

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
October 1, 2024**

Council for the City of Covington held a work session on Tuesday, October 1, 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 with the exception of deleting the Ordinance O-24-07 for the agenda on October 8, seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with “aye” votes.

Report from the Building and Zoning Official

Eric Tyree, Building and Zoning Official for the City explained that the CSB-Community Services Board e-mailed Mr. Tyree’s office and questioned the zoning for 320 E. Pine Street, when purchased, they believed that it was already zoned C-2.

Mr. Tyree researched the historic land records in the Commissioner of Revenue’s. The records showed zoning of C-2. He reviewed all City ordinances and found none to show it was changed. The original zoning map is a working map that is used in the office and has an error for the zoning. That is why this request went to a Public Hearing. Mr. Tyree’s office will correct the map. Mr. Tyree advised Ms. Ingrid Barber, Executive Director of the Community Services Board, to withdraw the application for rezoning as it was not needed. The zoning is currently zoned C-2 and renovations can be completed.

Mr. Crosier asked if the GIS map would have shown the zoning. Mr. Tyree stated that the GIS map has a disclaimer that it is not an official record.

Mr. Sibold asked if Planning Commission is reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Tyree stated that it is under review. Mr. Tyree was thanked for his report.

Citizen Comments

Krista Boone of South Craig Avenue, spoke about a concern with fireworks at the Middle School being a noise nuisance. She believes that she should have peace in her home and her dog is deathly afraid of the noise. She adopted the dog to take care of it and now this is a dangerous situation. The dog has torn a hole in the chain link fence and has escaped and gone to Smurfit WestRock papermill, where it is louder, to get farther away from the fireworks. Unfortunately an employee at the mill was bitten while he was trying to help her dog. Kevin Hall was in the watch box and took her information that her husky has been getting out and going into the mill during fireworks. Ms. Boone works in Roanoke and believes that she should have peace in her home after a long work week. She pays taxes and appreciates that her children all went through the sports programs. Her dog had to have a 10 day quarantine. She has called the police department about the noise complaint. She stated that the City and County do not communicate because her dog was in the mill in the County side and the Sherriff’s office was called. She called the Humane Society to ask them if a husky is brought in to the shelter to

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check it for a chip because it may be her dog. She does not know what else to do about this situation. She never knows when the fireworks will be let off. When her parents lived in the area in the 1960's there was no noise concerns because homeowners were respected, the regular football games where not a noise nuisance then either. She suggested that the fireworks be taken to Alleghany County where it is not residential. Mr. Sibold thanked Ms. Boone for coming to voice her concerns.

Susan Crowder of Jackson Street, stated that she has spoken to a lot of citizens in the area and that a citizen on York Avenue also has concerns about the fireworks being a noise nuisance.

Mr. Dressler spoke about the City being responsible for the 4th of July fireworks and other events are through the papermill Union and the school system. The schools receives contributions for the football game fireworks. They were changed last week to Thursday, due to bad weather forecast for Friday.

Report of City Manager

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

Fall Clean Up in the City will be completed on October 4. There has been 71.1 tons of refuse and 127 tires picked up with no additional cost to citizens. He thanked the Public Works staff for all their work with this two week event.

The City received approximately 7.5 inches of rain last week. There were no issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The completed EQ Basin is working. He thanked the staff for all their work.

He thanked Chief Smith, EMS, Public Works and all that assist with the Chestnut Street underpass filling with rain. There is a clogging issue and the City will meet with CSX on this problem.

The new camera van is here and will be put to good use with the \$6M storm drain grant work being done.

Thanks to the Parks & Recreation department for the beautiful fall season decorations. The leaves are starting to turn in the area.

There were 53 cross country teams at the Jackson River Sport Complex, which are 53 buses to the area. It's nice to see a traffic jam in Covington.

The City is working on the former Hotel Collins lot and on a plan for the façade of Public Works.

Mid-City Mall parking lot is getting tree pruning and will get new sidewalks.

The truck bringing in The Wall That Heals, Vietnam memorial, drove into Covington today with a wonderful welcome. There were many motorcycle riders, police departments from the area and

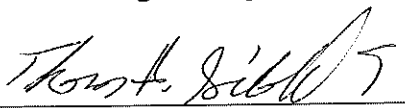
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antique cars. He thanked the community, Clifton Forge and Covington for the welcome they received. There is a soft opening October 2 and then will be open 24/7 on Oct. 3-5 and closing at 2 pm on Oct. 6. This is a replica of the Arlington, VA wall. We are honored and proud that this is one of two events on the east coast. There has been planning for a year. We thank all that have contributed their time and donations to memorialize those that gave the ultimate sacrifice of their life.

New Business

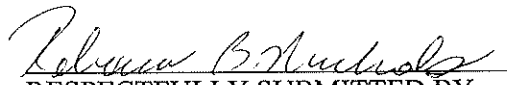
Mr. Crosier stated that Mickie Bowyer has invited everyone to the annual Fall Festival in Clifton Forge beginning on October 18th. The opening ceremony will be by the War Memorial at noon in downtown.

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



THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS
ACTING CITY CLERK

