

March 7, 2023

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
MARCH 7, 2023**

A work session of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, March 7, 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 Vice Mayor David S. Crosier with the following members present: Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr.; Vice Mayor Crosier; Councilman William E. Carson, Jr.; Councilman Fred F. Forbes; and Councilman Raymond C. Hunter. Also present were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

Mr. Carson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler gave a shout-out to the staff of Public Works for responding to citizens' concerns and working to improve the alleys and clean up the city with the street sweeper. The refuse department continues to do a good job picking up trash throughout the city.

Youth League winter sports have ended, with spring sports well under way.

Virginia Local Government Managers' Association in Harrisonburg

Reid Walters and Mr. Dressler spoke regarding revenue sharing and the pad ready site in Low Moor. Many attendees complimented Mr. Walters and Mr. Dressler for their presentation, which shows good cooperation between localities and will help with moving forward in the Alleghany Highlands.

Alley Clean-Up

We will start walking the alleys and cleaning up trash. Once we have them cleaned up, we hope they stay that way.

Six Inch Water Main Break on Alleghany Avenue

City Staff (Bob Howard, Kevin Catron, Dink Bogar, David Persinger, and others) were commended for their work to repair a water main break on Alleghany Avenue, working from early morning on Saturday through Monday evening, which was President's Day. Mr. Dressler also thanked Hammond and Mitchell and Kerns for their assistance with the repair.

Columbia Gas

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Columbia Gas is coordinating with the city to plan their gas line repair work around the city's spring paving work. Edgemont and Fairlawn are temporarily cold patched, and will be fixed with hot mix once asphalt is being made in the community in the spring.

Traffic Study at Covington High School

City staff, Alleghany Highlands Public Schools, and our value engineering firm conducted a traffic study near Covington High School to prepare for the new consolidated middle school in August. There is an increase of busses and vehicular traffic expected once the new middle school opens.

A VDOT crash study was completed. The report was passed onto the city's value engineering firm.

EQ Basin Project

There have been challenges getting items in here, but things have been going well with the project. There have been some hiccups with truck traffic, which have been addressed. We have met with our citizens and contractors. Thanks to Chief Smith, his staff, Bob Howard and his staff, signage has been placed in the location. Mr. Dressler urged citizens to be cautious and pay attention.

Casey Field

Mr. Bryant and Mr. Dressler have been diligently working on the bleacher portion of the project at Casey Field and hope to have everything ready to move on with construction by the end of the week. Mr. Dressler met with ACOM regarding the design and final artwork at Casey Field. He hopes to have an idea of what comes next and what the final cost of the engineering/architectural project will be in April.

VDOT and Hammond and Mitchell/Maple Phase 3 Project

Mr. Dressler advised he hopes that our local concrete company has concrete that meets VDOT standards, or there may be issues having concrete shipped into the area. The meeting with VDOT and Hammond and Mitchell went very well. Our value engineering firm was onsite with us today.

Department of Developmental Services

The Department of Developmental Services has relocated to the former School Board office located on Walnut Street off of Alleghany Avenue.

New Kiosk

The Chamber of Commerce installed a new kiosk last week to provide information for visitors to the City of Covington. We may get one installed at City Hall.

Mr. Dressler thanked the Covington Fire Department for the 121st Banquet and dinner held on Saturday, February 25th.

Mrs. Kathy Downey, Covington resident, expressed some concerns to Mr. Dressler regarding the ethics policy. Mr. Dressler advised he would check into it.

Mayor Sibold advised he could forward the email regarding the ethics policy to Mr. Dressler.

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Ordinances

- 1) O-23-04-Partial Tax Exemption for Old Rivermont School-Mayor Sibold motioned to approve the ordinance with a second from Mr. Carson. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

The following items were added to the agenda for the regular meeting to be held on March 14, 2023:

- 1) Public Hearing-Council will hold a Public Hearing with the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors regarding the adoption of an ordinance entitled, "An Uncodified Ordinance to Effectuate the Transition of an Appointed to an Elected Consolidated School Board."

The School Board will also present their budget.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- 1) Ordinance O-23-02-Elected School Board
- 2) Resolution R-23-09-ARPA-Virginia Tourism Corporation-Second Half of Awarded Amount-No City Match-\$15,000
- 3) Resolution R-23-10-Byrne Justice Grant
- 4) Resolution R-23-11-Resolution of Respect for Fallen Officer Caleb Ogilvie

Proclamation

Proclamation Declaring the Month of April as Clean-Up Month in the Alleghany Highlands

Appointments

- 1) Economic Development Corporation-To fill unexpired term of Lisa Schoppmeyer
- 2) Economic Development Corporation-To fill unexpired term of Bill Withrow

New Business

Alleghany County Social Services By-Laws was stricken from the agenda, as they do not need Council's approval, according to Mr. Popovich.

Proclamation

Mayor Sibold requested a proclamation for **Emergency Management Professionals' Week** be added to the agenda.

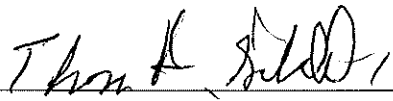
Mr. Carson inquired as to when Spring Clean-Up would be, as several citizens have contacted him. Mr. Dressler advised he did not have a date as of this time.

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Closed Session

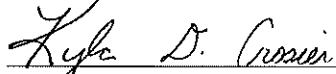
Mayor Sibold moved to enter into Closed Session to discuss Council appointed members of the Planning Commission pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) of the Code of Virginia, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned by consensus.



Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Mayor

Attest:



Kyla D. Crosier, City Clerk