

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
May 7, 2024

Council for the City of Covington held a work session on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers 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 was City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Popovich read the statement for the pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 2.2.-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia the purpose of discussing specific council-appointed personnel. Mr. Crosier motioned that Council move into closed session, seconded by Mr. Hunter.

Council returned from the closed session. Mayor Sibold stated that Council has received approximately seven applicants for City Clerk. It was decided in closed session that Mr. Crosier and Mr. Carson will review applicants, interview and present to other Council members who they believe to be the best candidate.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

Brandon Wright, Owner of Wright Way Motors, spoke that he could not attend the public hearing due to personal reasons and gave Council a packet of information with a letter and photos. He stressed that the street needs to be closed between him and Dewey's Automotive because when employees wash vehicles in the wash bay area of the car lot, they back vehicles out and it is difficult to see vehicles driving by who think it is a street and also pedestrians walk to Food Lion, etc...

Mary Ellen Haines of South Church Avenue, asked about the status of the City moving the organization out of the Edgemont building because this is breaking the law on zoning. Mr. Dressler stated that he has been working diligently to get those folks moved and getting another building. He will make phone calls again this week and apologized that it takes time. He mentioned the building needs a feasibility study and we do not want it to get dilapidated.

Sherriff Kyle Moore Quarterly Report

Sherriff Moore gave Council information on the quarterly report of the Sheriff's office and Regional Jail. Within the report it gave numbers of stats some were: 3,808 complaints answered by Sheriff's office dispatchers; 2,434 Civil process papers served in the City and County; 227 Criminal arrests by Sheriff's office personnel; 9,029 Alleghany Regional Jail transport miles; 1,433 Fire/EMS call dispatched, etc... He stated that there needs to be some discussions in the future about a joint 911 center for the City of Covington and Alleghany County.

Mr. Crosier asked about why there would be a move of a jail inmate. Sheriff Moore stated that one was due to medical reasons and another because of having enemies within the jail.

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The Sheriff is asking in the budget for four new Deputies this will assist when staff are out sick, in training or on vacation. He stated that they are currently leasing vehicles and it is approximately \$115,000 and pay City taxes on these vehicles. He will request \$200,000 in the budget to purchase vehicles and they can be used later for schools or other departments. Mr. Hunter asked if all Deputies take vehicles home. Sheriff Moore stated that they do because they have equipment in the vehicle and can get to the scene a lot sooner.

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler introduced Elijah Halterman. Elijah is a student and has been job shadowing with Mr. Dressler.

Elijah gave an overview of how he was able to see how the City and City Manager work. He visited City offices, water and wastewater plants, recreation facilities, landfill and Police Department. He was able to attend several meetings including budget meetings. He stated that it is interesting to see what it takes to keep the City going. He is interested in Civil Engineering as a career. His most interesting visit was to the wastewater plant, how it works and how Engineering would come into the work there. Elijah thanked Council for allowing him to speak and thanked Mr. Dressler for his leadership. Mr. Dressler thanked Elijah and his parents, who were in attendance, for allowing Elijah to shadow him and visit City operations.

Mr. Dressler gave an overview of what has been going on or coming up: he gave a shout out to the Fire Department for their work; spring cleanup has gone well in the City and they are now on the second week; there is paving in the Jeter Watson Center area; staff will meet with Columbia Gas on their next area of work; public works staff has been busy with asphalt patching; parks & recreation has been busy with grass mowing, getting ready for the pool and ball tournaments; central accounting have been busy with budget; the love pocket park work is moving along and hope to be completed in June; the field house at Casey field took two years of planning; have received bids; the Nettleton facility is a public/private garden center; the bike rodeo went well, thanks to all that contribute and work to give away 200 bikes; there will be 63 teams playing t-ball and baseball at the Sport Complex.

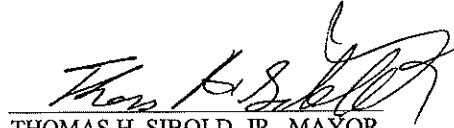
Mr. Dressler thanked Terri McClung, Small Business Coordinator, for working diligently with new and existing businesses. Mr. Crosier mentioned that the work is assisting businesses.

Mr. Crosier spoke of the paving needed and the heavy trucks cause the ripple in the old pavement.

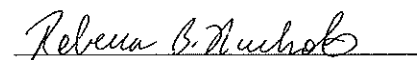
Mayor Sibold asked about the Nettleton project. Mr. Dressler stated that biology classes have visited the project. He asked the students about STEM and they immediately answered: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. They talked about plants for humming birds, about operating the water flow from smart phones, the hydroponics will be existing there in the future.

New Business

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


THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS
ACTING CITY CLERK