



Newsletter - May 22, 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

alderwomandist1@gmail.com

District 2 Alderman Jeff Morris

Alderman Keith Phelps

<u>aldermanjeffmorris@gmail.com</u>

kphelps@jamiesonandfisher.com

District 3 Alderman C.H. Sullivan

Alderman Danny Wallace

aldermanchsullivan@gmail.com

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.

Finance and Administration Committee Meeting – 5/19/20 – 4:00 p.m.

Present and via virtual meeting: Chairman Alderman C.H. Sullivan, Alderman Keith Phelps, Alderman Danny Wallace, Alderwoman Johnetta Yarbrough, Alderman Jeff Morris, Mayor Justin Hanson, Recorder-Treasurer Tina Dunn, Chief Larry Lindsey, Chief Richard Griggs, Director Tiny Rose, Rebecca Ray, David Gwinn, Nic Shaw, Echo Day

Audit Contract – Whitehorn Tankersley & Davis

- Discussed annual contract, must be approved
- Motion made to approved contract, 2nd, roll call, motion carries

Discussion on Amendment of Municipal Code Ordinance – Heavy Trucks

- Motion made to proceed with ordinance, 2nd, roll call, motion carries

Budget Discussion

- Mayor Hanson discussed possible challenges with budget
- Sales tax for March is up, 2.8% increase year to date
- The concern is state share tax revenue
- Discussed one time grant of \$223,000 from state
- We have been able to cut some additional dollars from this budget
- Alderman Wallace is concerned with having a shortfall due to unpredictability in projections, suggests
 putting money allocated to raises in a default account, and begin giving raises if budget numbers
 come in as projected with back pay
- Mayor Hanson gave figures on cost of living raises
- Aldermen discussed employee moral
- Alderman Phelps & Alderman Morris discussed options of giving the raises to employees who are below market minimum
- At the time of the salary study, there are 36 employees who are at or below minimum
- Alderman Sullivan would like salary study employees and merit based to come up, and would not be opposed to putting the cost of living raise in a separate account
- Alderman Wallace would also like to see a freeze on expenditures above \$10,000
- Recorder Dunn discussed property taxes and adjustments to tax rate
- Alderman Sullivan commended the Department Heads on this budget in light of the uncertainty of this time
- Alderman Phelps would like an accounting of what items are applicable for the grant money that could be cut from the budget
- Third and final reading on this budget is June 23rd
- Alderman Sullivan made motion to send budget to full Board as presented on first reading May 26th, motion 2nd, discussion
 - Discussed possibility of liquidating surplus property and also discussed biomass issue
 - o Alderman Wallace suggested increase in airport hangar fees or other fees
- Mayor Hanson discussed meeting options. Alderman Sullivan would like to have a special called meeting for budget discussion following Public Works Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 2nd
- Roll call on motion, motion carries

There being no further business, meeting is adjourned



Republic Services® drivers and staff will be celebrating Memorial Day with their families; therefore, the following holiday schedule will be in effect for all residential routes:

Service Day:

Monday, May 25th	$-\!\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!\!-\!$	Service day will be on Tuesday the 26th
Tuesday, May 26th	$-\!\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!\!-\!$	Service day will be on Wednesday the 27th
Wednesday, May 27th	$-\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!>$	Service day will be on Thursday the 28th
Thursday, May 28th	$-\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!>$	Service day will be on Friday the 29th
Friday, May 29th	$-\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!>$	Service day will be on Saturday the 30th

Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!



We'll handle it from here.*

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:	
	ter is providing an "Agreement ated to the COVID-19 virus.	For Extending Terms For Payment Of Utility Bills" during this	
and acknowledges the CG&W has derexists in the Standard pays Following term utility bills in failure by the result in terminal organizations against outstand the collection. That this Agrerules, regulations	following: ferred the collection of monthle tate of Tennessee, and that such a ture below, he/she has notice ment privileges from CG&W. Inination of the COVID-19 emerall in addition to the Monthly lecustomer to pay the current mention of utility service without ments received by CG&W from will be applied first to their current mention of the current mention of the current mention of the current ments received by CG&W from will be applied first to their current mention of this delinquent account. The content is subject to modifications and policies of CG&W.	LIHEAP (Delta) funds, churches or other charitable rrent amount due, with any remaining funds to be applied ribed on this Agreement, he/she will pay all expenses incurred on or amendment as necessary in order to comply with all	
 That such defe below. 	erred monthly utility bills must	be paid per the monthly repayment agreement shown	
	\$1 - \$99.99 to be paid back \$100 - \$199.99 to be paid \$200 - \$299.99 to be paid \$300 - \$399.99 to be paid \$400 - \$499.33 to be paid \$500 - \$599.99 to be paid	Monthly Repayment Amount \$	
Customer:		Date:	
Approved By:		Date:	



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. Please click on the links below to view the guidelines for each specific industry on the TN State Government website.











