

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2018

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. The Invocation was given by Rev. Urban followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilwoman Mary Ann Beirne, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Manager: Richard Douglas

City Attorney: Theresa Fontana

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Called Meeting of June 5, 2018; Work Session of June 5, 2018; Called Meeting Following Work Session June 5, 2018; Regular Meeting of June 12, 2018; Called Meeting of June 18, 2018; Called Meeting of June 19, 2018; and Called Meeting of June 26, 2018.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

No report as Finance Director Bryant was on vacation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing was held regarding designation of Total Acton for Progress (TAP)/Business Seed Capital, Inc. (BSCI) as a Land Bank Entity within the City of Covington. Mr. Curtis Thompson of TAP, presented a brief overview of the Land Bank program. This program's goal is to assist with delinquent tax properties and blighted properties to renovate or build new. The Public Hearing was opened. There were no comments from the citizens present.

A Public Hearing was held regarding Amending Chapter 20 Fire Prevention and Protection of the City Code to establish the Covington Emergency Medical Services Department and EMS Chief. The Public Hearing was opened. There were no comments from the citizens present.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

City Manager Douglas presented information regarding the donation of property on Rockbridge Ave. by Mr. Donald Wolfe. This property is on the minimum housing list and is over an existing main waste water line. The engineer recommends the house be removed and allow for possible drainage improvements. This property may qualify for the Land Bank and be developed as a new property. A title search will need to be done on the property. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to move forward with the donation of the property on Rockbridge Ave. pending a title search. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Discussion was held regarding the employee survey as to observe the Columbus Day Holiday or work that day and add that holiday to the Christmas Holiday as December 26. There were 70 employees for the change and 7 employees opposed. City Manager Douglas explained that this change is for this year only unless Council chooses to make the change permanent in the employee handbook. Mayor Sibold expressed concerns regarding the number of days City Hall would be closed and possible overtime issues. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve the employee holiday move from Columbus Day 2018 to December 26, 2018. Motion carried 4 to 1. Mayor Sibold against.

City Manager Douglas presented information regarding the appointment for a Towing Advisory Board. A formal contract will be required with towing companies used by the City to protect the

City and the citizens. This Board will also handle vehicles that do not come into compliance. The City does not pay the towing costs of these vehicles. Set fees will be established for towing. Mr. Douglas also explained that the companies chosen will need to provide adequate storage for the vehicles and not cause other issues. Council discussion included questions regarding companies with city business licenses having priority, specifications for storage of vehicles, and notification of citizens. The purpose of the advisory board is to regulate operations and regulate the process. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to appoint the following to the Towing Advisory Board: Tony Smallwood, Juan Roldan, Lance Perkins, Darrell Liun and Ron Leichter. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to reappoint Vice Mayor Crosier to the Social Services Board.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. An update regarding bridge maintenance and rehabilitation needs will be presented by Mattern & Craig at the August work session

2. Dewey Boggs passed the Virginia Waste Water Management Facility Operator Class II exam which provides an additional certified employee at the Peter's Mountain Landfill

3. Reported on the completion of scheduled paving projects for FY 2018 and additional streets to be paved

4. City and engineering staff are working with DEQ on a Waste Water Treatment Plant consent order which will require approval of City Council. Also completing a \$4.5 million grant/loan application to DEQ for the construction of an equalization basin. Mayor Sibold inquired about the size of the tank and if it was capable of 2 million gallons. Mr. Douglas responded that this is necessary to avoid any major overflow and that DEQ will decide on the funding grant. The City can scale the project back.

5. Water tank inspection should be completed in August

6. City and School Staff met with the Allegheny Foundation regarding potential funding opportunities for the renovation of Casey Field and facilities and intend to apply for a planning grant to consider viable environmentally friendly improvements. Mayor Sibold inquired if the stadium was included in this project. City Manager Douglas responded that the stadium would be included. Mayor Sibold stated that the City needs to move on with this work.

