

**MINUTES**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**June 4, 2024**

Council for the City of Covington held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 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 with the following changes: to delete item 4 under appointments due to the fact that Karen Kessinger had already been appointed to the Housing Authority. Also to add under Resolutions an item that had been missed in April for the City to consider participating in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act and accepting funds for the purpose set forth in this Act. This was seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes. This will be voted on later in the meeting.

**Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

**Presentation**

Mike Jeffries, Thompson & Litton (T & L), Engineering gave a Peters' Mountain Landfill (PMLF) presentation. His presentation advised that there is approximately 15 months life remaining at the landfill and estimated closure date being September 2025. Mr. Jeffries gave these estimates:

- PMLF ESTIMATED CLOSURE COSTS - \$2.95M (FY26 – FY27)
- PMLF ESTIMATED POST CLOSURE COSTS - \$60,000 – \$100,000 / YEAR (minimum of 30 years)
- ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSFER STATION - \$2.5M (FY25- FY26)
- SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COST VIA TRANSFER STATION - \$580,000 (first year of operation)
- WWTP SLUDGE DISPOSAL- \$55,000 (first year)

T & L are continuing to explore solid waste disposal options for the City.

Mr. Dressler stated there is a refuse collection budget and disposal budget. They have been looking for several options for the landfill. Mr. Jefferies mentioned options: A Transtor system would be for refuse trucks to unload and tip into a larger truck and be taken to a landfill elsewhere. There is a Komar system, which would cost approximately the same, it could take a larger load and if another locality would join, it would be less costly. There is also a transfer station that has been looked at as an option. Mr. Dressler will be attending a Manager's conference this week and will be checking with other Managers and their process for refuse. There was discussion that larger trucks will not be able to make the turn at Humpback Bridge going to and from the landfill.

Mayor Sibold asked if there was room for another cell at the landfill. Mr. Jefferies stated that it is not recommended, due to having enough soil to cover the refuse. Mr. Dressler stated that the City provides regular pickup, Spring/Fall cleanups and there needs to be consideration of where to send refuse especially in inclement weather. They are checking into several options. Mr. Jeffries stated that it is not recommended to go over 25 miles due to it becoming more of a problem. Mr. Sibold asked about paying for commercial pickup. This too has been discussed. Mr. Dressler thanked Mr. Jefferies for his presentation.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Sibold opened the Public Hearing for the Covington City Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Mr. Sibold asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak in favor of the budget. There were no comments. Mr. Sibold asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak against the budget. There were no comments. Mr. Sibold closed the Public Hearing.

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Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler gave a report that grinding of the road on Jackson Street led Public Works staff to find a water leak. He hopes that paving will begin tomorrow. The Pocket Park in downtown is close to completion. The field house at Casey Field is coming along with its construction. The municipal pool at the Main Street Park had a good weekend with school students attending, some of the children may not get the opportunity to participate and he thanked the school system for giving them this event. The pool was closed over the weekend for the lifeguards to attend their high school graduation. The City employs 24 part time summer help for the pool, cemetery and parks. These young students learn life lessons and make a modest wage. Years ago J. B. Broughman and David Bryant spoke with Mr. Dressler about hiring a Recreation Coordinator. The position was to oversee the municipal pool and assist with other Parks & Recreation activities in the department. There has been some confusion lately that there needs to be a certified operator at the pool which is not a state law. The City maintains the pool well within the rules of the Health Department and offers good quality water. Some large municipalities do require a certification. There are approximately 125 kids that will take swim lessons at the City pool this year.

Graduation at Casey Field went very well. There were large groups at the JRSC-Jackson River Sport Complex over the last weekend with area Greenbrier girls' fast pitch. We welcome all visitors to the area. These visitors may spend money when in the area, which is appreciated.

There is a change in festival this year instead of Cork & Pork, there will be a Mid-City Music Festival, June 7-8 with recording artist Ray Fulcher, food vendors, crafts, kid activities, etc. The contributors for the event are on the banners in the area. Mr. Dressler thanked all who contributed to the event.


The Juneteenth celebration will be Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 11 am – 4 pm at the Jeter Watson Park on Pine Street. Everyone is invited to go by for good food and entertainment.

There will be drones in the area showcasing the natural beauty of downtown and other areas of Covington. There are 5 entrances into Covington and also 5 entrances into the Jackson River for recreation including fishing.


Terri McClung, Small Business Coordinator, is working to promote downtown, working with the Advancement Foundation and the Gauntlet. There were 42 finalists from across the state participating in The Gauntlet. We are proud to say that locally 410 On Main, The Friendly Fork, Barnwood Blessings, Ray's Sweet Shop & Pouterie, Livesay's Home Repair, Jackson River Yoga, The Carriage House and Alleghany Outdoors were all recognized receiving cash and/or in-kind prizes. The Gauntlet ceremony was held on May 23 at the Berglund Center with a recap for Covington participants on May 31. This speaks highly of Covington, the Alleghany Highlands, Terri McClung, the Advancement Foundation and the Gauntlet.

Mr. Dressler asked if there were any questions. Jay Crowder, in attendance, asked if the owners of 410 W. Main Street would be required to give the funds back that they won in the Gauntlet contest, due to the building being shut down. Mayor Sibold stated that they have until December 31, 2024 to spend the funds.

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