Tennessee Pledge









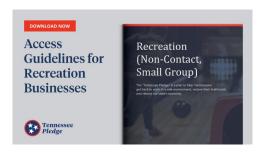












Tipton County Health Department has a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site on Mueller Brass Road in Covington. The National Guard has been deployed to assist with testing and supplies. The testing site will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. Anyone can drive-thru and be tested regardless of whether or not they are exhibiting any symptoms.





In order to further protect our employees and our community, effective immediately, all City buildings will be closed to the public until further notice. Also keep in mind the following:

- All payments (utility bills, citations, fire fees, etc.) will be accepted through our two
 drive-through lanes, not in the lobby at City Hall.
- Many payments can be made via our website at www.covingtontn.com or by calling 844-876-2911.
- Business that requires face-to-face visits will be done by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call 901-476-9613.
- Job applications and many other forms can be obtained from our website at www.covingtontn.com

We want you to know that we are still here to serve you! Avoid crowded spaces, wash your hands, and if you are not feeling well, please stay home. We expect the number of confirmed cases to rise, but by putting these things in place, hopefully we can slow the spread.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Baptist Hospital - Tipton 901-476-2621
Tipton County Health Department 901-476-0235

Tennessee Department of Health https://www.tn.gov/health.html





CARING FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19



Take breaks to relax and do activities you enjoy.



Take care of your body with exercise and a healthy diet.



Know the facts. Understanding the risks can make an outbreak less stressful.



Stay connected with family, friends, and a trusted support system



Ask for help if feelings become too overwhelming.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS316846-A 05/14/2020



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!

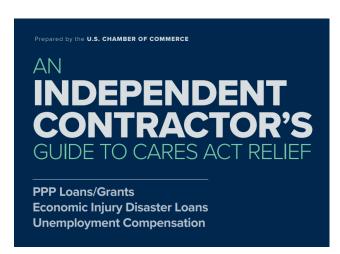


Tennessee Unemployment Insurance

This video may help you understand the process:

How to Complete Certifications on Jobs4TN





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 selfemployed and don't have any employees, here's what you need to know about each program:

https://www.uschamber.com/report/independentcontractors-guide-cares-act-relief

In an effort to keep our employees safe, please do not drop fire fees off at the Covington Fire Department. Please use the following options:

By Mail: 101 Tennessee Ave., Covington, TN 38019

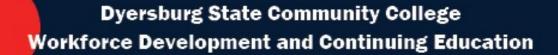
Online: Covingtontn.com

Or visit the drive-thru at City Hall, 200 W. Washington Ave.

Get a free, washable cloth face covering.

DO YOUR PART. STAY APART.

Gov. Bill Lee has made face coverings available to as many Tennesseans as possible. Thanks to the Tipton County Health Department for delivering these masks to City Hall for our employees and customers. If you need a mask, simply ask one of our utility clerks at the drive-through window and they will be happy to provide you one at no charge.



Free Online Courses Available!

- Personal Finance
- Creating Web Pages
- Creating WordPress Websites
- Twelve Steps to a Successful Job Search
- Marketing Your Business on the Internet
- Keys to Effective Communication
- Individual Excellence
- Small Business Marketing on a Shoestring
- Managing Customer Service
- Fundamentals of Supervision and Management

The deadline to register for these free courses is June 30, 2020. Classes are self-paced and you have three months to complete the course.

For any questions, contact Kacie Haeberle at haeberle@dscc.edu



1510 Lake Road, Dyersburg, TN 38024



Reopening Tennessee Responsibly

Opening Monday May 11, 2020

Start Slow
Covington *** **
SP *** RTSPLEX



Finish Strong

Take the pledge with us to reopen the Sportsplex responsibly!

Parks & Recreation will screen customers for illness upon entry to the Sportsplex:

- √ Temperature checks for every customer.
- Persons with temperatures above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted on premise

Minimum: Question customers regarding COVID-19 symptoms

- √ Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- ✓ Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- √ Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- ✓ Anyone who answers yes to the above questions will not be permitted on premise.
- ✓ We recommend that persons more vulnerable or at-risk for COVID-19 as identified by the CDC—including those who are over the age of 65 or those who have chronic medical conditions—take extra precaution or refrain from use of the facility during Phase 1 of re-opening.
- ✓ ALL Employees and Patrons are required to wear a cloth face covering.

