



# Newsletter - June 5, 2020

Mayor Justin Hanson



***You may contact your  
Alderman/Alderwoman by  
clicking on the email links below.***

**District 1** Vice Mayor Johnetta Yarbrough  
Alderwoman Minnie Bommer

[1122jwyatt@gmail.com](mailto:1122jwyatt@gmail.com)  
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**District 2** Alderman Jeff Morris  
Alderman Keith Phelps

[aldermanjeffmorris@gmail.com](mailto:aldermanjeffmorris@gmail.com)  
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**District 3** Alderman C.H. Sullivan  
Alderman Danny Wallace

[aldermanchsullivan@gmail.com](mailto:aldermanchsullivan@gmail.com)  
[aldermanwallace@gmail.com](mailto:aldermanwallace@gmail.com)



1st Tuesdays - Public Works Committee  
Jeff Morris - Chairman, Minnie Bommer, Danny Wallace

2nd Tuesdays - General Welfare and Public Relations Committee  
Minnie Bommer - Chairwoman, Keith Phelps, C.H. Sullivan

3rd Tuesdays - Finance and Administration Committee  
C.H. Sullivan - Chairman, All Aldermen/Alderwomen attend

4th Tuesdays - Public Safety Committee  
Keith Phelps - Chairman, C.H. Sullivan, Johnetta Yarbrough

All regularly scheduled committee meetings are at 4:00 pm in the Lower Level Conference Room at Covington City Hall at 200 W. Washington St. All Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month at 5:30 pm in the Board Room on the 2nd floor at Covington City Hall. ALL are open to the public. Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting [www.covingtontn.com](http://www.covingtontn.com).

## **Public Works Committee Meeting – 6/2/20 – 4:00 p.m.**

Present via Virtual Meeting: Chairman Alderman Jeff Morris, Mayor Justin Hanson, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Alderman Keith Phelps, Alderman Danny Wallace, Attorney Rachel Witherington, Alderman CH Sullivan, Director David Gray, Chief Richard Griggs, Nic Shaw, Lessie Fisher, Rebecca Ray, Echo Day

### **Public Works Department – Director David Gray**

#### Bald Butcher Parking Lot Discussion

- Director Gray had meeting with Tennessee Department of Transportation ( TDOT) Brandon Akins & Michael Welch, and Senator Rose at Bald Butcher. Sen. Rose inquired about TDOT, Bald Butcher, and City partnering to fix problem. TDOT will not do anything at this time outside of the right-of-way.
- Atty Witherington, emailed legal memo to Committee and put in Dropbox. Legal principles prevent the City from doing anything on the parking lot.
- Public purpose doctrine, we can only spend tax dollars that are for benefit of the general public. Violation of State constitution for fix private property with public funds
- Discussed natural flow doctrine in regards to runoff from Sherrod Ave.
- Atty pulled legal description. Mr. Billings owns hill, City has easement
- If the City were to divert water and change flow, it could potentially cause liability later on
- We have no responsibility to resolve this problem
- Alderwoman Bommer commended Attorney Witherington on work done on this report
- Decided that this Committee would share this info from the attorney with Mr. Billings
- Some discussion on drainage on right of way

Inventory Analysis for 2020/2021 budget

Motion to accept bids as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call, accepted

Motion to accept Public Works Report, 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call, accepted

### **Codes Department Report – Lessie Fisher**

Sending letters to property owners regarding their grass cutting responsibilities on right of way. (Ordinance 1722)

Motion to accept report, 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call, accepted

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned

*Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting [www.covingtontn.com](http://www.covingtontn.com).*

## Special Called Finance and Administration Committee Meeting – 6/2/20

Present via Virtual Meeting: Chairman Alderman CH Sullivan, Alderman Danny Wallace, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Alderman Keith Phelps, Alderman Jeff Morris, Mayor Justin Hanson, Attorney Witherington, Tina Dunn, Echo Day, Rebecca Ray, Chief Richard Griggs, Chief Larry Lindsey, Director David Gray, Tiny Rose, Director Lessie Fisher,

