

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. The Invocation was given by Rev. Dan Gillette followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr., Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilwoman Mary Ann Beirne, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Manager: Richard Douglas
City Attorney: Susan Waddell

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Called Meeting of December 5, 2017; Work Session of December 5, 2017; and Regular Meeting of December 12, 2017.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented information regarding the status of soft-billing and the waste collection and disposal fund. He also expressed appreciation to the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer. Mr. Bryant noted that full implementation of the new software would be complete in approximately 9 months. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted to approve the Monthly Financial Report.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Steve Steele of CHA Engineering Firm, presented information regarding the wastewater treatment plant improvements recommendations. These recommendations are in response to the "notification of violation action plan". Information was given regarding cost of fines for violations and the efforts made to be as effective as possible. He stated that Council has been very supportive of the efforts to deal with these issues for DEQ compliance. Following explanation of various ways to address his issue, Mr. Steele recommended the City sign a "consent order" that could assist with grant financing. Mayor Sibold expressed concerns regarding infrastructure that could handle industrial development. Cost to the citizens would be a utility rate of \$80 per month. A meeting is scheduled with DEQ on January 25, 2018. Mayor Sibold expressed concerns regarding the need to do better planning as Council has been surprised with the employee pay issue and the need for the construction of a tank facility for the treatment plant. He felt that too much money is being spent too fast and does not appreciate being surprised with these major expenditures at Council meetings. Council expressed appreciation to Mr. Steele for his presentation.

Brief discussion was held regarding the status of the Jackson Street Project. Mr. Steele of CHA, noted that a \$40,000 grant has been awarded for this study. There are no matching funds required from the City. This study should clarify what specifically needs to be done in this area. An update was given regarding completion of the paving of the 4 lanes on Madison Avenue and the replacement of the median and the paving on Monroe Avenue.

Theresa Harrison, Treasurer, gave an update regarding collection of delinquent taxes. Her report included the assistance through the DMV, the need to focus on liens and garnishments and offer a part payment plan. She also recommended a minimum bid be set for properties at the next tax sale. Ms. Harrison requested a part-time employee to assist with collection of delinquent taxes.

Discussion regarding the new CAD System for the Communications Center was tabled.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to appoint Mr. Hunter to the RADAR Committee.

A 5 minute recess was declared.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Upcoming meetings: January 16, 2018 Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission; January 23, 2018 Joint Services Committee; January 30, 2018 Joint meeting with School Board and auditors; March 2018 work session regarding 2018/2019 operating budget and joint budget planning session with Alleghany County Board of Supervisors.

2. Update regarding CDBG Grant in the amount of \$40,000 for initial phase of Jackson Street planning

3. Landfill cell construction completed pending DEQ inspection and installation of new scales nearing completion. Project came in under budget.

4. Keith Lipes, Water Plant Supervisor, has completed Management & Supervisory Leadership Training Program

5. Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services has awarded 2 Rescue Squad Grants for 3 Lifepack 15s and 3 computers. Total grant value over \$56,000. City match will be 50% to be requested in February.

6. Expressed appreciation to Interim Police Chief Miller for her continuing leadership and departmental improvements.

7. Lori Humphries has been hired as an Accounting Clerk for Human Resources in Central Accounting.

8. A kick-off meeting was held January 9th for the joint radio system which should be completed by late 2019.

9. Expressed appreciation to Public Works employees for working long hours in the cold weather over the past few weeks and Christmas morning to remove snow and repair dozens of water line breaks.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tucker: Expressed appreciation to Mr. Alan Dressler and the Public Works Dept. for taking care of the roads during the icy event.

Mr. Hunter: No items at this time.

Vice Mayor Crosier: No items at this time.

Mayor Sibold: No items at this time.

CLOSED SESSION:

The closed session regarding economic development was not held.

No further business to come before Council, the meeting was recessed until Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall for a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission.

ATTEST:

Edith S. Wood
EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK

Thomas H. Sibold, Jr.
THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR