

**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING - INTERIM DISTRICT 2 VACANCY
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Public Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 333 West Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Mayor Raymond C. Hunter called the meeting to order. The following seated members of Council were present: Councilwoman Susan S. Crowder, Councilman David B. Goff, Councilwoman Susan S. Wolfe, and Mayor Raymond C. Hunter. The District 2 Council seat was vacant.

Also in attendance were City Manager Allen Dressler, City Attorney Mark Popovich, and City Clerk Amber N. Berberette.

Mayor Hunter stated that the meeting was being held pursuant to Code of Virginia § 24.2-228 for the purpose of announcing the applicants for the Interim District 2 vacancy and making their submitted materials available for public inspection. He stated that the meeting was not a public hearing and that no appointment would be made during the meeting.

Mayor Hunter reviewed the meeting guidelines. Public comments were permitted at the discretion of the chair, speakers were limited to three minutes, comments were to remain relevant to the vacancy process, and questions were to be directed only to the candidate currently recognized. Side conversations, interruptions, and personal attacks were not permitted.

Mayor Hunter announced the applicants for the Interim District 2 vacancy as Mr. Michael Green, Mr. Milton Helton, and Mr. Gene Mundy. Each candidate was called individually to the podium and provided an opportunity to introduce himself, explain why he applied, and state what he could contribute as the Interim District 2 representative. Questions for each candidate were limited to eight minutes.

Candidate Introductions and Questions

Mr. Michael Green introduced himself and affirmed that he resides in District 2. Mr. Green stated that he is retired after a 42-year career at Smurfit WestRock, where he worked in maintenance, safety, and maintenance planning roles. He discussed his experience with teamwork, planning, safety initiatives, communication, and leadership through his church. Mr. Green stated that he values honesty, integrity, and respect and would bring a strong work ethic, communication skills, and team-focused approach to Council.

Questions to Mr. Green addressed his work experience, ability to represent District 2, desire to serve the City, willingness to run for the seat in November if not appointed, availability for meetings and events, handling of conflicts of interest, understanding of the Council role, experience that prepared him for Council service, and how he would ensure constituents feel heard. Mr. Green stated that he would seek open communication, listen to residents, work as part of a team, recuse himself from conflicts if necessary, and consider holding district meetings or similar opportunities for residents to share concerns.

Mr. Milton Helton introduced himself and affirmed that he resides in District 2. Mr. Helton discussed his long connection to Covington, his work history, including time with local industry and the City of Covington, and his involvement in the community. He stated that he wants to help the community, represent the citizens of Covington, and work with others to make the City a better place to live and serve.

Questions to Mr. Helton addressed his ability to work with the Mayor, Council, and City Manager; his willingness to attend conferences and events; issues in District 2; comfort speaking in public meetings; whether he would run in November if not appointed; communication with residents; balancing disagreements; reviewing detailed materials; and avoiding overstepping authority with staff. Mr. Helton stated that he would communicate with residents, including by going door to door, take notes, bring concerns back to Council, work with Council as a team, and continue to seek ways to serve the community.

Mr. Gene Mundy introduced himself and affirmed that he resides in District 2. Mr. Mundy thanked the other candidates for their willingness to serve and recognized the late Mayor Fred F. Forbes III. Mr. Mundy discussed his family ties to Covington, military service, consulting work, service on the Planning Commission, and his podcast focused on positive matters in the community. He stated that he wanted to bring collaboration, experience, and a focus on solutions to the District 2 seat.

**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING - INTERIM DISTRICT 2 VACANCY
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**

Questions to Mr. Mundy addressed infrastructure, planning, water system needs, infill housing and blight, traffic and noise concerns, whether he would run in November if not appointed, ability to attend meetings and events, conflicts of interest, transparency, avoiding overstepping authority with staff, comfort in public meetings, handling disagreement, respecting majority decisions, and reviewing detailed materials. Mr. Mundy stated that Council acts as a body, the City Manager is responsible for the operation of City services, and he would rely on the City Attorney for guidance regarding conflicts and matters that may not be appropriate for public discussion.

At the conclusion of the candidate portion, Mayor Hunter thanked all applicants for their willingness to serve the City of Covington. He stated that Council would consider the information presented and would make an appointment at a called meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Goff and seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe. The motion carried with all members voting "aye."


RAYMOND C. HUNTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
AMBER N. BERBERETTE, CITY CLERK