7. Upcoming documents for Council consideration include: updated personnel policy, updated utility policy, CIP, and school capital reserve fund policy

8. Expressed appreciation to David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, and his staff for finalizing the FY 2018/2019 budget

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Discussion was held regarding Ordinance O-18-07 concerning Designation of Total Action for Progress (TAP)/Business Seed Capital, Inc. (BSCI) as a Land Bank Entity with the City of Covington. Mayor Sibold noted that Covington would be the third locality in the state to try this process. He inquired as to how well it had worked for the other localities. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-18-07. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold – FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier – FOR; Councilwoman Beirne – FOR; Councilman Hunter – FOR; and Councilman Tucker- FOR

Discussion was held regarding Ordinance O-18-08 concerning Amending Chapter 20 Fire Prevention and Protection of the City Code to Establish the Emergency Medical Services Department and EMS Chief. City Manager Douglas expressed appreciation to Attorney Theresa

Fontana for the flexible ordinance and consideration of all aspects involved. Vice Mayor Crosier requested confirmation that establishing this department was only to secure the license for the City. Mr. Douglas responded that this is necessary to secure the license and expressed appreciation to Police Chief Morgan for his work in securing this license. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-18-08. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold – For; Vice Mayor Crosier – FOR; Councilwoman Beirne – FOR; Councilman Hunter – FOR; and Councilman Tucker – FOR

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Discussion was held regarding the rezoning request of D.D. Kerns Company to rezone specific lots located at S. Maple Ave. and S. Lexington Ave. from R-3 to M-1. Mr. Hunter expressed concerns regarding the historic church located near this property. He also felt that this business is an eyesore due to the equipment parked at this location. Mayor Sibold had visited this business and the business is asking only for proper zoning designation of the property so it can continue to operate as it has during the past years. Lengthy discussion was held regarding possible barriers for this business to make the residents more comfortable with the equipment on the property. Eric Tyree, Director of Developmental Services, presented information regarding the use of the property and possible choices for barriers. Rev. Willie Cannon expressed his concerns regarding the historic designation of his church and the possible impact this rezoning would have. The rezoning would not affect the historic designation of the church. Amber Kerns, of D.D. Kerns Company, assured those present that the business only wanted to continue to operate as they have for many years and this rezoning is to allow their business to be in compliance with the zoning code. She also requested a meeting with the members of the church to discuss what kind of barrier would be agreeable as a buffer. Allen Dressler, Director of Parks and Public Works, stated that the Kerns family has been established a long time (1952) and they keep their word. Following discussion a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-18-09 regarding rezoning of specific lots on Maple Ave. and Lexington Ave. from R-3 to M-1. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold – FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier – FOR; Councilwoman Beirne – FOR; Councilman Hunter – FOR; and Councilman Tucker – FOR

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Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-18-10 regarding Amending the City Code Section 38-2 to Prohibit the Blowing of Grass Onto City Streets and Sidewalks and Providing a Civil Penalty. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold – FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier – FOR; Councilwoman Beirne – FOR; Councilman Hunter – FOR; and Councilman Tucker – FOR

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-18-11 Amending the Solid Waste Fee Schedule Section 38-4 Peter’s Mountain Landfill to allow residents to take items to the landfill without a second landfill fee. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold – FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier – FOR; Councilwoman Beirne – FOR; Councilman Hunter – FOR; and Councilman Tucker – FOR

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hunter: Inquired about the playground at Jeter Watson. Mr. Douglas responded that this is in the grant process. Allan Dressler, Director of Parks and Public Works, noted that the goal is to be done by October.

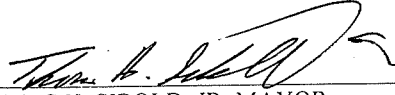
Ms. Beirne: Inquired about the plaque for Mr. Bill Zimmerman. Attorney Susan Waddell had volunteered that her law firm would prepare the resolution and purchase the plaque for Mr. Zimmerman.

Vice Mayor Crosier: Expressed concerns regarding the property at the Dressler Motor lot on Highland.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

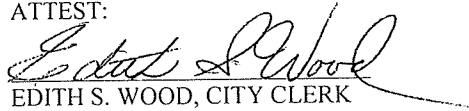
Ms. Thompson expressed concerns regarding the need for street lights at Cherry and Highland. She noted that this area is very dark and was concerned for the residents safety.

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



THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR. MAYOR
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND, AS SUCH,
EX-OFFICIO OFFICER OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON,
VIRGINIA

ATTEST:



EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK