

MINUTES  
CALLED MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2022

A work session of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Monday, March 21, 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: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman William E. Carson, Jr., Councilman Raymond C. Hunter, and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.  
City Manager: Krystal Onaitis City Attorney: Mark Popovich

The Mayor stated that on behalf of the City of Covington and City Council they wanted to offer condolences to the Stacy Jeter family with the recent loss of Stacy.

The Mayor wanted to acknowledge that it was Emergency Management Professionals Week in Virginia, March 20-26, 2022 and that all are greatly appreciated.

Mayor Sibold spoke about the last meeting on March 14, 2022, that there were questions and discussions about the tax assessment for vehicles, no decision was made. He asked Jimmy Sanderson, financial advisor, with Davenport & Associates to comment on these taxes. Mr. Sanderson stated that the Commissioner of Revenue did a good job explaining the choices for the vehicle tax assessment. The City has a good credit rating that has been built up and it is not wise to use all of your fund balance. It is best to stay in a good position with your credit rating. Some revenues are just a one-time expense and would not be needed in the future. Many localities are discussing this tax. He sees that larger cities are using percentages and ratios, not smaller communities. There could be a revenue short fall due to the taxes being collected twice in the City and working on a fiscal year, not a calendar year.

Councilman Carson stated that there are a lot of elderly citizens and those making minimum wage and a tax increase will be difficult for these citizens.

There will be less revenue coming in, for example, the bio mass boiler decreases in value each year.

Ms. Onaitis noted that cost of services are increasing, such as gas, fertilizer, chemicals for the municipal pool, etc... and an example is the spring cleanup completed by the Public Works department cost over \$20,000 however it greatly assists with cleaning up the City.

Mayor mentioned that we all have to stop doing something to pay for other things with the increase in everything in this economy. The paving schedule may not be able to be completed this year as was planned.


Vice Mayor Crosier noted that without the taxes it is unseen how services will be completed, when the revenue is not there. Councilman Tucker agreed. Councilman Hunter noted the stress on all as he is retired and on a fixed income.

The Mayor stated that it seemed that there was a consensus of Council to leave the tax as is, clean retail, Vice Mayor Crosier and Councilman Tucker agreed.

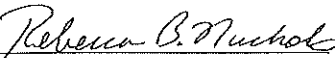
He stated that Council, upon consensus, are keeping the vehicle tax assessment the same, which is clean retail.

Cathy Kimberlin, Commissioner of Revenue, will put this information out so the citizens will know.

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

  
THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS  
INTERIM CITY CLERK