### Continued 2020/21 Budget Discussions

- Discussion on tax rate—adjusted down from \$1.33 to \$1.2559
- Delinquent tax due for Cold Storage of approximately \$75,000
- Alderman Sullivan and Alderman Morris commented how well the budget is laid out
- Alderwoman Bommer discussed employees who are under level on salary study
- Included in present budge is 2% cost of living raise and salary study rates to be brought up in 2 increments. Also included is a one time \$223,000 that can be used for capital expenditures
- There will be a 5.4% health insurance premium increase beginning January 2021
- COPS (Community Oriented Policing Service) Grant awarded to the Police Department in the amount of \$375,000 for salaries and benefits for three new officers
- Motion made by Alderwoman Bommer to give 1% cost of living raise to all employees and bring up salary study rates in one year. There was no second, motion failed
- Motion made by Alderman Wallace and seconded by Alderwoman Bommer to allow for 2% cost of raise, holding 1% in default account and bring all employees to minimum salary study rate in one year. Revenues will be reviewed in 6 months to determine if City will release the additional 1% held in the default account.
- Roll call taken, motion carries
- Motion made to send amended budget to the full Board for second reading for approval, 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call taken, motion carries
- Motion made to accept the certified tax rate at \$1.2559, 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call taken, motion carries

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned

***Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting [www.covingtontn.com](http://www.covingtontn.com).***





**Effective June 1**  
**Tipton County Health Department will be offering**  
**COVID-19 testing for the community by**  
**appointment only**

Effective June 1, the Tipton County Health Department will be offering COVID-19 testing for the community only by appointment. Anyone who wishes to be tested for COVID-19 should call the health department clinic at (901) 476-0235 to make an appointment for testing. “Anyone with concerns about their health or the health of a family member is invited to call us to set a time to receive testing for COVID-19,” said Chelsei Granderson, County Health Director. “We’re providing this testing at no cost to participants, and test results may be available within 72 hours after the samples arrive at the lab, depending on lab volume.” The Tipton County Health Department is located at 4700 Mueller Brass Rd. Covington, TN 38019. COVID-19 testing will be offered from 1:30-3:30 on Monday-Friday. Please call the clinic to make an appointment for testing. Health department nurses will collect nasal swabs to send to the lab for your COVID-19 test. You do not have to live in Tipton County to be tested at the health department. Those who come for testing should be prepared to isolate themselves at home while awaiting their test results, and will be given information on what to expect after their test. This information is also available online at [www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TestedGuidance.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TestedGuidance.pdf). Everyone wishing to be tested for COVID-19 should be prepared to share their contact information so health department staff members can provide their test results. Everyone tested will be contacted about their results, whether they are negative or positive, and given further instructions to protect their health and the health of those around them. Tennessee’s Coronavirus Public Information Lines are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., CDT daily at 833-556-2476 or 877-857-2945.

**Regardless of  
Symptoms, Free  
COVID-19 Testing  
is Available to  
Tennesseans**

**DO YOUR PART.  
STAY APART.**

A dark blue rectangular graphic with white and red text. On the right side, there are several white test tubes with red caps, arranged diagonally.

**BUSINESSES CAN DONATE NEW, UNUSED PPE**

**PPE  
DONATIONS**

**INFORMATION ON ACCEPTED SUPPLIES AND  
DONATION LOCATIONS IS ONLINE**

**[www.tn.gov/tema/news](http://www.tn.gov/tema/news)**

A light blue rectangular graphic with white and dark blue text. On the right side, there are white icons for a pair of gloves, a face mask, and safety glasses.

The Tennessee Pledge was developed by Governor Lee, the Unified Command Group (UCG) and Tennessee’s Economic Recovery Group (ERG) with input from health experts, state and local partners and business and industry leaders. It includes specific recommendations which enable most businesses to reopen responsibly without the burden of heavy mandates. This will be a gradual process, with room to adjust as data is evaluated. For links to all of Governor Lee’s guidelines, please visit our website at [www.covingtontn.com](http://www.covingtontn.com).