- We will cap fitness classes at 9 participants and 1 Instructor unless we need to reduce it further to maintain social distancing (Spin Bike Area).
- The Sportsplex Staff will conduct regular (i.e., every 2 hours) disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, equipment and common areas of the facility using disinfectant cleaning supplies according to CDC guidelines.
- √ Showers, locker rooms, and lockers will remain closed until further notice.
- We have temporarily closed water fountains, common areas, break rooms, where customers or employees may congregate. Please bring your own water.
- No self-service options (coffee bars, smoothie stations and other forms of communal food in facilities).
- All basketball courts, racquetball courts, and other places where formal and informal group or team sports may occur will remain closed until further notice.
- To ensure that our staffing of the facility is sufficient to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures we will adjust our hours of operation to the following: 5AM-7PM Monday-Friday, Saturday 9AM-12PM, Closed on Sundays.

Covington Parks & Recreation 790 Rert Johnston Ave 901-476-3734

We here at Covington Parks and Recreation recognize that these are challenging times. As a result we have cancelled our Spring Youth Sports Season. We would like to offer our patrons a few options with regards to your spring youth sports fee payment. (1) You can use your spring youth sports payment to cover your fall or winter youth sports fees. (2) You can use your spring youth sports fee to cover your Sportsplex or Aquatic Center Membership fees or towards any service that parks and recreation provides i.e. pool party, pavilion rentals, etc. by sending an email to sportsplex@covingtontn.com (3) You may request a refund. In order to expedite the refund process we have placed refund request forms and return envelopes in an outdoor brochure box on the grounds of the Sportsplex. Although we have not opened our doors yet we wanted to provide you with an opportunity to begin the refund process by providing the forms. We hope that everyone will remain safe and healthy as we look forward to seeing you soon.



COVINGTON CIVIC CENTER

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

Visit our <u>Facebook Page</u>
or
Visit our <u>Website!</u>

I'm challenging you to

complete the

2020 Census

today.

#shapeyourfuture



Practical Nursing 2020

September 12-month Day Program Begins September 1, 2020. Paperwork Deadline July 7, 2020

October 18-month Evening/Weekend Program Begins October 26, 2020 Paperwork Deadline August 5, 2020



For additional information, visit our website https://tcatcovington.edu/programs/practical-nursing-day-program.com or email rarnold@tcatcovington.edu.



REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

to Covington Police

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

Lost a job & health insurance? Lost TennCare?



HEALTH CARE

The Tennessee Health Care Campaign (THCC) can provide assistance to anyone that has **lost their health insurance or TennCare** due to the coronavirus.

TennCare is available to low-income families with children under the age of 19.

The Affordable Care Act (**Obamacare**) is an option for families and individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid (**TennCare**).

Feel free to give our Insure Tennessee Line **844-644-5443**, to speak with someone about your eligibility for either **TennCare** or **Obamac-**

Or you can check out our website at www.insure-tennessee.org.

844-644-5443



Tipton County Veteran Services to resume operations effective May 18th, 2020

APPOINTMENT ONLY, NO WALK INS

Many of our customers fall into the high-risk category. To ensure the health and safety of Veterans, their families, staff and visitors and to comply with the Governors Directives you must wear a mask to your appointments unless there is an underlying medical requirement that prevents you from doing so. We ask that you please refrain from bringing small children with you to your appointment and to limit the amount of family accompanying you to two. Please show up to your appointment no earlier than 10 minutes to your scheduled time. We are not going to let anyone in the office unless they have an appointment and if you are too early you may be waiting outside until your time comes up.

Business Hours are from Monday to Wednesday 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

The Veterans Services Office can be reached 901-476-2456 or cbradshaw@tiptonco.com Administrative Assistant, or scrvice Officer.

Please be patient with getting in to see the Veterans Services Officer. Appointments that had to be canceled when the office temporarily closed in March have first priority on getting seen.

If you live outside Tipton County please contact a closer County or State Veterans Service Officer:

TN Department of Veteran Services Memphis VA Hospital:

Phone: 901.578.402

Email: michael.gerlach@tn.gov, michael.powell@tn.gov, donita.johnson@tn.gov

Memphis Office: Shelby County:

Mike Ellis: mike.ellis@shelbycountytn.gov 1060 Madison Ave, Memphis, TN 38104

Michael Davis michael.j.davis@shelbycountytn.gov Phone: 901-222-4237

Millington Office: Mississippi Veteran Services

Phone: 662-449-2811 7930 Nelson Street

Millington, TN 38053

Hours: The last Wednesday and Thursday of each month,

8am – 4:30pm (by appointment only)

Lauderdale County

Ronnie Elder: reldercso@lctngov.com Phone: 1-865-694-7102 200 Crain St.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Ripley, TN 38063

Phone: 731-635-3005



AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in Tennessee

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and their team are excited to return to Tennessee!! They plan to film episodes of the hit series American Pickers throughout your area in June 2020.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on History. The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. **They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.**

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them. AMERICAN PICKERS is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send us your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to:

americanpickers@cineflix.com or call 855-OLD-RUST.

facebook: @GotAPick