

October 11, 2022

Minutes

Regular Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. All Councilmembers were present including Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Council member William E. Carson, Jr., Council member Raymond C. Hunter, And Council member S. Allan Tucker. Also present were Interim City Manager, Allen Dressler and City Attorney, Mark Popovich.

The invocation was given by Pastor Dan Gillette, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Mr. Tucker. All members were in favor with an "aye" vote.

Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Special Presentations

Police Chief Chris Smith awarded Communications Officers Jeffrey Bowles and Amber May with a Letter of Accommodation for their outstanding performances and effectively carrying out their duties during a volatile situation that occurred in Covington on March 14, 2022. He stated that communications officers are the unsung heroes in a crisis like this one. He also said that they saved lives by dispatching critical resources that day. Chief Smith advised that Officer Justin Jefferson, Detective Richard Baker, and Officer Caleb Ogilvie had been selected to receive the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Valor Award for the tragic event which occurred in March. Mrs. Ogilvie accepted the award on behalf of Officer Ogilvie.

Mike Jeffries with Thompson and Litton gave a volume and post closure study presentation on the Peter's Mountain landfill. He said a topographic survey was needed to verify volume calculations, and that a good study was necessary to find out how much remaining borrow is left, which is critical to operations and closure. He advised we are currently filling Cell C, and the remaining volume in that cell will be looked at. He said that the city has three options-continue operating, close the cells (landfill), and determine what will be done with the solid waste if the landfill is closed. Mr. Jeffries said that they will work with a financial advisor once associated costs are established. He went on to say that the city also has an option of constructing cell D, but short and long term costs need to be looked at with the construction verses establishing a transfer area. He told Council that they could possibly form an agreement with another municipality, such as Alleghany County, for accepting Covington City's solid waste. He said that it is critical that the city gets started on this decision now, and other permitted landfills can be contacted by letter to see if they will accept Covington's solid waste in case of an emergency. Mr. Dressler advised Council that they needed to start making decisions and an aerial survey needed to take place in the next couple of months, so the city knows what it has and where the waste needs to go. Mayor Sibold questioned how long Cell C had left to store solid waste. Mr. Jeffries advised that based on previous averages, the cell should have until March, 2024, but there has been a

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tremendous uptick in daily averages (possible due to construction and demolitions). He said that Cell C has a daily limit of 100 tons. The city was averaging around 50 tons daily, but is averaging 75-80 tons in the last three months. Mr. Dressler complimented staff that works at the landfill every day, stating that they had expressed concern over the amount of refuse being brought in. Council agreed to move on the issue.

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Vice Mayor Crosier moved to approve the minutes from September 13, 2022 with a second from Mr. Tucker. All Councilmembers were in favor with "aye" votes.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Dressler thanked the rescue squad and fire department for their service to our community.

He said that Nathaniel McKinney had complete his Eagle Scout project, and family, scout masters, and recreation staff had joined to celebrate at Fort Young Park this past Saturday. He said that Nathaniel is a good kid and did a great job on his project. He urged citizens to visit Helen's wildflower garden, which is the project Nathaniel had been working on.

Mr. Dressler advised that Pumpkins in the Park would take place on October 28th, and Hometown Halloween would take place on October 28th.

Mr. Paul Linkenhoker had contacted Mr. Dressler regarding a die cast model of Train 701. The train was purchased and will be on display at Covington City Hall.

Mr. Dressler gave a shout out to Kevin Pettitt, Parks and Recreation employee, for a wonderful job on fall decorations around the city. He also commended other members of the recreation staff. He gave a shout out to Burke Harris and Kendra Dressler for a nice job on painting the bales on Durant Road.

He advised there were no issues with fall cleanup. Thirty seven loads (432.95 tons) were taken to the landfill and 418 tires were collected.

Mr. Dressler said the alumni CHS gathering went wonderfully, and that people came from all over.

Bids for paving and the Thacker Avenue sidewalk project have been received. The goal is to have the sidewalk completed by the end of October and then addressing the paving, which is still being negotiated. He said if the paving was not done before it became cold, it would be done in the spring.

Bids for Maple Avenue Phase III have been received and the city is working for approval through the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Rayon Bridge was recently inspected and deterioration was noted underneath. A contractor will be working on the bridge soon. The recommendation for repairs was asphalt patching at this time. The inspectors were more concerned with the underside of the bridge than the top of the bridge. The bridge requires annual inspections, and a new bridge is slated to be constructed in 2026.

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The culvert going into Thacker Avenue also needs to be inspected. Mr. Dressler advised there are nine bridges (four culverts) that need either annual or biannual inspections.

Mr. Dressler gave a shout out to staff, the police department, public works, landfill staff, Michael Mines, Gisela Roldan, Kyla Crosier, Central Accounting. He said that everyone had done anything that was asked of them in a timely manner. He gave a shout out to Thomas Smals for removing the barrier (Covid protector) from Council Chambers. He thanked Becky Nuckols and Lisa Worley for their help and being patient with him.

He advised that Cork and Pork will be returning next year on June 2nd and 3rd, 2023.

He stated that two grants were received from ACOM (engineering firm), one for flood prevention and protection studies in the amount of \$357,380, no match requested, and one for aiding in planning/community flood preparedness in the amount of \$140,509, no match requested.

Resolutions

Resolution R-22-28-Virginia Risk Management Grant-Vice Mayor Crosier moved for approval with a second from Mr. Tucker. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; and Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-22-29-Dare Contribution-\$800-Vice Mayor Crosier moved for approval with a second from Mr. Tucker. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-22-30-Utility Assistance Program-Vice Mayor Crosier moved for approval with a second from Allan Tucker. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-22-31-Amending Appropriation for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023-Vice Mayor Crosier moved for approval with a second from Mr. Tucker. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-22-32-to withdraw support of US Route 220 road diet and buffered bike lanes project-Vice Mayor Crosier moved for approval with a second from Mr. Tucker. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

New Business

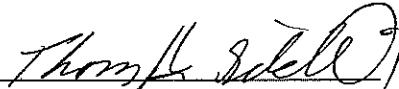
Vice Mayor Crosier advised that the Shriners had invited Council to the Fall Festival kickoff at noon on October 14th.

Mr. Hunter told Council he was not happy with the city's hiring practices, as there were not enough people of the black race working for Covington. Mayor Sibold advised he would check into it.

Mayor Sibold said that the VML Conference was informative, and there were some important issues being taken to the General Assembly, such as Virginia not being a Dillon Law State (state has more power than the locality).


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With no other business to come before Council, Mayor Sibold moved for adjournment. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.



Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr.

Attest:



Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk