

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
April 2, 2024

Council for the City of Covington held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 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.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS AND RECENTLY PROMOTED SUPERVISORS

The Chief of Police, Chris Smith, thanked Council for the opportunity to introduce the new Police officers and speak of the Police Department and recently promoted staff. He spoke of the events that the department has throughout the year such as: the National Night Out, the bike rodeo and Shop with a Cop. The Police department is supporting the community as it is supporting the department. Chief Smith gets thanked from citizens for the department and it is appreciated. He spoke of the structure of the department being similar to military ranks. The experiences that these new hires and promotions have are collectively: Military/deployment, law enforcement, correctional, reserves, and State Police. Family and Friends did a re-pinning of their badges for:

Promotions: Sgt. Daniel Agee; Corporal Harry Brown, Corporal Jacob Tolley.

New Hires: Officer Levi Allman, Officer Joshua Cox, Officer Bryar Jack, School Resource Officer Mike Browning.

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler thanked the media for publishing all the good that is going on in Covington and the nice photos. He thanked Jennifer Smith with Olde Town Covington city staff for assisting with the recent Easter events: tea party, egg hunt/parade and craft show in downtown. Mr. Dressler receives many compliments on how nice Covington is looking. He gave a shout out to the Parks and Recreation staff for the planted bulbs & trees last fall that are blooming and for the nice field work for ball tournaments. There will be 60 teams from Greenbrier County playing soon. The City appreciates all visitors.

Mr. Dressler spoke about giving a presentation at VADMO-(VA Assoc. of Destination Marketing Organizations) Spring Symposium - Panelist for Public/Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Panel speaking about the Sport Complex. Josh Taylor, Director of the Chamber was in attendance. When speaking he spoke highly of Josh and all that he has done for the area and is now the new Director. He listened to many speak of locations such as Hampton Roads, Virginia Beach and when he spoke about the area, there was a comment from Bruce Brochy, former Covington Astros, that he had many fond memories of being in Covington, Virginia.

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The replica of the Wall That Heals will be in Covington on October 3 – 6, 2024, Open to the Public, 24 Hours, closing on Sunday, October 6th at 2 pm. This is a wonderful honor as we are only two in the Mid-Atlantic and one in Virginia to receive. We thank the VFW, Covington staff and others for assisting this to come to Covington. There are many that cannot travel to see the wall in person.

Next week Mr. Dressler will talk about projects in the City. He thanks all staff for their work.

Mr. Dressler was asked about Jackson Street being paved, due to tourist coming to the area and making a good impression. Mr. Dressler stated there is \$795,000 in the budget and next week's agenda will also have more information. There are other areas also needing paved. Columbia Gas will be asked to give area residents a warning when they are coming to neighborhoods, such as a door notice. He is in contact with Columbia Gas so that schedules are shared and digging/work is completed before paving is done.

Mr. Dressler was asked and he confirmed that Mr. Perkins and Mr. Wright have been notified about the public hearing next week that is in reference to their adjoining properties.

New Business

The budget will be presented to Council around May 14, 2024. Mr. Dressler will be meeting with Department Heads this week. He has gotten budget requests. There is open conversations with open door meetings. Then Central Accounting staff will compile information for presentation. During the COVID era the paving schedule was not kept on track.

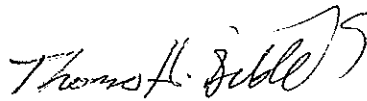
Mayor Sibold went to a six hour meeting with the Secretary of Commerce. The Mayor spoke of the need for training in the area for: OSHA skills before going in the workforce; need school bus CDL endorsement training; ABC license contractor training.

He asked for carpenter, electrician and plumber training at Mountain Gateway Community College.

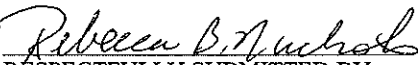
Mr. Dressler gave a shout out to the Public Works staff for taking over mowing the median strips, etc... and the City looked nice for the weekend. There is spring clean up going on in the City and the staff are ahead of schedule.

There was a walk through at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to see the completed \$8 million E. Q. Basin project, which was encouraged by DEQ. He thanked the staff for their work on the project.

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


THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS
ACTING CITY CLERK