

**MINUTES**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**September 3, 2024**

Council for the City of Covington held a work session on Tuesday, September 3, 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 Fred F. Forbes; Councilman William (Lance) Carson, Jr.; Councilman Raymond C. Hunter; Absent. Also present were 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**

Tawanna Smith of S. Lincoln Avenue spoke about a concern behind the former Alleghany Motors building that is across from Hardee’s, there is a tent and squatters have been living there for months. There is a bad odor, furniture and appliances have been dumped. Mr. Dressler thanked Ms. Smith for bringing that to the City’s attention and it will be resolved the next day.

Cherrie Martin of E. Pine Street spoke about getting some clarity on the rezoning that the CSB-Community Services Board has taken to the Planning Commission. She received a letter about the time of the meeting, when she arrived the time had been changed, she was not notified and missed a lot of the meeting. She mentioned her concerns that Ingrid Barber spoke about 24/7 access, cannot turn anyone away, and there being a 24/7 pharmacy. Ms. Martin needs clarity because there are children and elderly that live on these streets and nearby streets. She opposes the expanding and rezoning and asked Council that the rezoning be denied. Mayor Sibold stated that there would be a Public Hearing on this request next week September 10 at 6:30 pm at the Council’s regular meeting. There was discussion that it is currently zoned R-3 and if changed to C-2 it would go from residential to commercial for a business to locate there.

Deloris Quarles thanked Mr. Dressler and staff for the wonderful events for her sister, Delethea Quarles, who is an Olympic Coach. Delethea was in the Union’s Labor Day parade on September 2, 2024 and was presented a key to the City and plaque from the Alleghany Highlands. Deloris spoke of how happy and grateful the family was about the events and that there was great attendance.

Stephanie Clark, of Alleghany Avenue, thanked the City for the beautiful events that were held for Delethea, while she was back in the area after being at the Olympics. Ms. Clark also stated that she is on the CSB board and works for TAP-Total Action for Progress. She noted that TAP has nothing to do with the rezoning request that the CSB has requested by the Planning Commission.

**Addition to Agenda for September 10, 2024**

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to add supplemental resolution R-24-25 in reference to the WWTP-Wastewater Treatment Plant project to be added to the agenda next week. Auditors have suggested the City do a resolution to account for this payment paid in June 2024 so the auditors will not have to account for it as a pre-payment for the next 30 years. All members of Council were in agreement with “aye” votes.

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**Report of City Manager**

Mr. Dressler thanked Council and all that were in attendance at the meeting.

Rayon Bridge will be getting an inspection soon and construction should begin in 2026. Hawthorne Street Bridge also has an inspection due soon and Mattern & Craig Engineers will do both bridge inspections while in the area. This will be a cost saving to have both the same day.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant EQ Basin project has been a challenging project. He thanked David Bryant, his staff, and the WWTP staff for working as this substantial long project has been completed.

Fall Clean Up in the City will be September 23-27 and September 30-October 4.

Hydrant flushing will be October 6-18 at night, this so that it will not interfere with citizens water pressure.

The Way Finding Sign Program with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce will be finalized soon.

Paving bids have been accepted. Mr. Dressler, David Bryant and Anthony Lowry have met. The paving will most likely be in to the spring due to the weather cooling down.

There was a water leak on Munford Avenue that City staff located and repaired.

The Wall That Heals event will be held October 3-6 at the JRSC-Jackson River Sport Complex. Mr. Dressler stated that many individuals and businesses have contributed to make this a reality. Ms. Shawn Wright, Mr. Bill Atherholt have met with a committee for months to make this a solemn event. During the event there will be American Flags placed coming off Exit 14 in respect to the Soldiers and Country.

The Smurfit WestRock Unions' Labor Day celebration on September 2, 2024 was a great event. Bob Booth with the Union is appreciated for all his work on this event and working with Lisa Worley in the Parks and Recreation department. Events after the parade were held at the JRSC. Mr. Dressler stated that the Union in Covington and another Union in Lexington, VA are two of the oldest in existence. It was nice to see the 1927 Fire truck "Hezekiah" in the parade and appreciate the volunteers for all their upkeep of the truck. He stated that there was a new vendor at the event with homemade ice cream who sold out. The fireworks at the end of the event were nice. He recognized Deloris Quarrels and her family with all their preparation and also practicing on Monday morning for the upcoming events. Ms. Delethea Quarles is the only area Olympic Coach from the Alleghany Highlands and we appreciate that she was able to attend.

A citizen spoke with Mr. Dressler to let him know the Pocket Park on Main Street is now her and her dog's favorite park. He thanked employees for keeping the streets, fields, parks and all of Covington nice.

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There was discussion about Resolution R-24-23 for the Schools Capital Improvements. This is funds that the schools are returning and could be used for lights on field E fast pitch at the JRSC, the Casey Fieldhouse project. Rebecca Irvine with Alleghany Highlands Public Schools was in attendance. She stated that funds returned can be divided and given back to the localities. David Bryant noted that the funds cannot be used for accounts such as for salaries.

Mr. Crosier asked about the mirror at Rayon and Jackson Street for better visibility.

Mr. Dressler spoke about the need for a crosswalk at Monroe and Chestnut near the Bath Physicians and jewelry store.

Mr. Carson spoke about VDOT maintaining streets, Mr. Dressler stated that VDOT gives funds for the City to maintain them.

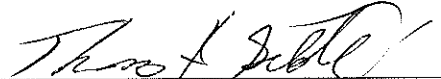
**New Business**

There was no new business to bring before Council.


**Closed Session**

The Vice Mayor moved to enter into Closed session pursuant to Section 2.23711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia for the limited purpose of consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the City regarding an EEOC complaint. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned by consensus.

  
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THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY  
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS  
ACTING CITY CLERK

