

**MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

The Council for the City of Covington held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 333 West Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Mayor Fred F. Forbes III called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked City Clerk Amber Berberette to call the roll. The following members of Council were present: Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder, Councilman David B. Goff, Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe, Vice Mayor Raymond C. Hunter, and Mayor Fred F. Forbes III.

Also in attendance were City Attorney Mark Popovich and City Finance Director David Bryant.

The invocation was delivered by Reverend Milton Hardy, after which all in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Forbes reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Councilwoman Wolfe made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hunter and carried with all members voting "aye."

There were no citizen comments.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution R-26-04: Council considered Resolution R-26-04: VDOT Sidewalk Grant for Route 220 (Pine Street to Beech Street) totaling \$332,748.00, consisting of a \$266,199.00 grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and a 20% City match of \$66,549.00.

Mayor Forbes made a motion to approve Resolution R-26-04. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hunter and carried with all members voting "aye."

Resolution R-26-05: Council considered Resolution R-26-05: Re-appropriating FY 2025–2026 funds totaling \$43,740.34 for contingency and Downtown Economic Development projects.

Vice Mayor Hunter made a motion to approve Resolution R-26-05. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe and carried with all members voting "aye."

Resolution R-26-06: Council considered Resolution R-26-06: Rescinding Participation in the TAP/BSCI Land Bank Following Prior Notice.

Before Council acted on the resolution, Mayor Forbes invited Angela Penn, President and CEO of Total Action for Progress (TAP), to address Council. Ms. Penn requested that the City consider remaining in the TAP/BSCI Land Bank program. She provided examples of communities that have benefited from TAP programs focused on improving housing conditions and expanding access to safe and affordable housing.

Ms. Penn noted that in 2007 TAP worked with the Town of Clifton Forge to assist with the renovation of several homes on Keswick Street. Mayor Forbes asked whether TAP provides assistance to residents seeking grants for housing. Ms. Penn explained that TAP administers grant programs to assist residents with purchasing homes and to help homeowners with needed repairs.

City Manager Allen Dressler advised Council that the issue had recently been revisited by the City's Building and Zoning Administrator, Eric Tyree, and asked Mr. Tyree to share additional information.

Mr. Tyree explained that the City previously began discussions with TAP regarding the improvement of certain City properties. He stated that he would like to identify properties with delinquent taxes that could potentially be rehabilitated through the land bank program and ultimately used to provide affordable housing for City residents. Mr. Tyree recommended that the City remain in the TAP Land Bank program.

Councilwoman Crowder asked why the City had previously considered withdrawing from the program in November 2023. Mr. Tyree stated that he was not involved at that time but understood that the previous administration had initiated the process.

Councilwoman Crowder also asked whether the City would need to take additional action to remain in the program. Mr. Tyree explained that because the withdrawal process initiated in 2023 was never completed through adoption of a resolution by Council, the City remains enrolled and no additional action would be required to continue participation.

Councilwoman Crowder asked whether there is a limit to the number of properties that may be submitted to TAP for consideration. Ms. Penn stated that there is no specific limit. Mr. Tyree advised that it would be

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prudent to begin with a small list of properties, particularly those that are dilapidated or have significant delinquent taxes.

Mr. Tyree also noted that the Building and Zoning Department is actively working to identify properties requiring maintenance and has been addressing such matters through the court system when necessary.

Mayor Forbes made a motion for the City to remain in the TAP Land Bank program and reject Resolution R-26-06. The motion was made by Vice Mayor Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe. The motion carried with all members voting "aye."

As a result, Resolution R-26-06 was not adopted, and the City of Covington will remain enrolled in the TAP Land Bank program.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Council considered the reappointment of Mr. Howard "Gene" Wood to the Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

Mayor Forbes made a motion to reappoint Mr. Wood to the IDA. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hunter and carried with all members voting "aye."

Mr. Wood's term will commence March 26, 2026, and expire March 25, 2030, following the administration of the Oath of Office by the Allegheny County Circuit Court Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Mayor Hunter made a motion to approve the January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe and carried with all members voting "aye."

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Allen Dressler presented his report.

Mr. Dressler reported that a school bus accident occurred earlier that morning, but fortunately no children were injured. He thanked the Covington Police Department, Fire Department, and Rescue Services for their quick response.

He reported that operations at the Water Treatment Plant have returned from 24-hour to 16-hour operations and that the Pocahontas Tank is currently full. However, due to recent freezing and thawing conditions, the City has experienced several water leaks and may see additional issues as temperatures fluctuate.

Mr. Dressler also noted that Lake Moomaw is currently low, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has advised that the lake and the Upper James River are under a drought watch.

The City will be recognized by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) with State of Good Repair funding, which will be used for paving projects on Carpenter Drive, Monroe Avenue, and Riverside Avenue.

The City is also finalizing access funding for paving associated with the Jackson River Sports Complex. These funds will only cover paving necessary for access points and will not include parking lot paving.

Mr. Dressler advised that the Intergovernmental Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 3:00 PM at Iron Gate Town Hall. He will be attending the Virginia Local Government Managers' Association conference and will be unable to attend, but Mayor Forbes and another Council member plan to represent the City.

A preliminary meeting with Allegheny Highlands Public Schools is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 PM to discuss the upcoming school budget.

Mr. Dressler also highlighted upcoming community events:

- Covington Volunteer Fire Department's 124th Annual Banquet and Meeting – March 7, 2026
- Allegheny Highlands Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner – March 14, 2026 at the Omni Homestead

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Mr. Dressler reported that he recently met with an engineering firm regarding plans for the Old Rooklin's Building and sent City staff to Abingdon, Virginia to meet with the Appalachian Regional Commission regarding potential funding opportunities.

The City has also accepted bids for the South Covington Sidewalk Project, and two sidewalk pours were completed on Alleghany Avenue due to recent warm weather.

A water pipe on Alleghany Avenue has been repaired; however, a nearby fire hydrant must be replaced. Mr. Dressler advised that he will present additional information to Council in March 2026 regarding hydrant repairs throughout the City, including hydrants near Sherwin-Williams and in Parklin Heights.

Mr. Dressler concluded his report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Wolfe suggested installing "No Turn on Right" signage at intersections along Carlton Drive and Madison Avenue, particularly at Dolly Ann Drive and Fairlawn.

Mayor Forbes also recommended installing a "No Right Turn on Red" sign at the intersection of Madison Avenue and Alleghany Avenue.

Mr. Dressler stated that he will coordinate with Police Chief Smith to evaluate and implement appropriate signage.

There was no old business to consider.

Councilwoman Crowder expressed her sincere appreciation to the City, the community, her friends, and extended family for their support during the recent passing of her mother. She thanked everyone for the cards, flowers, and food provided during that difficult time.

With no further business to come before Council, Mayor Forbes made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe and carried with all members voting "aye."

The meeting was adjourned.



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FRED F. FORBES III., MAYOR

ATTEST:



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:  
AMBER N. BERBERETTE, CITY CLERK