

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers in City Hall, 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. The invocation was given by Rev. Steve Noel, 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 approve the agenda with the following additions: the Approval of a Tax Refund to Ingevity as Requested by the Commissioner of the Revenue and Recommended by the City Attorney; and Resolution R-21-57 to amend the City's Procurement Policy. Mr. Tucker added a second, and members agreed by consent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no Citizen Comments.

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Work Session on October 5, 2021; Regular Meeting on October 12, 2021; and a Called Meeting on October 19, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to nominate Donald G. Hampton to the Circuit Judge for the Board of Zoning Appeals; Council agreed with an aye vote.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Facilities Study: The Alleghany Foundation has funded the total amount of the grant proposal for \$134,000 to assess site facilities at Casey Field and the Jackson River Sports Complex for Title IX compliance for school consolidation.
2. Project Sparkle: The Alleghany Foundation has also funded \$15,000 of the \$20,000 maintenance grant for utility bills and fire and property insurance for the former Gordmans' building.
3. Nettleton Property: Invitations for Bid will go out by November 29. The draft is comprehensive in abatement of lead, asbestos, and other hazardous materials and also covers disposal of the store, house and other buildings, and leveling and filling. The estimated cost for all of these items is \$230,000.
4. Service Efforts: Since the fiscal year began on July 1, three structures have been demolished at the cost of \$23,000. Ten new business licenses have been purchased, and twenty zoning applications have been processed. There have been 49 notices of violation in property maintenance, and ten notices of correction, with one pending active court case and one court case closed. Violations for grass mowing on fifty properties have occurred at a cost of \$12,201, with one property owned by a corporation racking up more than \$3,000 in mowing fees. All mowing violations have been billed and reported to the Treasurer's office. Development Services staff is moving toward civil collections rather than applying liens against properties, which is a "more aggressive" method of revenue recovery. "Request" types will be added to the *See, Click, Fix* management software to allow for more open-ended reporting. The new Building Official has inspected 18 properties since beginning work on October 7.

Fall clean-up resulted in approximately 150 tons of garbage collected from residences. Seventy-one potholes have been patched since July 1. Staff is working on a proposal to create a paving index, "the gold standard" used by VDOT to rate each roadway segment, which should be complete by Thanksgiving. This will allow easier means of working with consultants and will be used for running optimization reports and creating a classification system of streets and the type of paving that is optimal for specific areas.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

In regard to the Tax Refund to Ingevity as Requested by the Commissioner of the Revenue and Recommended by the City Attorney, Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to approve the refund, seconded by Mr. Tucker. Council agreed by consensus.

On a motion from Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance O-21-14, to Amend Chapter 12, Cemeteries, Article II, City Cemeteries, Division 1, Section 12-13, Burial of Indigents: 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 R-21-48 Approving the City's Participation in the Proposed Settlement of Opioid-Related Claims against McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, Janssen, and their Related Corporate Entities and Directing the City Attorney and/or the City's Outside Counsel to Execute Documents Necessary to Effectuate the City's Participation in the Settlements. Mr. Popovich said that formal resolutions like this will likely be necessary for larger companies but probably not needed for smaller companies. Mr. Tucker added the second, and the unanimous vote showed Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Concerning Resolution R-21-49, a Reappropriations Resolution for Assistance to Firefighters Grant-Homeland Security, \$65,000.00 (\$3,095.24 Local Match) Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to approve. Mr. Tucker seconded, and Council approved; 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-21-50 to Appoint a Building Official, John J. Crowder, for the City of Covington, and Mr. Tucker seconded. The vote showed a unanimous decision with Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

For R-21- 51, a Resolution Authorizing Application to the Covington Department of Public Safety for the Local Emergency Management Performance Grant, \$18,692.00 (50/50 Matching Grant), Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Tucker: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Resolution R-21-52 Authorizing Annual Application to the Covington Division of Police for the Walmart Community Grant Program (No Local Match) was unanimously approved on a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, with 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-21-53 to Waive the Formal Bid Process and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into Contract for the Lease of Vehicles for the Covington Police Department through Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. It was seconded by Mr. Tucker. Mr. Hunter asked how many vehicles would be leased. Ms. Onaitis responded that the lease was for five vehicles, not the exceed \$24,000 per vehicle as already budgeted. She added that the Alleghany County Sheriff's Department uses the same procedure, and the next resolution (R-21-54) would eliminate the need to hold a surplus auction and also get rid of older vehicles requiring expensive repairs. This is a trial run to determine if this becomes a yearly budgeted item for police department vehicles may be used for the entire fleet of City vehicles. The amount received for trade-ins will be used as a deposit on leased vehicles. Chief Chris Smith said the same emergency equipment currently used will be installed by Enterprise and that cost is already in the lease, so there will be no additional charges. The unanimous vote showed Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

R-21-54, a Resolution Declaring as Surplus the Vehicles Used by the Covington Police Department and Directing Disposal through Trade-in through Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. had a unanimous vote after a motion from Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker. Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

A motion was made by Mr. Crosier to approve Resolution R-21-55 Authorizing Annual Application to the Covington Division of Police for the PSAP Education Program Grant (No Local Match). Chief Smith explained this is for training for dispatchers. Mr. Tucker seconded, and the vote showed Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to accept Resolution R-21-56 and Mr. Tucker seconded to Authorize the Issuance of a General Obligation Bond Not to Exceed \$3,000,000 and Providing for the Form, Details, and Payment of the Bond, and Authorizing Certain Related Documents and Actions. Mayor Sibold read Section 1, Authorization of the Bond, as follows:

Pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia and the Public Finance Act of 1991, there is authorized to be issued a general obligation bond (the "Bond") of the City of Covington... in a principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 (the "Maximum Amount") to provide funds to finance the City's share costs of providing a pad-ready industrial site in the Alleghany Regional Commerce Center, including infrastructure, access road and site improvements, a multi-jurisdictional project between the City and Alleghany County. To the extent allowed under Section 15.2-2601 of the Public Finance Act of 1991 (Chapter 26, Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia) the Council... elects to issue the Bond under the provisions of the Act without regard to the requirements, restrictions or other provisions contained in any charter or local or special act applicable to the City.

He summarized, "This is our share of work to be done on what we have called the pad-ready site." He emphasized that the City is not bound to use all or part of the \$3,000,000. Davenport Vice President James Sanderson was in the audience and verified Mayor Sibold's assessment, stating that interest will only be paid on the amount being used, with no interest on the line of credit. Closing will occur on November 16. Ms. Onaitis stated that she has been working to float engineering costs, asking Council if they wanted to use the money already budgeted for engineering or get reimbursement when the funds become available. Mayor Sibold said he preferred to wait. He requested a representative from the Timmons Group to do a presentation, especially on the geotechnical aspects, next month. The unanimous vote showed Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

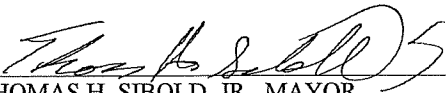
For the resolution added at the beginning of the meeting, R-21-57 to Amend the City's Procurement Policy, Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to accept, and Mr. Tucker seconded. The vote was 5-0 with Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Sibold said a Called Meeting will be held on Monday, November 22, at 6 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca W. Scott
City Clerk


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