

MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
MARCH 14, 2022

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 5:30 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 Sibold, Jr., with the following members present: Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman William E. Carson, Jr., Councilman Raymond C. Hunter, and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Attorney: Travis Andrews

The Mayor began the meeting by stating that there was an incident at Farm & Fuel on Alleghany Avenue it was not known yet how serious. The City Manager and Police Chief were there. He asked for a moment of silence.

Mike Wickline of Phillip Street thanked Cathy Kimberlin, Commissioner of Revenue for her work on the choices to be made for vehicle personal property assessments. He noted that there are six other localities in Virginia that have lower taxes than Covington, yet there are a lot more expenditures. Also with the recession coming revenues will be lower. This is a less expensive place to live and citizens need support, funds go to things like tourism.

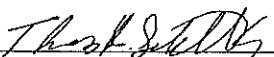
Ms. Kimberlin stated that the way Covington bills for taxes, twice a year, that vehicle tax increase will be due in June then the other half due in December. Many localities are still deciding what decision to make because their books are due later than Covington's. If clean trade is decided by Council the older vehicles will also go up. The tax assessment is done by NADA.

Attorney Andrews stated that there is a bill in the general assembly to be passed, not signed yet, is code surplus funds. The Mayor was familiar with this being a form of rebate/refund. This would be requiring a citizen to pay the taxes, then there would be a partial refund later. Vice Mayor Crosier stated that it would burden the tax payer, to pay up front before a partial refund. The City may have to look at services such as refuse pick up every other week instead of every week. Councilman Tucker mentioned a need for equipment. There was a fire truck rear ended on the interstate by a tractor trailer recently, it may be totaled. The Mayor mentioned other needs, employee health insurance, minimum wage increase and when the recession hits new businesses may not be created and with the bad economy there is nothing that can be done about it.

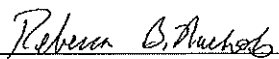
There would not be a problem to switch accounting system to Clean Trade In however the Commissioner's book is due soon. She mentioned that they would need an extension to get the book completed.

The Mayor suggested postponing the decision a week and have another called meeting on March 21, 2022 at 5:30 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.


THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS
SUBSTITUTE CITY CLERK