

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

The Council for the City of Covington held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 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; Councilman William (Lance) Carson; 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 Doug Williams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the agenda with the removal of the Public Hearing with regards to Wrightway Motors and Dewey's Automotive, LLC. and the addition of Resolution R-24-07, a resolution honoring Tommy Garten. This was seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Greg Rice, 352 E. Oak Street, questioned ticketing of vehicles that don't have updated inspections. Chief Smith advised that a 72 hour notice is given to the owner of the vehicle. Code Enforcement locates the vehicle and posts the property. If the owner has not resolved the issue within 72 hours, the city tows the vehicle. Mr. Rice questioned why the code was not enforced on dilapidated homes. He stated that the house across from him is falling apart from the inside and that it was a safety issue. He has copies of the codes and said he would be happy to show the city which properties he's speaking of. Mr. Dressler advised Mr. Rice that he would have Mike Mines, Zoning Administrator and Building Official, contact him.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the following minutes, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes:

- 1) January 2, 2024 Work Session
- 2) January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler thanked Mr. Popovich for his assistance with obtaining information with regards to urban hunting. He believes that it is in the best interest of Covington to forgo urban hunting at this time.

Mr. Dressler thanked Chief Chris Smith for his work with regards to obtaining information on E-Bikes. He stated that the city was not out to get anyone, and that our concern is the safety of our citizens. He advised the public to contact the City Manager's office with any questions or concerns they may have.

Rayon Bridge

Mr. Dressler spoke with Susan Hammond regarding the Rayon Bridge. They are surveying and hoping to get the project started in the 2026 time frame.

Hawthorne Street Bridge

The Hawthorne Street Bridge has a surface issue. The Virginia Department of Transportation has worked with city engineering firms to find a way to resolve the issues. The bridge will be shut down for three months for re-paving and surface repairs.

Main Street

The restroom at the pocket part is almost complete. The fountain is close to being delivered, and the pavers are close to being finished.

Virginia Government Manager's Association Meeting

Mr. Dressler will be attending the Virginia Government Manager's Association Meeting.

Mr. Dressler thanked Council and staff for being proactive with issues and concerns. He stated that Covington is moving in a good direction.

Mr. Hunter inquired about the previous Hotel Collins. Mr. Dressler explained that the water department and Public Works are moving things to one building, and that a pad is being poured for this.

Mr. Dressler advised Mayor Sibold that e-bikes and scooters were not to be operated on sidewalks and had to follow the traffic laws as any other vehicle does. He said the traffic laws were already in place.

Mayor Sibold confirmed with Mr. Dressler that the issue on Hawthorne Street Bridge was a glue issue, an experiment that did not work. There will be no cost to the city for repairs.

Mayor Sibold questioned children learning to ride their bicycles on city sidewalks. He said that children need a place to learn and that he didn't agree with barring children from learning to ride their bicycles on the sidewalk. Mr. Dressler stated there were also parks and other avenues for children to practice riding a bicycle.

The following resolutions were passed by Council:

- 1) Resolution R-24-02-Alleghany Regional Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary-DARE Contribution-All members were in favor with "aye" votes.
- 2) Resolution R-24-03-Community Based Policing Contributions-All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

- 3) Resolution R-24-04-Opioid Settlement Recoveries-All members were in favor with "aye" votes.
- 4) Resolution R-24-05-Alleghany Highlands Drug Task Force/Supplies and Seizures Expenditures-All members were in favor with "aye" votes.
- 5) Resolution R-24-06-Casey Field Improvements/Alleghany Foundation Grant-The votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.
- 6) Resolution R-24-07-Resolution of Respect for Tommy Garten-All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Appointments

Industrial Development Authority-Ralph Fitzpatrick's term expires on March 25, 2024. Mayor Sibold tabled this appointment until we receive word from Mr. Fitzpatrick as to whether he'd like to be reappointed.

Redevelopment and Housing Authority-Mr. Crosier motioned to appoint Karen Kessinger to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Board of Zoning Appeals-Mr. Crosier motioned to nominate Stan Young to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Economic Development Corporation-Kathy Cucci resigned from the EDC. Council is seeking a replacement.

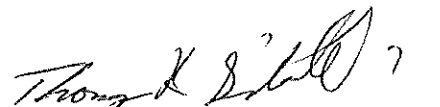
Approval of Revised Council By-Laws and Rules of Procedure

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the revised By-Laws and Rules of Procedure for Council, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

New Business

There was no new business.

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