

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2018

March 22, 2018
The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Sibold, 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: Work Session of March 6, 2018; Regular Meeting of March 13, 2018 and Called Meeting of March 22, 2018.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, presented information regarding state funding, soft billing, and budget preparation for FY 2018/2019. City revenue also includes state and federal funding in addition to local revenue. He also presented information related to the current fund balance, the enterprise fund and the water/sewer fund. Following the report, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the Monthly Financial Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

REQUESTS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Crosier read the Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 8-14. The Mayor expressed appreciation to all the Dispatchers in the call center for all they do to assist the residents in time of need. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve the Proclamation.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to award the bid for the upcoming real estate assessment to Pearson's Appraisal Service for the General Reassessment 2018/2019. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The appointment to the IDA was tabled until the May meeting of Council.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Upcoming meetings: April 17th Vision 2025 update; May 8th Covington and Alleghany County Comprehensive Plan Open House at City Hall; May 15th Budget work session; May 22, Public Hearing on the 2018/2019 budget.

2. Police Dept. is continuing the neighborhood canvas with valuable feedback to the Police Dept. and other city departments. The Police Dept. is continuing working toward state accreditation.

3. Treasurer's Office is participating in the DMV Stop program where the DMV flags delinquent local vehicle taxes and required payment before a customer can renew/purchase tags. Also the delinquent tax sale process has been completed for the property at 328 W. Main St. and is now under city ownership.

4. Staff has met with TAP regarding its workforce housing program which is designed to develop tax-foreclosed vacant or abandoned lots.

5. The City Attorney and CHA are working with the city to consider possible camping options at the Jackson River Sports Complex.

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6. Work is being done on a central business zoning district for the downtown area to be presented to the Planning Commission. Bylaws have been finalized for both Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.

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7. The "community gardens" are being addressed between Royal Ave. and the Jackson River to develop formal agreements with users of the property.

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8. A plan is being developed to address the wastewater issues along Maple Ave.

9. AECOM is now under contract to complete the drone zone project funded by ARC. Also, Go Virginia has awarded \$76,000 for drone related technology and training associated with the drone zone.

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10. A committee of representatives from all city departments is working with a consultant to develop options and reduce cost associated with employee health insurance.

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11. A fee schedule is being developed for various city services to be considered as part of the budget adoption process.

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12. A large portion of the roof at the water plant has become a critical need for replacement. Approximate cost is \$250,000.

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13. Due to response-related concerns and the continued decline in the number of EMS volunteers, beginning at 10 p.m. tonight (April 10), the city will utilize paid EMS staff to respond to all EMS calls, 24 hours each day, until determined by Council on how to provide these services in the future; staff requests that Council hold a special meeting on Friday, April 13, 2018 to discuss this issue. Mayor Sibold noted that the Rescue Squad is holding a meeting of the membership on Wednesday and looking at options to address concerns.

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ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-14 regarding a Police Dept. Grant for Bullet Proof Vests in the amount of \$2,970. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilwoman Beirne, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For.

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Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-15 regarding Police Dept. DARE Program in the amount of \$500. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilwoman Beirne, For; Councilman Hunter, For; and Councilman Tucker, For.

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Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-16 regarding a Fire Dept. Grant for equipment (turnout gear) in the amount of \$14,543.06. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilwoman Beirne, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For.

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Appropriation Resolution R-18-17 regarding Economic Development Expenditures in the amount of \$150,000 is a transfer to a line item being developed for economic development opportunity. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-18-17. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilwoman Beirne, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For.

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Upon a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Vice Mayor Crosier, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Resolution R-18-18 re-naming the Durant Road Bridge in honor of First Lt. Gary Lee Miller, Medal of Honor recipient Vietnam War. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilwoman Beirne, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For.

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g options at Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to approve Resolution R-18-19 regarding the annual Resolution to set the percentage for personal property discount. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Councilwoman Beirne, For; Councilman Hunter, For; Councilman Tucker, For.

NEW BUSINESS

n River to Vice Mayor Crosier: (1) Expressed appreciation to the Dispatchers, Public Works and the Police Dept. for their efforts with the truck fire on Alleghany Ave.; (2) Inquired about a possible memorial to honor former Councilman Bill Zimmerman. Mayor Sibold also agreed with a memorial for Mr. Zimmerman.

ociated with Mayor Sibold: Expressed appreciation for the professionalism displayed by the Dispatchers, Police Dept. and Public Works regarding the truck fire. He also inquired about responsibility of the trucking firm regarding pavement damage.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Resident expressed concerns regarding a vehicle.

rt of the Attorney Susan Waddell presented information to Council regarding legal advice/assistance for law suits related to the opioid crisis.

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Rescue Squad Captain Greg Burton inquired about the 24/7 coverage and expectations of the volunteers. City Manager Douglas explained the staffing that is needed and welcomed and encouraged volunteers to respond to assist on calls. Mayor Sibold presented information regarding the need for the volunteers in addition to a plan to provide response to calls. He stated that it is Council's responsibility to see that response is readily available. In response to an inquiry regarding the meeting on Friday, Mayor Sibold stated that the meeting on Friday is open to the public and welcomes the Squad members.

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Dr. Paul Linkenhoker, representing the Curtis Smith Post of the VFW, expressed appreciation for re-naming the bridge in honor of Gary Lee Miller, a graduate of Covington High School Class of 1965. He noted that this will be a reminder of where freedom comes from and that we can work on problems together. A special ceremony will be held during Memorial Weekend.

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CLOSED SESSION

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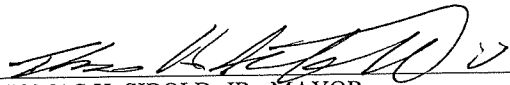
Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to move into closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-371 A.1 regarding Council appointed personnel.

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Council reconvened from closed session and voted to certify that only the item stated was addressed. No action taken at this time.

No further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND, AS SUCH,
EX-OFFICIO OFFICER OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON,
VIRGINIA

ATTEST:

to approve Miller,


EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK