

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
December 3, 2024

Council for the City of Covington held a work session on Tuesday, December 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 William (Lance) Carson, Jr.; Councilman Fred F. Forbes; Also present were City Manager Allen Dressler and City Attorney Mark Popovich. Absent from the meeting was Councilman Raymond C. Hunter.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crosier motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of resolution R-24-36, donation of \$100 to 'Shop with a Cop' program and seconded by Mr. Carson. All members were in favor with "aye" votes.

Citizen Comments

Mr. George Halsey, Jr., property owner on S. Lexington Avenue, asked about the CSB-Community Services Board doing a rehab 24/7 beside his business. Mr. Halsey mentioned that he usually does not complain however he does not believe this is a good fit. He stated there are 24 parking spaces and not much street parking. He received some information that there will be more than 24 employees. Mr. Crosier stated that the CSB rescinded their request and will be doing only a 23 hour program which is allowable with the current zoning. Mr. Dressler advised Mr. Halsey to call him and let him know if parking becomes a problem.

Report of City Manager

Mr. Dressler gave updates/information on:

-Rayon Bridge project with VDOT is set to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027.

-There will be some needed repairs to Hawthorne Street Bridge that will be handled by VDOT.

-There was a concern by the historic preservation group on the former Rivermont school building roof. The plan is to have gable roofing. Mr. Dressler thanked John Stiltner with Landmark Asset Services, for his continued work on this renovation project.

-The Lake Moomaw level is currently in drought emergency stage. Mr. Dressler encouraged everyone to be mindful of water use.

-There will be many events in downtown Covington on December 7 beginning with the annual bazaar at Good News church with over 60 vendors; the Shiners will be selling donuts on the parking lot from their trailer; there will be bouncy houses near the library; horse & buggy rides and the Christmas parade at 6 p.m.

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-The holiday lights/decorations at the Sport Complex and City Hall are beautiful. Mr. Dressler thanked the Parks & Recreation staff and the Public Works staff for all their work.

-The Field House at Casey Field should be completed in mid-January. Mr. Dressler will send the Alleghany Foundation a report on the progress. There have been 6 subcontractors that have done a nice job on this project and it is nice that local funds are being recycled here in the community.

-There was an annual children's event at City Hall last Sunday with Santa arriving in on the fire truck 1927 Fire truck, "Hezekiah". Mr. Dressler thanked those with the Fire Department that made this happen. Faith Reynolds was the 2nd grader who won the coloring competition and lighted the tree outside of City Hall. Everyone enjoyed the festive event.

-There will be an audit update from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates at a Called meeting of Council on December 20, 2024 at 11:00 am, City Hall, Council Chambers. Then staff and Council will have a Christmas meal graciously provided at Good News Church.

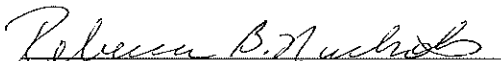
-Mr. Dressler thanked Police Chief, Chris Smith, for all the weather updates he sends him. As it has been bitter cold.

New Business & Recess of Meeting

With no further business to come before Council the meeting was recessed to attend the Called Joint Closed session of the Council for the City of Covington with the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia. The purpose of said meeting is to hold a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia(1950), as amended, to discuss: (1) acquisition of property.


WILLIAM (LANCE) CARSON, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
REBECCA BRATTON NUCKOLS
ACTING CITY CLERK