

December 5, 2023

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 5, 2023**

The Council for the City of Covington held a work session on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 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 H. Sibold, Jr. with the following members present: Mayor Sibold; Vice Mayor David S. Crosier; Councilman William E. (Lance) Carson, Jr.; Councilman Fred F. Forbes; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Also present were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Report of City Manager

Paving in the Fairmont area may be pushed until spring as the weather is not cooperating.

The paving pad for a road salt facility on Pine Street is completed.

The Pocket Park on Main Street is moving along, and they hope to lay pavers in January or February. The water structure will take longer to complete.

Mr. Dressler said he is tickled with the progress at 410 Main Street. He appreciates all volunteers and Good News Church for their help with the bazaar that was held there. The city will continue developing facilities on that end of the street.

The Twinkling Trail at Jackson River Sports Complex has entertained a multitude of travelers, and many compliments have been received.

Main Street and Maple Avenue look really nice, and Mr. Dressler appreciates the work staff has put into it.

Thomas Smals, Lisa Worley, and Matt did good work with the Cookies with Santa event.

Mr. Dressler thanked Jerry Clark for the pictures of the Covington Christmas Parade. It was a one and a half hour long parade with a lot of participants.

He advised Council that there would be three public hearings at the next meeting, and recommended Council approve the requests for each item. Mcallister Church requests to use an abandoned alley to build a playground for the children, Amy Warren (Wills) requests the city grant city property to her family since they have been caring for the property for years, and there was a request to use the former Nettleton Property as a hydroponics facility for students and citizens.

With regards to the former Nettleton Property, one request of qualification was received. The city will retain ownership of the property. There will be a lease agreement with rent, which will increase in

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increments over the next few years. Restrooms will be built for visitors and students. The red building will be used as innovation and classroom space. Sewer, water, and natural gas for the property will be addressed.

Mr. Crosier added the following items to the agenda for the regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023:

Public Hearings

- 1) Mcallister Church public hearing requesting the city allow them to use the abandoned alleyway to build a playground for the children
- 2) Amy Warren (Wills) requests the city vacate the right of way for property her family has been maintaining for years
- 3) Former Nettleton Property-Lease agreement to use the property as a hydroponics plant for students/citizens

Resolutions

- 1) R-23-36-Schools fund
- 2) R-23-37-Parks and Recreation Litter Grant
- 3) R-23-38-Shop with a Cop Donation from Ingevity

Appointments

- 1) To consider an appointment of a private sector member to the CEDS Committee
- 2) To consider an appointment to the Planning Commission

Mr. Crosier added a CPMT Parent representative to the appointments

New Business

Mr. Sibold mentioned attending the Governor's Conference, and said that when creating jobs, housing and training also needed to be created.

The Economic Development Corporation will have a mini housing conference on April 15, 2024 at the Masonic Theater.

The pad site in Low Moor is coming along. We need to be ahead in housing and training. Delapidated and back tax houses could be used to create housing.

Mr. Sibold reminded people to stay home if they were sick.

He advised citizens to please support the Arts Council.

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Mr. Dressler received word from Mr. Reid that the burn ban is being lifted.

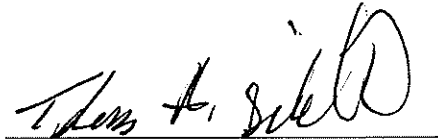
The parking issues on Main Street along with various options for improving the issues were discussed.

Closed Session

Mr. Crosier moved to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss Council appointed personnel.

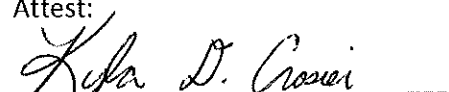
After the closed session, Council unanimously voted to approve a five percent raise for City Manager Allen Dressler.

With no further business to come before Council, Mr. Crosier motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.



Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:



Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk