

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 9, 2020

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The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

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

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Roll Call of Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman Edmond J. "Eddie Joe" Entsminger, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Manager: Krystal Onaitis

City Attorney: Mark Popovich

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the agenda.

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At this time, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to add to the agenda, an amendment to the budget in the amount of \$857 for the Roanoke Workforce Development Program. These funds had been cut by the State budget. This was approved by Council.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jay Woodson, former member of Council, expressed the need for the City facilities to reopen for the area youth. He understands the need for safety issues, but noted that Covington is not impacted by the COVID virus like Richmond or Fairfax. He asked that Council think about the children and the need to reopen facilities and recreation areas for them. He requested that the parks and pool open immediately. Mr. Woodson also reminded everyone of the revenue generated by the parks for sports events. He urged Council to be more aggressive to reopen the economy.

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Norma Curtain stated that she agreed with Mr. Woodson. She noted that the children need the parks and pool to reopen now. They need to be outdoors.

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CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Called Meeting May 5, 2020; Regular Meeting May 12, 2020; Called Meeting May 19, 2020; Recessed Called Meeting May 26, 2020 and Recessed Called Meeting May 28, 2020.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

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A Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed FY 2020/2021 Budget. There were no comments heard from the citizens. The Public Hearing was closed.

A Public Hearing was held regarding an amendment to allow receipt of Federal CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds in the City Operating Budget for FY 2019/2022. There were no comments heard from the citizens. The Public Hearing was closed.

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REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

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1. Referred to the Budget Letter given to Council and the changes made at the work session. She noted revenue projections and that there would be no tax increases or increases in fees in this budget. Items related to the budget included the DEQ Compliance Order; School Budget; VDOT Lane Miles reimbursement increase; Storm Emergency Fund and a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment for employees. Reports will be presented throughout the year on revenues and expenditures.

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Mayor David
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2. The City reopening plan is based on other localities format.

3. City Attorney Popovich explained that the City staff is working to find the best and safest ways to open the parks and recreation in the City. He is working with other attorneys to develop guidelines for safety and to address liabilities. He noted that there are contradictions in the Governor's Executive Order #65 and that information has been very confusing and difficult for the decision making process regarding reopening. Discussion was held regarding outdoor concerts, the City pool and other venues. It was noted that the Farmer's Market is reopening on Saturday and the playground and tennis courts will be reopening on Wednesday. In response to a question regarding the City's liability, Attorney Popovich explained the City's responsibility and the need for reminders to educate the public on safety and risks. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the current guidelines for sports and businesses reopening. Concerns were also expressed regarding reopening the YMCA Daycare facility as parents need this assistance.

Discussion was held regarding ways to assist businesses with grant opportunities and loan programs that may become available.

Mayor Sibold expressed concerns regarding the serious cat problem in certain areas of the City due to overpopulation. Discussion was held regarding the current arrangement/agreement with the animal shelter and working with other localities on this problem.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Entsminger, Council voted to reappoint Mr. Tom Long to the Alleghany Regional Library Board.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to reappoint Mrs. Tamala Preston To the Covington City School Board.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Entsminger, Council voted to reappoint Mrs. Tammy Scruggs-Duncan to the Dabney S. Lancaster Community College Board of Directors.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to appoint City Manager Krystal Onaitis to the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Regional Commission.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-20-17 regarding State Seizure Funds for the Police Dept. in the amount of \$1,450.50. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-20-18 regarding Donation for "Shop with a Cop" in the amount of \$150. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-20-19 regarding the CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds in the amount of \$483,169. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

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

ATTEST

EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK

THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR