

December 13, 2022

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

A regular meeting for the Council of the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier; Councilman William E. (Lance) Carson, Jr.; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter; and Councilman S. Allan Tucker. Also present were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

The invocation was given by Pastor Doug Hollenbeck followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correction and Approval of Agenda

Mayor Sibold requested to move unfinished/old business between ordinances/resolutions and new business. Mr. Crosier motioned to make the change and approve with the addition, under new business, item number 4, resignation on the Planning Commission. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Appointments

Mr. Crosier moved to appoint Betty Graves to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Public Hearings

- 1) Ordinance O-22-06-Compass for Life-124 and 130 South Lexington Avenue; Ms. Kristi Dressler requested personal and real estate tax exemption as Compass for Life 501C nonprofit and for individuals coming out of jail or prison with nowhere to go. There were no comments for or against the request. Mr. Hunter inquired as to what the properties would be use for. Ms. Dressler advised that it was for anyone who had served time in jail in prison, and that it didn't matter when or where they served time. Mr. Sibold advised there would be a motion and vote further into the meeting.
- 2) Christopher Pyle-rezoning request from R-2 to R-3; 124 N. Lexington Avenue; Lots 10, 11,12, and 13; Block 10; CIC tax map #13---10---10-. Mr. Pyle requested to change from R-2 to R-3 so he can put three apartments in the property. There were no citizens to speak for or against the request. Mr. Sibold advised there would be a motion and vote further into the meeting. Mrs. Tammy Duncan advised Council that Mr. Pyle had done a great job cleaning up at the property and had worked very hard. She stated that the property had been improved.
- 3) Terri Jones Mathews-rezoning request form R-3 to C-2; 208 E. Beech Street; lot 18; Block 35; tax Map 18---135---18-. There was no one available to speak on behalf of the request. Mr. Sibold advised a citizen that H&M Electric wanted to expand their parking lot. He advised Council would proceed with the vote further into the meeting.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Correction and Approval of Minutes

December 13, 2022

November 1, 2022-Called Meeting

November 1, 2022-Work Session

November 8, 2022-Regular Meeting

Mr. Crosier moved to approve the minutes with a second from Mr. Tucker. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

City Manager's Report

Columbia Gas

Mr. Dressler apologized to citizens to disruptions they are experiencing as a result of construction being done by Columbia Gas. He advised that the work in Fairlawn would take at least two more weeks and that the work in Edgemont should be completed by this weekend, weather permitting. He advised that on December 17th, there would be a large flame 30 feet high as the workers cleaned out the lines at the site on Edgemont.

Regional Commission/Chamber of Commerce-Outdoor Survey Plan

Mr. Dressler met with the Regional Commission for the Chamber of Commerce regarding the outdoor survey plan for the Allegheny Highlands. He said that recreation is very important for our area and encouraged citizens to go online to give their input and suggestions regarding a plan for the future of outdoor recreation, parks, facilities, trails, etc.

Work by City Staff on Allegheny Avenue

Mr. Dressler stated that city staff had replaced the metal plate on Allegheny Avenue left by Columbia Gas and a rotten storm drain. He said that the city is in the process of cold patching potholes throughout the city.

Basketball/Volleyball Drafts

He advised that there were 78 young men playing youth basketball and 57 young women playing youth volleyball. The games will begin the first of January.

There was an issue with a refuse truck, and the city mechanic has been on the job since starting vacation. The refuse truck will hopefully be up and running by tomorrow. Mr. Dressler thanked the city mechanic for his hard work.

Mr. Dressler said the staff continues to do a nice job of responding to our citizens' calls and concerns.

Hammond and Mitchell

Hammond and Mitchell will begin working on the Rayon Bridge, and equipment was deployed today. The underside of the bridge will hopefully be repaired within a week.

Hawthorne Street Bridge

The Hawthorne Street Bridge had its annual inspection today and we are waiting on results.

Allegheny Foundation Grant

December 13, 2022

The city will move forward with Phase 2 of the design at Casey Field/Boodie Albert Stadium as we prepare for consolidation of schools' athletic programs next fall.

Over the last two days, BB and Mr. Dressler have met with about ¾ of city employees. The city has a very good group of employees.

Mr. Dressler thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- 1) Resolution R-22-38-Community Based Policing Contributions from Walmart; Mr. Crosier moved to approve 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.
- 2) Resolution R-22-39-Lewisgale Alleghany Regional Hospital Dare Contribution; Mr. Crosier motioned to approve 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.
- 3) Ordinance O-22-06-Compass for Life-Personal and Real Estate Tax Exemption; Mr. Crosier moved to approve 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.

Rezoning Request from Christopher Pyle from R-2 to R-3

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve with a second from Mr. Carson. Mr. Hunter advised that he'd received letters from citizens requesting he vote against the request. Mr. Carson stated several citizens were against the request, as they were concerned about parking and other issues. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, against; Mr. Hunter, against; Mr. Tucker, against; Vice Mayor Crosier, against; Mayor Sibold, against.

Request from Terri Jones Mathews (Beech Street)

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve with a second from Mr. Tucker. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, against; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, against.

Facility Use Agreement pertaining to Casey Field/Boodie Albert Stadium

Mr. 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.

Deed of Ground Lease

Mr. 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.

Rayon Bridge Replacement Alternatives

Mr. Dressler requested that City Council email himself or Becky Nuckols with any questions they had regarding the Rayon Bridge replacement, so they would be prepared when Susan Hammon came in January. He said that VDOT is elated that Council had been setting money aside for the past three to four years for the bridge replacement.

Personnel Policy

December 13, 2022

There was discussion regarding whether or not Constitutional Officers would start receiving longevity pay. After much discussion between Council members, Mr. Dressler, and Mr. Bryant, Mr. Crosier made a motion to approve the revisions to the Personnel Policy to include longevity payments to the three constitutional officers (Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue, and Registrar). Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Mr. Tucker, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

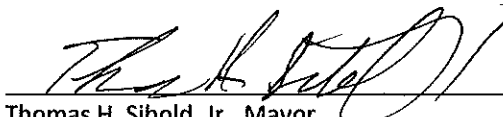
New Business

Mr. Crosier made a motion to accept Cindy Scully's resignation from the Planning Commission with plans to make a new appointment in January. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. All members were in favor with "aye" votes. Mayor Sibold requested an advertisement for a replacement.

Council Comments

Mr. Carson stated that he would miss Mr. Tucker, as this is Mr. Tucker's last Council meeting. He thanked Olde Town Covington, Mr. Dressler, and city staff for their work into making the City of Covington look wonderful for the holidays.

With no other business to come before Council, Vice Mayor Crosier moved to adjourn with a second from Mr. Tucker. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.


Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:


Kyla D. Crosier, Covington City Clerk