TN

Department of  
**Labor & Workforce  
Development**

## *Tennessee Unemployment Insurance*

This video may help you understand the process:

### How to Complete Certifications on Jobs4TN



Prepared by the U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## AN **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S** GUIDE TO CARES ACT RELIEF

PPP Loans/Grants  
Economic Injury Disaster Loans  
Unemployment Compensation

If you are an independent contractor or self-employed, you may be eligible for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans/grants, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and/or Unemployment Compensation for losses of income related to the coronavirus pandemic.

If you are an independent contractor or are self-employed and don't have any employees, here's what you need to know about each program:

<https://www.uschamber.com/report/independent-contractors-guide-cares-act-relief>

# AQUATIC CENTER OPENING SOON!

COVINGTON  AQUATIC CENTER



- Cost is \$35
- Two Run Options!
- Run, Volunteer, or Sponsor!
- Register [HERE](#) or
- Scan this QR Code







## COVINGTON CIVIC CENTER

Stay up to date on upcoming events  
at the Civic Center!

Visit our [Facebook Page](#)  
or  
Visit our [Website!](#)

I'm challenging you to  
**complete the**  
**2020 Census**  
today.

#shapeyourfuture

if you  
**SEE**  
something  
**SAY**  
something™

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

to Covington Police

Call 901-475-4300 or in an  
Emergency call 9-1-1

*Imagine Your Story!*



May 26 - July 31st  
Ages 0-100

Sign up at

[tcpl.readsquared.com](http://tcpl.readsquared.com)



Download the  
READSquared Mobile APP



TIPTON COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# FINE FREE MONTH!

Does not apply to lost & damaged items

**JUNE 1 - JUNE 30, 2020**

FIND A BOOK YOU FORGOT YOU HAD?  
DON'T FRET...  
RETURN YOUR OVERDUE BOOKS, MOVIES, AUDIOS AND  
WE'LL WAIVE THE FINES!


8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
476-8289

[tiptoncountylibrary.com](http://tiptoncountylibrary.com)  
3149 HWY 51 S BLDG. C. COVINGTON, TN 38019

# Let Us Help Plan Your Child's Next Party at the Covington Civic Center

Invite your friends to your **Paint Party** at the Covington Civic Center. Pick out a sample to paint on a Canvas board for your



birthday, special occasion, or any reason to get  together with friends for some fun.

We're going to put a little **ART** in your **PARTY!**


For Information Call 901.475.7139



Cost for a Party.....\$100.00

Total Time Allowed for Painting &  
Any Party Food to be Served.....2 Hours


Party Size.....Limited to 10

Canvas Size ..... 10 x 14 



Covington Civic Center will provide all supplies for the Paint Party. This includes the art picked from our sample wall, 10 x 14 Canvas boards, paints, brushes, easels, tables and chairs. The Canvas boards will be outlined before the party and will be ready for paint.



If the Renter chooses to serve refreshments to those attending, the Renter will provide the refreshments and all necessary serving pieces, plates, cups, spoons, forks, and napkins. 





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF THE HATCHIE RIVER  
REGION**

# SUMMER DAY CAMP

**June 8 - July 10**

**Grades 4-12**

**Limited Space Available!**

**Priority given to returning Club Members**

**Call 901-476-0180 for more information!**



As we battle COVID-19, CASA of Tipton County is committed to the safety and well-being of the community which is why they are pleased to announce the 4th annual CASA Superhero "Stop Child Abuse" Virtual 5k or 10k! CASA is a non-profit organization that provides trained volunteers who are appointed by the local juvenile court judge as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused or neglected children. They would appreciate any support you could offer for this exciting fundraiser to help their program continue to grow and serve more children that need an advocate. Your participation helps generate cause and awareness! Be the difference. Please join the 2020 Virtual Race!

