

**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING – RIVERMONT RIGHT-OF-WAY  
AND REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

The Council for the City of Covington held a Public Hearing and Regular meeting on Tuesday, March 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 Pastor Dave Schmal with Grace Brethren Church, after which all in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fred F. Forbes III called the Public Hearing to order.

City Clerk Amber Berberette called the roll. All members of Council were present. Also in attendance were City Manager Allen Dressler, City Attorney Mark Popovich, and Finance Director David Bryant.

Mayor Forbes opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed vacation of undeveloped public right-of-way associated with the Rivermont Redevelopment Project pursuant to § 15.2-2006 of the Code of Virginia.

Building and Zoning Administrator Eric Tyree provided an overview of the request, explaining that the proposed vacation includes portions of an undeveloped alley, sections of East Sycamore Street, and additional right-of-way areas necessary to support redevelopment and stormwater infrastructure improvements related to the Rivermont project.

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Forbes requested a motion to approve Ordinance O-26-01: Vacating certain undeveloped public rights-of-way adjacent to the former Rivermont School property. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wolfe and seconded by Vice Mayor Hunter. The motion carried with all members voting “aye.”

Mayor Forbes closed the Public Hearing.  
REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Forbes called the Regular Meeting to order.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Vice Mayor Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe. The motion carried with all members voting “aye.”

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Forbes presented a proclamation designating April 2026 as Clean Up Month in the Alleghany Highlands.

The proclamation encourages each citizen, as able, to collect at least one bag of litter during the week of April 19–25, 2026, and encourages clubs, organizations, and businesses to participate by selecting cleanup locations and coordinating efforts through the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce. The proclamation further promotes continued year-round stewardship to preserve and enhance the beauty and quality of life within the City of Covington and the surrounding Alleghany Highlands region.

Council considered the following:

- Resolution R-26-07: Accepting VDEM grant funds for Delta Advanced 911 services (no City match). A motion was made by Mayor Forbes and seconded by Vice Mayor Hunter. The motion carried with all members voting “aye.”
- Resolution R-26-08: Providing for supplemental appropriations in the General, Water, Sewer, and VDOT Sidewalk Funds.

A motion was made by Mayor Forbes and seconded by Vice Mayor Hunter. The motion carried with all members voting “aye.”

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe to approve the February 2026 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried with all members voting “aye.”

City Manager Allen Dressler presented his report.

**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING – RIVERMONT RIGHT-OF-WAY  
AND REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

Mr. Dressler began by recognizing the success of the Covington Volunteer Fire Department's 124th Annual Banquet and expressed appreciation for the dedication and service of the department's volunteers. He noted a recent leadership transition within the department and expressed confidence in continued strong leadership moving forward.

He provided updates on the City's ongoing budget process, including recent discussions with the Sheriff's Office and upcoming meetings with the School System. Mr. Dressler emphasized that public safety and education remain among the City's most significant financial commitments and that staff are working diligently with department heads to develop a responsible and balanced budget.

Mr. Dressler highlighted several infrastructure and public works projects currently underway or in progress, including sidewalk improvements in South Covington and South Alleghany Avenue, ongoing coordination with VDOT on bridge and roadway projects, and continued utility maintenance and upgrades throughout the City. He noted that the Rayon Bridge project remains on schedule and that coordination continues with the Virginia Department of Transportation and CSX regarding other infrastructure improvements.

He also reported on continued improvements to City recreational facilities, including upgrades at Casey Field and ongoing use of the Jackson River Sports Complex. Mr. Dressler noted strong participation in recent and upcoming sporting events, emphasizing the positive economic impact of recreation tourism on local businesses.

Additional updates included maintenance efforts within City parks, including tree removal due to winter storm damage, reopening of park facilities for the season, and anticipated opening of the mini-golf course in early April.

Mr. Dressler also provided updates on utility work, including water line replacements, hydrant repairs, and ongoing coordination with Columbia Gas on infrastructure improvements throughout the City, including current and upcoming work in residential and downtown areas.

He concluded his report by highlighting the strong collaboration among City departments, staff, and community partners, and expressed appreciation for Council's continued support of City initiatives and employees.

Council discussed ongoing projects and community matters.

Mayor Forbes stated that Council would enter Closed Session pursuant to:

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A of the Code of Virginia for the limited purpose of: Discussion and evaluation of City Council appointed personnel.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Wolfe to enter Closed Session. The motion carried with all members voting "aye."

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

  
RAYMOND C. HUNTER., MAYOR

ATTEST:  
  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:  
AMBER N. BERBERETTE, CITY CLERK