

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Due to construction in Council Chambers, the meeting was held in Curfman Hall at Covington High School, 606 S. Lexington Avenue, Covington, Virginia.

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

Roll Call of Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman William E. (Lance) Carson, Jr., Councilman Raymond C. Hunter, and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Manager: Krystal Onaitis

City Attorney: Mark Popovich

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to add proposed Ordinance O-21-08 Imposing and Levying Real Estate Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2022; O-21-09: Imposing and Levying Personal Property Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2022; and O-21-10: Approving the City Budget and Making Appropriations for the FY 2022 (with Fee Schedule); and to approve the agenda presented. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion, and members consented.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no Citizen Comments.

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: Work Session on May 4, 2021; Called Meeting on May 10, 2021; Regular Meeting on May 11, 2021; Called Meeting on May 17, 2021; and Called Meeting on May 20, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carson, to reappoint Councilman Tucker to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission for a four-year term, and members agreed by consent.

Council reappointed Ruth Fleming by consent to the Alleghany Highlands Regional Library Board, and Nova Wright was appointed for her first term on the board on a motion made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker. Both terms will expire on June 30, 2025.

Two positions are opened on the School Board, and interviews with Marie Fitzpatrick, Lee Roe, and Jerry (Jay Woodson) were held on June 1. Individual votes were cast as follows:

Mayor Sibold: Marie Fitzpatrick and Jay Woodson

Vice Mayor Crosier: Marie Fitzpatrick and Jay Woodson

Mr. Carson: Marie Fitzpatrick and Jay Woodson

Mr. Hunter: Marie Fitzpatrick and Jay Woodson

Mr. Tucker: Marie Fitzpatrick and Lee Roe

Mayor Sibold congratulated Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Woodson and thanked Mr. Roe for his interest and encouraged him to apply again next year. Because of the upcoming school consolidation, the terms for Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Woodson will expire on June 30, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Sibold called to order the Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget to order. There were no citizen comments, and he closed the Public Hearing.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Rail over River Site Assessment and Planning Grant: Discussion on the Virginia Brownfields Assessment Fund Grant continues, and Ms. Onaitis is working with Assistant City and IDA Attorney Mike Lockaby to transfer that grant to the IDA for economic development.
2. See, Click, Fix: This cellphone app, which allows citizens to report non-emergency items needing attention to Public Works and Development Services staffs, was launched on June 5.
3. American Rescue Act: She is still awaiting final confirmation of the amount from the state. According to Mr. Popovich, the federal government will only release funds to large, "metropolitan cities," and small localities in the Commonwealth must wait for the state of Virginia to release funds. James Sanderson of Davenport and Company was in attendance and stated the figures should be released in approximately a week, although the state can ask for an extension on the federal time constraints. He said there were two different allocations available, and he believes the City will be eligible for city funds and another smaller one directly from the federal government for county funds, despite Covington being a City. However, he warned not to balance the budget from these funds as there are federal restrictions on how funds can be used.
4. Juneteenth will be observed by the City on June 18.
5. Rayon Bridge: The Commonwealth Transportation Board will be meeting on June 23, and full funding for this project is still included.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

Concerning Resolution R-21-22 Providing for the Sale and Award of a General Obligation Bond, Previously Authorized in a Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$3,000,000, Mr. Sanderson explained that this is permanent financing for the current amount of nearly \$2.3 million. The interest will be approximately 2.5 percent for a 15-year loan that will end in 2036. The payments will be approximately \$180,000 yearly in principal and interest. Mr. Sanderson said the City must maintain a General Fund Reserve Balance of 17 percent. If the fund falls below that for two consecutive years, the VRA will request that \$100,000 be held in reserve for one year. Mayor Sibold asked if any grant money was available and Ms. Onaitis said there were no VDOT funds, but because Council declared a local state of emergency, she will apply for a Virginia Department of Emergency Management grant that can only be submitted after all work is completed and invoices paid. She reminded members that last year an additional five miles of moving lane miles were identified and added in roadway reimbursement maintenance funds from VDOT, bringing in an additional \$80,000 yearly that will be applied to this loan. On a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted unanimously as follows: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Members voted unanimously to pass Resolution R-21-23 Setting Allocation Percentage for Personal Property Tax Relief for the 2021 Tax Year, which has no change in rates. The motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, with this vote: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to approve Resolution R-21-24 Authorizing Annual Application to the Covington Police Department from the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership with 50/50 matching Funds. Mr. Tucker seconded, and members voted unanimously to approve: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Council approved the three ordinances added at the beginning of the meeting. Ordinance O-21-08, Imposing and Levying Real Estate Taxes and Public Services Taxes for the Tax Year 2021, was approved unanimously on a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier and a second by Mr. Tucker: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Ordinance O-21-09, Imposing and Levying Personal Property, Machinery and Tools Taxes, and Mobile Homes for the Tax Year 2021, was approved 5-0 on a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

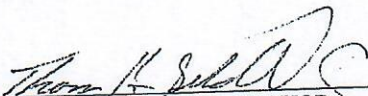
Mr. Popovich explained that there is no waiting period to approve both of these ordinances, but Virginia law requires a seven-day waiting period between the Public Hearing and the vote on Ordinance O-21-10, Approving the City Budget and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year

2022. On a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, and agreed upon by consensus, members tabled this ordinance until the Called Meeting on June 15.

NEW BUSINESS

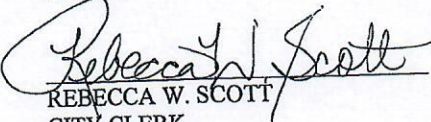
There was no new business.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion from Vice Mayor Crosier and seconded by Mr. Tucker.



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

ATTEST:



REBECCA W. SCOTT
CITY CLERK