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

# Important Information for Utility Customers

When Tennessee declared a State of Emergency in late March, the City of Covington and Covington Electric System postponed applying late payment fees and disconnection of gas, water, and electric services in an effort to help those customers that may have suffered reduced household or small business income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Collection for these monthly utility bills was delayed at that time, with the understanding that all past-due amounts must be repaid in full after Tennessee's businesses were allowed to reopen.

Now that Tennessee has undertaken efforts to allow most businesses to return to normal operations, Covington Electric System plans to reopen its lobby for normal business transactions on Tuesday, May 26th. The City of Covington will follow suit on June 1. Concurrent with the opening of their lobbies, collection of late payment fees and disconnection of unpaid gas, water, and electric service accounts will resume.

During the first week of June, Covington Electric System (CES) will begin mailing repayment agreements to residential and small commercial customers whose accounts are in arrears. Beginning with electric bills that have a past-due date in June, the repayment arrangement will require that all residential and small commercial electric customers pay their current month's electric bill in full, plus an additional amount of up to \$100 per month until all arrears are repaid. CES customers will be required to sign and return the repayment agreement in order to avoid the disconnection of electric service for past-due amounts.

Covington Public Works will be mailing repayment agreements to residential and small commercial customers whose accounts are in arrears on May 15 and will begin disconnection of gas and water service for unpaid bills on June 4. Gas and water customers will also be required to sign and return the repayment agreement to avoid the disconnection of gas and water service.

All City of Covington gas and water customers are encouraged to contact Covington City Hall at 901-476-9613 as soon as possible with any questions concerning their account status and repayment agreements to avoid disconnection of service due to non-payment. Covington Electric System customers should contact CES with any questions at 901-476-7104.

Click on the link below to download the repayment agreement.

<http://www.covingtontn.com/utility-billing-division.html>



# Covington Public Works/Utilities

## AGREEMENT FOR EXTENDING TERMS FOR PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Covington Gas and Water is providing an "Agreement For Extending Terms For Payment Of Utility Bills" during this state of emergency related to the COVID-19 virus.

In order to participate in the "Agreement For Extending Terms For Payment Of Utility Bills", the customer agrees and acknowledges the following:

- CG&W has deferred the collection of monthly utility bills during the time that the COVID-19 emergency exists in the State of Tennessee, and that such deferred monthly bills are still owed by the customer.
- By his/her signature below, he/she has notice of the repayment schedule provided and has received extended payment privileges from CG&W.
- Following termination of the COVID-19 emergency by the State of Tennessee, he/she must pay future utility bills in full in addition to the Monthly Repayment Amount shown below.
- Failure by the customer to pay the current monthly utility bill plus the Monthly Repayment Amount will result in termination of utility service without further notice.
- That any payments received by CG&W from LIHEAP (Delta) funds, churches or other charitable organizations will be applied first to their current amount due, with any remaining funds to be applied against outstanding balances.
- That in the event he/she fails to pay as described on this Agreement, he/she will pay all expenses incurred in the collection of this delinquent account.
- That this Agreement is subject to modification or amendment as necessary in order to comply with all rules, regulations and policies of CG&W.
- That such deferred monthly utility bills must be paid per the monthly repayment agreement shown below.

Past Due Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Repayment Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- \$1 - \$99.99 to be paid back in 1 month (plus current bill amount)
- \$100 - \$199.99 to be paid back in 2 months (plus current bill amount)
- \$200 - \$299.99 to be paid back in 3 months (plus current bill amount)
- \$300 - \$399.99 to be paid back in 4 months (plus current bill amount)
- \$400 - \$499.33 to be paid back in 5 months (plus current bill amount)
- \$500 - \$599.99 to be paid back in 6 months (plus current bill amount)
- Greater than \$600 to be paid back at the rate of \$100 per month until outstanding balance is paid in full (plus current bill amount)

Customer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_