

**City of Covington  
Special and Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 26, 2024**

*In compliance with state law, these city council special and regular meetings were held in a hybrid format with in-person, telephonic, and virtual options for public viewing and participation.*

**INTERVIEWS:** The Council conducted interviews from 5:40 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. Applicants interviewed: Anne Magner (Human Services Commission), Rajschekar Manaliker (Planning Commission), Felicia Daniel (Equity, Cultural, and Social Justice Commission), and Ava Bergquist (Youth Council).

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Covington was called to order Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor Wagner presiding.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Wagner, Joe Cimaomo, Jennifer Harjehausen, Debby Hartsock, Elizabeth Porter, and Sean Smith.

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kristina Soltys.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Regan Bolli, Covington Police Chief Adam Easterbrook, Parks & Recreation Director Ethan Newton (via Zoom), Public Works Director Don Vondran, Community Development Director Salina Lyons (via Zoom), Finance Director Casey Parker, City Attorney Mark Orthmann (via Zoom), IT Desktop Support Coordinator Cole Rowley, and City Clerk/Executive Assistant Krista Bates.

**Council Action: Councilmember Porter moved and Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded to excuse Councilmember Soltys. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

Mayor Wagner opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Happy Birthday* was sung to Mayor Pro Tem Smith.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved as amended to add a Small Business Saturday Proclamation to the Public Communication section.

**REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS:**

**Economic Development Council** – Co-Chair Josh Lyons gave the report.

**Youth Council** – Chair Silas Coffee gave the report.

**Arts Commission** – Chair Riley Reed gave the report.

**Equity, Cultural, and Social Justice Commission** – No report.

**Human Services Commission** – No report.

**Parks & Recreation Commission** – No report.

**Planning Commission** – Chair Kenner Ahrendsen gave the report.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:**

- Emily Shay (in person) and Briahna Murray (via Zoom) with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations provided a legislative report.
- Dana Neuts with Covington Chamber of Commerce gave a Chamber of Commerce quarterly update.
- Dana Neuts with Covington Chamber of Commerce accepted the Small Business Saturday Proclamation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Wagner called for public comments.

Members of the Public Who Spoke: Sam Pace.

There being no further comments, Mayor Wagner closed the public comment period.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:**

C-1. Vouchers: Vouchers #48593 - #48633, including ACH payments and electronic funds transfers in the amount of \$2,441,414.04 dated November 1, 2024; and Paylocity Payroll Voucher #1020537425 - #1020537431 inclusive, plus employee direct deposits and wire transfers, in the amount of \$333,823.78, dated November 8, 2024.

C-2. Consider Ordinance Setting the 2024 Property Tax Levy for Collection in 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO PASSING THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR 2024 FOR COLLECTION IN 2025; ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

C-3. Consider Ordinance Authorizing a Property Tax Increase in Terms of Both Dollars and Percentages to be Collected in the 2025 Tax Year.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE IN TERMS OF BOTH DOLLARS AND

PERCENTAGES, TO BE COLLECTED IN THE 2025 TAX YEAR, AS PURSUANT TO RCW 84.55.120; ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- C-4. Approve Resolution Fixing the Public Hearing Date and Time for ROW Vacation of the Lakepointe Collier and Lund Revision Road.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, FIXING THE DATE AND TIME FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON A STREET VACATION FOR THE COLLIER AND LUND REVISION ROAD WITHIN THE LAKEPOINTE URBAN VILLAGE SUBAREA.

- C-5. Approve HB1406 and HB1590 Funding Agreements.
- C-6. Authorize City Manager to Execute Professional Services Agreement with Cordi & Bejarano, Inc., P.S., for Indigent Defense Services.
- C-7. Authorize City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement CAG 001-2023 with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations for Lobbyist Services.
- C-8. Authorize City Manager to Execute Professional Services Agreement with Gunderson Law Office, PLLC for the Provision of Prosecution Services.
- C-9. Consider Resolution Declaring One Vehicle as Surplus Property.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, DECLARING ONE VEHICLE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY.

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Receive Public Testimony on Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget.

Finance Director Casey Parker gave the staff report on this item.

Mayor Wagner called for public comments for the public hearing.

Members of the Public Who Spoke: Sam Pace.

There being no further comments, Mayor Wagner closed the public hearing public comment period.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. 2024 Third Quarter Financial Report.

Finance Director Casey Parker gave the staff report on this item.

3. Consider Appointment to the Human Services Commission.

**Council Action: Councilmember Porter moved and Councilmember Harjehausen seconded to appoint Anne Magner to fill Position No. 5 on the Human Services Commission with a term expiring March 31, 2026. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

4. Consider Appointment to the Planning Commission.

**Council Action: Mayor Pro Tem Smith moved and Councilmember Hartsock seconded to appoint Rajschekar Manaliker to fill Position No. 4 on the Planning Commission with a term expiring August 31, 2025. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

5. Consider Appointment to the Equity, Cultural, and Social Justice Commission.

**Council Action: Councilmember Hartsock moved and Councilmember Porter seconded to appoint Felicia Daniel to fill Position No. 4 on the Equity, Cultural, and Social Justice Commission with a term expiring September 30, 2026. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

6. Consider Appointment to the Youth Council.

**Council Action: Councilmember Harjehausen moved and Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded to appoint Ava Bergquist to fill Position No. 4 on the Youth Council with a term expiring June 30, 2026. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

7. Appoint Voting Delegate for Sound Cities Association Annual Meeting.

**Council Action: Councilmember Cimaomo moved and Councilmember Porter seconded to appoint Debby Hartsock as the voting delegate to represent the City of Covington at the 2024 SCA Annual Meeting. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

8. Appoint Voting Delegate for Sound Cities Association Board Elections.

**Council Action: Councilmember Cimaomo moved and Councilmember Porter seconded to appoint Jeff Wagner as the voting delegate to represent the City of Covington for the 2025 SCA Board Elections. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.**

9. Consider Proposed Ordinance Amending Title 8 of the Covington Municipal Code to Add a New Chapter 8.35, Shopping Cart Regulations.

Public Works Director Don Vondran gave the staff report on this item.

Councilmembers provided comments and asked questions. Mr. Vondran, Mr. Bolli, and Mr. Orthmann provided responses.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 22-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF SHOPPING CARTS WITHIN THE CITY; ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 8.35 TO THE COVINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE; ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Council Action:** Councilmember Harjehausen moved and Councilmember Cimaomo seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 22-2024 to add a new Chapter 8.35, Shopping Cart Regulations, to the Covington Municipal Code. Vote: 6-0. Motion carried.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Council discussed future agenda items.

#### **COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS:**

Councilmembers and staff made comments.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Wagner called for public comments from the public.

There being no comments, Mayor Wagner closed the public comment period.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Prepared by:

Submitted by:

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Joan Michaud  
Sr. Deputy City Clerk

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Krista Bates  
City Clerk/Executive Assistant