

February 14, 2023

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

A regular meeting for the Council of the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

Vice Mayor David S. Crosier called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr.; Vice Mayor Crosier; Councilman William E. Carson, Jr.; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Absent from the meeting was Councilman Fred F. Forbes. City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich were also present at the meeting.

The invocation was given by Pastor Bill Gilliland followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion by Mr. Crosier, with a consensus vote by Council Members, the following two items were added to the agenda:

- 1) Resolution R-23-08-Opioid Settlement
- 2) Appointment to Mountain Gateway Community College Board of Directors

Public Hearing

Commissioner of Revenue, Cathy Kimberlin, provided Council with information pertaining to proposed ordinance O-23-01 concerning transient occupancy tax. She is requesting that Council change the length of days from 90 to 30 to better keep up with surrounding localities. This means that the city can charge taxes every 30 days instead of 90 days.

There were no public comments related to the public hearing. Mr. Crosier closed the public hearing.

Special Presentation

Mr. Tony Bell, from Moseley Architects, and hired by Rockbridge and Alleghany County, discussed and presented several options for correcting deficiencies in the Rockbridge and Alleghany Regional jails. The main deficiency is lack of space for incoming detainees. He presented Council with several different options as follows:

- Option 1-Expand/renovate each jail individually or build new jails individually
- Option 2-Expand one/renovate each individually and have agreement between the localities regarding transfer of detainees from one facility to the other due to space constraints
- Option 3-Renovate each individually; Build shared/new "quasi-regional" facility
- Option 4-Close each individually; Build shared/new "super-regional" consolidated facility
- Option 5-Renovate each individually; Build shared/new; consolidate all
- Option 6-Expand one; renovate each individually; consolidate all
- Option 7-Build new/ renovate each individually; have agreement regarding transfer of detainees

Mr. Bell advised that some points for consideration are cost, location, transportation, and staffing.

After some discussion between Mr. Bell and Council, the meeting was concluded.

Pathway to Success

Sheriff Kevin Hall presented the Pathway to Success to Council:

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Pathway to Success is an incentive program for detainees of the Alleghany Regional Jail. They are able to use tablets for educational purposes and receive tokens to watch movies, have video visitation, or play video games depending on classes completed. There is no cost to taxpayers, and the money can only be used for detainees. Some courses offered are becoming a better father, anger management, welding, CDL, intro to computer science, mental health, opioid, parenting, getting your GED, etc. Sheriff Hall explained that approximately 90 percent of detainees will rejoin our community and this program is a way to provide rehabilitation and prepare them for life outside of jail.

Appointments

- 1) Industrial Development Authority-Mayor Sibold moved to reappoint Mr. Gene Wood, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.
- 2) Redevelopment and Housing Authority-Mr. Hunter motioned to appoint Ms. Tammy Wilson, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.
- 3) Redevelopment and Housing Authority-Mr. Hunter moved to reappoint Ms. Marie Fitzpatrick, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.
- 4) Mountain Gateway Community College-Mayor Sibold motioned to appoint Vice Mayor Crosier to fill the unexpired term of Stephanie Clark (term expiring 06/30/2023), seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, January 3, 2023-Mr. Hunter motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Regular Meeting, January 10, 2023-Mr. Hunter motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Report of City Manager

- 1) The Hodges' Clock has been restored. Mr. Dressler thanked Tommy Snider, Williams' Fabrication, Grey's Jewelry, Li Richmond, WACO, Ms. Kemper, H&M Electric, Michael Mines, Thomas Smals, and Oldetown Covington for their part in helping the clock be restored.
- 2) There have been many compliments from citizens on the alleys the Public Works have been working on throughout the city.
- 3) They've been busy with street and sidewalk cleaning downtown.
- 4) The refuse department is busy keeping trash picked up throughout the city.
- 5) The landfill is fixed and in very good shape.
- 6) Finance Director BB Bryant and Mr. Dressler met with all department this past week to discuss the upcoming budget, which went very well.
- 7) Work progressed on the Maple Phase 3 Project.
- 8) A traffic study will be conducted next week near Covington High School on Oak Street, Jeter

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Watson, and Clifton Middle in preparation for the consolidated school system in August. Kim Halterman and her staff will be assisting with the study.

- 9) Virginia-Promise Program is a one-time benefit for eligible individuals to help pay for their water and sewer, refuse not included in the benefit.
- 10) Mr. Dressler will be attending a local Governments' Association Conference in Harrisonburg regarding the Pad Ready site, regional cooperation, and revenue sharing.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance O-23-01-Mayor Sibold motioned to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Carson. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-23-04-Mayor Sibold motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Carson. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-23-05-Mr. Carson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-23-06-Mr. Hunter motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Resolution R-23-07-Mr. Carson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

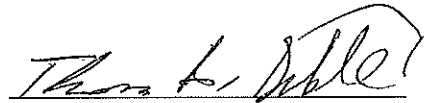
Resolution R-23-08-Mr. Hunter motioned to Approve, seconded by Mr. Carson. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

New Business

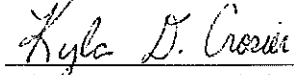
Mr. Hunter advised that the alleyway between Oak and Cherry Street needs pothole repair.

Mr. Carson told Mr. Dressler to keep the street sweeper running, as the streets look really good.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion from Mr. Crosier and a consensus from all members.


Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:


Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk