

May 9, 2023

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 9, 2023**

Council for the City of Covington held a Public Hearing along with their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. 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 Fred F. Forbes; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Also present were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

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

Mr. Hunter motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

**Public Hearing**

Five Stars, LLC.-Ben Crew, with Balser and Associates, advised Council that the owner was excited to make a new investment in Covington by opening a small retail store with gas pumps nearby. Mr. Crew met with the Wyatts and Higgins, adjacent property owners, to address landscaping needs. They are meeting these needs the best they can.

Mayor Sibold asked if the layout of the pumps and/or awning would be changed. Mr. Crew advised there may be some modifications. There will also be one diesel tank at the new station.

Mr. Crosier declared the Public Hearing as closed since there were no citizens for or against the request. Mr. Carson motioned to approve the rezoning request, seconded by Mr. Hunter. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Garten Development, LLC.-Mr. Tommy Garten, with Garten Development, advised Council there would be no gambling machines at the new location, and they were not sure what they would be using it for, possible a beauty parlor or insurance agency.

Mr. Carson motioned to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Hunter. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Mr. Crosier closed the Public Hearing as there were no citizens to speak for or against the rezoning request.

**Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

**Appointments**

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Mr. Carson motioned to reappoint David Crosier the Mountain Gateway Community College Board of Directors, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with “aye” votes.

Mr. Hunter motioned to reappoint Allen Dressler to the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Regional Commission, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with “aye” votes.

Mr. Carson motioned to reappoint David Crosier to the Economic Development Corporation, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with “aye” votes.

Mayor Sibold requested to table the reappointment of David Oliver, as Council is hoping to find someone who resides in Covington. He requested that Mrs. Crosier advertise the appointment.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Carson motioned to approve the minutes from the work session held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and the regular meeting held on April 11<sup>th</sup>. This was seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with “aye” votes.

### **Resolutions**

#### **R-23-15-Donation to Alleghany Humane Society**

Mr. Carson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

#### **R-23-16-Stretcher for Emergency Services**

Mr. Hunter motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Carson. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

#### **R-23-17-Cot for Emergency Services**

Mr. Hunter motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Carson. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

#### **R-23-18-Ambulance purchase for Emergency Services**

Mr. Carson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

#### **Proclamation-“Better Hearing and Speech Month”**

Mr. Carson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with “aye” votes.

### **Report of City Manager**

Spring clean-up wrapped up last Friday.

Police staff continues to do a fantastic job. Mr. Dressler recognized Chief Smith and sent his condolences for the loss of his mother. He thanked Juan Roldan for filling in and doing a great job for Chief Smith while he was out of town.

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Cinco de' Mayo was awesome. Mr. Dressler thanked everyone who was involved in planning for and helping with the event.

#### Bike Rodeo

There were hundreds of children at the Bike Rodeo. There was also a Girls' Fast Pitch Game occurring, and everyone had a fantastic time. A lot of bikes were given away.

Rock the Block will be held this Friday night.

#### Agony in the Alleghanies (Cycling)

Mr. Dressler expressed thanks to Dave Bostic for his assistance with registering and storing bicycles for the upcoming biking event.

#### Graduation

Covington High School will hold their graduation on May 19<sup>th</sup> and Alleghany High School will hold theirs on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Paving will begin as early as Friday at Hunter's Hill.

Kevin Pettitt has been busy getting the city ready for summer, planting and decorating. Mr. Dressler expressed his appreciation.

Darrick Taylor is doing a great job cleaning and singling out things that need to be done at City Hall, such as cleaning rugs, etc.

The city picnic will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 at the Jackson River Sports Complex.

Mr. Dressler payed his respects to the family of CA Burton for his passing.

#### **Proposed Budget Report/Fiscal Year 2023/2024**

##### Staff

There will be a 2.5 percent Cost of Living Adjustment on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

A merit pay increased will depend on employee evaluation.

##### Equipment

Five pick-up trucks are included in proposed budget, four for Public Works and one for Development Services

##### Agency Funding Request

Nothing below level funding

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Projects

Maple Avenue Phase 3

Downtown Pocket Park

E.Q. Basin

South Alleghany Sidewalk Project

Roof and Boiler at Jeter Watson Center-They are very old and in need of repair.

Roof on storage building at former Nettleton Property

**School Traffic Study**-near Covington High School, which will become Covington Middle School in August, 2023. This will give students, parents, and staff an idea of how the traffic will be near the Middle School.

Review of Water Storage Tank Repairs/Replacement

Complete Downtown Holiday Lighting

Proposed Holiday Lighting at Sports Complex (Drive Around)

Camping at Sports Complex Ampitheatre

Street Paving

Paving, Alley Improvements, Sidewalks (concrete and brick)

Riverside Parking Lot Improvements

Bridge Work: Culverts Route 18 (2); Thacker (1); Dry Run (1). We need to give attention to all bridges.

Mid-City Mall Economic Development Improvements

No proposed tax increase

No proposed utility increase. With the E.Q. Basin payment approaching (\$8 million dollar project) and cost of chemicals/electricity we will need to look at rates next year. Current budget has \$160,000 in chemicals and \$200,000 in electricity at Water Treatment Plant.

Decision to be made soon regarding refuse disposal

Our proposed budget represents an increase in various departments' fuel and electricity use.

The budget provides funds for property demolition and property maintenance

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Boodie Albert Stadium/Casey Field Locker Room Project

This proposed budget has involved meetings with department staff and our finance department. A lot of work has gone into this proposed budget, and I have much appreciation for David Bryant, Susan Walton, and Lori Humphries for their time and effort. This proposed budget is aggressive and will be recognized by the citizens of Covington as we complete proposed projects. As always, we thank City Council for your support and look forward to our 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Mayor Sibold set the following dates/times for the budget meetings:


May 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

May 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

May 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

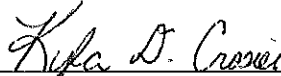
Finance Director, David Bryant, advised the proposed budget amount was \$21,687,771.00.

With no further business to come before Council, Mayor Sibold motioned to adjourn. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.



Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:



Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk