arrived after the Public Hearing was adjourned. The Council allowed Mrs. Wright to speak about her concerns. Her first concern was about a recent water utility survey that went out to the citizens. Mrs. Wright advised the Council that she did not receive this survey, and she believes it is because she has not received a utility bill since she is on autopay. Mr. Dressler advised Mrs. Wright that he would look into this issue. She also wanted to report that there are major street repairs that are needed in her neighborhood. Mr. Dressler advised her that those repairs are currently in the planning stages due to the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget. Mrs. Wright also suggested that she would like to see taxes reduced by %15.

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With no further business coming before the Council, the Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget was adjourned.



WILLIAM E. CARSON JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
AMBER N. NICELY, CITY CLERK