

January 3, 2023

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2023**

A work session of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

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

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crosier moved for approval of the agenda with a second from Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler congratulated Mr. Crosier and Mr. Sibold on being elected Vice Mayor and Mayor.

Phase 3/Maple Avenue Project

A preconstruction meeting was held a week ago, and work will be starting within the next three weeks.

Columbia Gas

Columbia Gas has been working on Edgemont Drive and the Fairlawn area. Work is completed at this point, and the gas company is returning in the spring to put hot mix in all areas they were working on to fix the roads. Their next area of construction is Hillcrest Drive.

Rayon Bridge

Repairs were completed within the past week, and the report was sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation by Timmons Engineering Group. Cold patch work has been done to address the potholes on the bridge. Susan Hammond will be at the regular meeting next week to discuss placement options of the new Rayon Bridge. Mr. Dressler requested Council direct any questions they had regarding the bridge to himself or his assistant, Rebecca Nuckols.

Council Chambers

Thomas Smals will be working to install new, upgraded equipment in the Council Chambers starting on January 16th.

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Mr. Dressler gave a shout out to the refuse department for all of their hard work during the holiday season. He also commended the water and sewer department for all of their hard work. He said that there were several water breaks around the community with the cold weather.

He gave a shout out to our fire and first aid for fighting a bad fire in Dunlap in bad weather conditions.

Grant Request

Route 18/Carpenter Drive paving is planned for this spring with monies afforded to us in the 2022/2023 budget.

We are already looking at paving for the 2023/2024 year.

Sidewalk Work

Sidewalk repair will begin tomorrow or Thursday on Highland Avenue near Christy's Cleaners.

Youth Sports

Volleyball will start this Saturday, followed by basketball starting on Monday.

Mr. Dressler went on to thank the water treatment plant for their work during a tough holiday season.

Mayor Sibold thanked Allen and all employees for everything they did through the holidays. He expressed concern over Columbia Gas, stating that the city had planned on paving Hillcrest Drive this past year, and if they had, Columbia Gas would have turned around and dug up the new paving to replace gas lines. He asked Mr. Dressler to try to work with Columbia Gas to give Council a better idea of their schedule. Mr. Dressler advised that Columbia Gas was aware that they needed to complete their work before the city starts paving Hillcrest Drive. He assured Mayor Sibold he does his very best to communicate with Columbia Gas, but the problem is the communication between Columbia Gas and Miller Pipeline. He said he would work on the issue.

Mr. Carson inquired as to whether Hammond and Mitchell were going to do the work on Maple Avenue. Mr. Dressler advised him they were.

Items for Regular Meeting on January 10th, 2023

Susan Hammond will be at the meeting regarding the placement of the new Rayon Bridge. Mr. Crosier added this to the agenda.

Special Presentation

To hold a special presentation to recognize Officer Tony Smallwood for his dedicated service and to honor his retirement from the Covington Police Department. Mr. Crosier added this to the agenda.

Planning Commission-Council needs to appoint a member to fill the unexpired term of Cynthia Scully. Mayor Sibold advised Mrs. Stephanie Clark would serve if needed. Mr. Crosier added this to the agenda.

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Resolutions

Mr. Crosier added the following two resolutions to the agenda for the regular meeting.


Resolution R-23-01-Acceptance of Parks and Recreation Litter Grant

Resolution R-23-02-Alleghany Foundation Grant Fund for Phase 2 of the Architectural Design at Casey Field-no local match required

Mayor Sibold stated that Mr. Dressler has done a good job in bringing employees together and resolving some issues from the past. He said he initially did not want to be Mayor for another term due to certain things happening in the city. He feels comfortable with the way things are going since changes have been made. He said there is a lot of good stuff going on in the city now. Industry will be coming in the next few months (county), new businesses on Main Street, Phase 3 on Maple Avenue, and an aggressive paving schedule set up for next year. He enjoys being a part of and seeing good things happen in the city of Covington. He said it is good to be here and see people working together.

Mr. Sibold thanked Mr. Dressler and Mr. Bryant (BB) for the work they did in getting the city employees raises. He advised that one thing he'd like to do in the next couple of months is create a finance committee. In previous discussions, it was determined the following individuals would be on the committee: Mayor Sibold; Mr. Carson; the Treasurer; the Commissioner of Revenue; Mr. Dressler; and Mr. Bryant.

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



Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr.

Attest:



Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk