

March 5, 2024

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
MARCH 5, 2024**

The Council for the City of Covington held a work session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 in the Council Chamber of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

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

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of three action items, an amendment to the local economic development performance agreement, amendment to the assignment and assumption of the performance agreement, and a letter of resignation. This was seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler spoke on the following:

Senator Mark Warner extended his warmest congratulations for the City of Covington winning the Innovation Award.

The Wall that Heals

The members of the Wall that Heals are in need of volunteers. The recreation staff, Chamber, and Josh Taylor are very involved with this project and are looking forward to working with the VFW.

Covington Fire Department

The Covington Fire Department held its 122nd Annual Banquet. Mr. Dressler thanked the fire department members for their service.

Terri McClung worked tirelessly to gain small business opportunities in the city. She obtained a 50 thousand dollar grant, and worked on the Gauntlet. Folks love downtown Main Street.

Cheyenne Marcus painted the mural on the Monroe Street Wall and is a very talented young lady.

High school sports kicked off this week.

Paving Schedule

Columbia Gas work will be done on Princeton Drive, South Alleghany Avenue, East Pine Street to the Cul de Sac, East Dewey Street to South Schley to the dead end. Also, it will be done on South Mercer

March 5, 2024

Avenue, East Pine, East Rose, and South Schley to East Cherry Street. It will be done from South Alleghany Avenue to Cherry Street to the dirt road, as well as South Fairlawn and East Scotland Road.

Mid-City Mall Parking Lot

There have been improvements made to the Mid-City Mall parking lot.

Sidewalk Work

One hundred thousand dollars was invested last year. Citizens are responsible for sidewalks in front of their houses.

Mr. Dressler requested funds be moved around to cover operational costs now. Safety alarms are being upgraded at the firehouse.

Terri McClung has been working with Mountain Rush, and the city supports the concept and drive to make the project happen.

Casey Field Fieldhouse

Work will be starting on the Casey Field fieldhouse any day now. It is as far out of the flood plain as we can get it.

Salt Shed

The salt shed on Pine Street is complete. They are currently working on lighting.

Hawthorne Street Bridge and Rayon Bridge

The Hawthorne Street Bridge and Rayon Bridge are on their way to being repaired, with repairs starting on the Rayon Bridge scheduled to start in 2026.

Wiley's Garden Center and Hydroponics

Wiley's Garden Center and Hydroponics is coming along, and we hope to have seeds/flowers within the next week or so. The need for a sewer system has been addressed.

410 on Main

Mr. Dressler stated that he cannot say enough about the city's relationship with investors. They had a positive meeting and have moved forward ever since. This location can become an anchor for downtown Covington.

The City of Covington serves the citizens of Covington. The city is in good shape with funds. What goes out need to come back in. Without tax revenue from investors, it falls back on the citizens. The cost of Covington's utility bill is little to nothing. The cost for services is going up.

March 5, 2024

The Pad Site in Low Moor will create more jobs. Housing is a problem, and the city is working hard each day to address these things.

A citizen inquired about paving on East Fudge Street, stating it was a heavy traffic area and had not been paved for 22 years. Mr. Dressler advised that he would address the issue.

Water Treatment Plant

There are not enough personnel to cover the Water Treatment Plant. By law, the city has to send citizens letters to notify them of this. Personnel are not good test takers, but they do know what they are doing. Mr. Bryant, Finance Director, will actively recruit an additional Level One employee.

A citizen inquired about the Mountain Rush project. Mr. Dressler said it was being contracted by a local investor and he is not sure when the project will start. Mr. Crosier advised there was a meeting on Thursday at six regarding this topic.

A citizen inquired as to whether or not the new field house would affect parking. Mr. Dressler stated it would not affect parking.

Additions to Agenda

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the Local Economic Development Performance Agreement, 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 motioned to approve the amendment to the Assignment and Assumption of the Performance Agreement, 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 motioned to approve the letter of resignation from City Clerk Kyla D. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, against; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Items for Regular Agenda March 12, 2024

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

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution R-24-08-HOPE Planning Grant

Resolution R-24-09-Local Seizure received from Department of Criminal Justice

Resolution R-24-10-Rayon Bridge Fund

Appointments

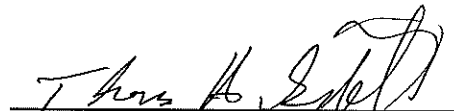
March 5, 2024

Industrial Development Authority-Ralph Fitzpatrick's term expires on March 25, 2024. He is requesting reappointment.

Economic Development Corporation-To consider appointment to fill Kathy Cucci's vacant seat. The term expires on June 30, 2026.

All members were in favor of adding these items to the agenda with "aye" votes.

Vice Mayor Crosier motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.



THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kyla D. Crosier
Covington City Clerk**