

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2019

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the 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.. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman Claiborne "C.J." Entsminger, Jr. and Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Councilman S. Allan Tucker was absent.

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Called Meeting of July 1, 2019; Recessed Called Meeting July 2, 2019; Work Session July 2, 2019; Called Meeting July 5, 2019; Regular Meeting July 9, 2019 and Called Meeting July 15, 2019.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF CHECKS

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented the Monthly Financial Report and noted the summary that was included in Council information. He also explained the requested approval of the monthly checks by Council. This is a suggestion by the auditors for proper oversight by the governing body. Following the report, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the monthly financial report and the July checks. Motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Tucker absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held regarding possible sale of surplus property. The properties are owned by the City of Covington. The Public Hearing was opened and there were no comments heard from the citizens present. Mayor Sibold noted that Council will decide on the sale of the properties once bids are received.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Council received information from a survey of the City employees regarding the upcoming holidays. The majority of employees responding requested that they work on the Columbus Day Holiday and add that day on Monday, December 23rd to the Christmas Holiday. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to approve the change for employees to work Columbus Day and add that day to Monday, December 23rd.

Following clarification of the appointment, upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to reappoint Mayor Tom Sibold to the TAP Board of Directors.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

No report at this time.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Discussion was held regarding Ordinance O-19-09 concerning the designation of "No Trucks" on Hickory Street and E. Larch Street. Mayor Sibold, expressed concerns regarding ability to enforce all of these areas. Mr. Entsminger noted that the trucks have used these streets for years. Police Chief Chris Smith explained that the Officers are in the area to try and enforce the new ordinances when first established. He noted that trucks going to WestRock have other routes they can take. City Manager Onaitis noted that a determination of delivery to a business needs to be made and that the main goal is for a residential area to not be impeded with truck traffic to

WestRock. She also noted that it is difficult to target certain businesses. She suggested possibly setting a weight limit. Mayor Sibold felt that this change should have further discussion. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve, on first reading, Ordinance O-19-09: Motion carried 4 to 0. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Mr. Entsminger, FOR; Mr. Hunter, FOR. Mr. Tucker, Absent.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted 4 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-19-50 regarding the Police Dept. DARE Program in the amount of \$920. Mayor Sibold, FOR; Vice Mayor Crosier, FOR; Mr. Entsminger, FOR; Mr. Hunter, FOR. Mr. Tucker, Absent.

Discussion was held regarding a Downtown Planning Grant. Ms. Onaitis explained that a meeting has been scheduled with Theresa Hammond, Director of the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, regarding information for a grant application.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Crosier noted that the signs regarding the use of jake brakes in the Madison Ave./Dolly Ann area are old and faded. Police Chief Smith has requested new signs.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Fred Forbes, resident of High Acres, expressed concerns regarding a problem with bears in the area and the safety of the children. He felt that the Forest Service needs to assist with trapping and relocating them. Police Chief Smith suggested relocating trash cans to avoid attracting the bears. Ms. Onaitis suggested a possible placement of metal dumpsters with locking lids in the area for all of the residents to use.

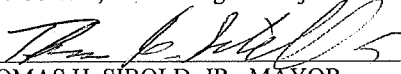
Josh Haynes began a discussion regarding school consolidation. Mayor Sibold responded that this is not an appropriate conversation at this time. The committee involved in talking about this issue is looking for all of the facts.

Mrs. Holloway expressed concerns regarding the grass issue on the property across from her home. She stated that the City had cut the grass last year, but nothing has been done this year.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to move into closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 regarding specific Council appointed personnel. Motion carried 4 to 0. Following the closed session, Council reconvened and voted to certify that only the matter stated was discussed. No action taken.

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