

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 8, 2024**

Council for the City of Covington held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 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 were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich.

The invocation was given by Pastor Doug Hollenbeck followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the agenda with the exception to add proclamation, "Extra Mile Day", seconded by Mr. Hunter. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Citizen Comments

Marie Fitzgerald of Beech Street advised everyone that the 2025 Highlands Christmas Mother is Ingrid Barber. The Christmas Mother Shop will be at the First Christian Church on Fudge Street in Covington. Applications will be taken in Clifton Forge and Covington. Ms. Fitzgerald spoke about The Green Pastures Recreation Area, also known as Longdale. They will have story readings held at the Masonic Theatre on October 21 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. These are listening sessions to learn about the history of Green Pastures Recreation. Council thanked Ms. Fitzgerald for her information.

Tammy Scruggs Duncan of the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council wanted to give Council an update on the performances that the Arts Council will offer the community with the allotted funds from the City. Ms. Duncan gave all council members a program of upcoming events. She stated that there is a lighthouse project for students. The Arts Council are excited to hold a spring jazz event at the new Collins pavilion on Maple Avenue. She thanked Council and Council thanked Ms. Duncan for her update.

Ms. Corey Bowles stated that she is interested in being on the Social Services board. Information has been e-mailed to Council of her interest. She thanked Council for their time and consideration. Council thanked Ms. Bowles.

Minutes

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the following minutes, seconded by Mr. Hunter:

Work session	September 3, 2024
Regular Meeting	September 10, 2024.

All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Recognition of Retirement for Tim Yancey

Mr. Dressler thanked Mr. Tim Yancey for all his gracious service and volunteer work to the City of Covington Fire, Rescue and EMS. He stated that it has been a pleasure and joy to work with Tim. Over the years Tim has been quick to respond to City Hall for blood pressure checks, etc... including advising Mr. Dressler to see a doctor. He also thanked Mr. Yancey for his volunteering with youth league sports. He presented Mr. Yancey a plaque and gift for 14 years' service as employee at the Fire House, however his number of years are many more while volunteering at the Fire House. Mr. Dressler noted that Mr. Yancey would often leave a church service to go on a call. Chris Smith, Covington Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety stated that he appreciated all the time together with Mr. Yancey. Greg Burton let everyone know that Mr. Yancey was a tremendous help to the volunteers and he appreciated all his service and congratulated him on his retired. C. W. Smith with the fire department thanked Mr. Yancey for all his assistance as he molded him into the man he is today.

Mr. Yancey thanked Jesus Christ, his parents who are no longer with us and other family & friends, for everything through the years. He thanked Mr. Dressler and Council.

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Report of City Manager

Fall cleanup is complete with an additional 82.4 tons & 94 tires collected the second week with a total for the two week collection of 153.53 tons and 221 tires. Mr. Dressler thanked the public works refuse workers.

Mr. Dressler thanked Council and everyone for attending the meeting and being interested in local government.

Unfortunately there was a train hauling coal that had a derailment near and in the papermill this week. Mr. Dressler thanked the Police Chief, police department, EMS/Fire Departments and CSX and their contractors. They have rolled in quickly and is amazing that they have accomplished so much already. The road and entrance to the mill will be open soon.

The event 'Farm Fest in Our Tiny Town' will be held on October 12, at the Sport Complex. There will be old tractors, animals, food, kids' activities and music. The "Pumpkins in the Park" event will be on October 19 at the Sport Complex. Hometown Halloween will be downtown Covington on October 25.

The annual VML –VA Municipal League conference will be held Oct. 12-15. This conference is a learning event with good networking.

There will be smoke testing with the I & I (Inflow and Infiltration study in the City. There will be tags put on doors to notify citizens of the harmless smoke.

There will be an employee appreciation picnic on October 11. The City will close at noon for employees to attend.

The Wall That Heals, Vietnam Veteran memorial, was in Covington Oct. 3-6, 2024. This was an honor to have this event in our area. The truck bringing in the wall came through Clifton Forge with their streets full of citizens and into Covington with both giving them a warm welcome. Mr. Dressler thanked all the many, many volunteers that assisted. The volunteers that assisted in assembly/disassembly were tremendous as some of the sections of the wall were 80 pounds. The wall was open 24/7. Mr. Dressler thanked the Police Chief for escorting the truck into and out of the City.

Mr. Dressler asked Lisa Worley with Parks & Recreation to come to the podium. He thanked Ms. Worley for all her work with the Parks Department and assisting the City Manager's office over her many years of service. Mr. Dressler stated that he is pleased to announce that Ms. Worley is appointed as Director of Parks & Recreation. Ms. Worley thanked Mr. Dressler and Mr. David Bryant for believing in her ability that she can do the job. She thanked the Parks staff for all their assistance in the past several months and knows that they will continue to all work together along with Mr. Dressler's direction to build on the department.

Mr. Carson thanked Mr. Dressler, employees, the VFW and everyone for getting The Wall That Heals here to the area and that many tears were shed. Mr. Hunter stated that he is a Vietnam Veteran and just getting close to the wall was emotional.

Proclamation

There was a motion by Mr. Crosier and seconded by Mr. Hunter to add the proclamation, 'Extra Mile Day'. All members were in favor with 'aye' votes. Mr. Sibold read the proclamation thanking everyone that 'goes the extra mile' in their own life and in the community. Therefore, November 1, 2024 is proclaimed 'Extra Mile Day' in Covington, Virginia.

Appointments

There was discussion that Corey Bowles and Kim Jefferson are interested in being on the Social Services board. Greg Martin has resigned. This term expires July 31, 2026.

Ms. Bowles stated that she remains interested in being on the Social Services board. She has been a foster parent, worked in public education for many years, have training on various programs and projects. She believes that she is able to help the community and citizens.

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Patrice Jefferson spoke for Kim Holloway Jefferson, who could not attend due to illness. Patrice stated that Kim Jefferson has worked for many years with the school system where she gained the trust of teachers, parents and students. She has the training to be on the board and is trustworthy.

Mr. Crosier spoke about the other members on the Social Services board. Mr. Sibold mentioned that when there is a nomination made that members of Council are voting for that person to be on the board.

Mr. Crosier motioned to nominate Kim Jefferson to the Social Services board to fill the unexpired term of Greg Martin, seconded by Mr. Hunter.

The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

Ms. Jefferson's term on the Social Services board will expire July 31, 2026.

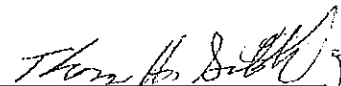
Ordinances and Resolutions

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the following resolutions, seconded by Mr. Hunter.

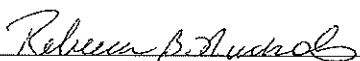
- 1) Resolution R-24-26 Opioid Settlement Recoveries

The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Carson, for; Mr. Forbes, for; Mr. Hunter, for; Vice Mayor Crosier, for; Mayor Sibold, for.

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


THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS
ACTING CITY CLERK

