

MINUTES  
CONSOLIDATION MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2008

A meeting between the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and the Covington City Council regarding consolidation was held on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 502 at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, 1000 Dabney Drive, Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Mayor Stephanie R. Clark called the Covington City Council to order with all members present as follows: Vice Mayor Robert K. Bennett, Councilman Earl L. Brown, Councilman David C. Bryant, Jr. and Councilman William B. Zimmerman, Jr. Chairman Stephen A. Bennett called the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors to order at this time with all members present as follows: Vice Chairman Carolyn T. Barnette, Mr. Bernard "Mac" Campbell, Jr., Mr. Dave Price, Mr. Rickey D. May, Mrs. Paige R. Morgan and Mr. Cletus W. Nicely.

Chairman Bennett and Mayor Clark have agreed that Chairman Bennett will chair this first meeting and Mayor Clark will chair the next meeting. Thereafter, the Chairman and Mayor will alternate chairmanship at subsequent meetings.

Agenda items were discussed as follows:

- A. Open or Closed Meeting: Agreed that meetings would be open to public, but there would be occasions when closed sessions would be appropriate.
- B. Public Comment/Input – When and How: Agreed to accept written comment from the public at any time; Agreed that specific meetings in future may include designated agenda time for public comment.
- C. Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates and Location: Agreed that regularly scheduled joint meetings would occur on the first and third Mondays of each month commencing at 6:30 p.m. at DSLCC. Agreed that the second Monday of each month may be used for additional meetings as determined to be necessary.
  1. Discussed the need to keep minutes of the joint meetings and delegated to the County Administrator and City Manager the responsibility to arrange for a person(s) to serve as Clerk for the purpose of keeping "action minutes" of each joint meeting. Such minutes would be distributed to the members of each governing body along with the agenda package for next meeting.
  2. Legal Counsel – When and How: Agreed that need for legal counsel would be considered at a subsequent meeting.

- D. Do we need the services of a qualified person to guide both governing bodies through legal procedural issues? Consensus that County Administrator and City Manager would contact qualified persons and ascertain availability, fees and other relevant information.
- E. Media Relations and Press Releases: Agreed that Mayor Clark and Chairman Bennett would be official spokespersons for joint meeting comments and would issue joint press releases when appropriate. Acknowledged that each member of governing bodies had the right to express individual opinions to media.
- F. Engagement of the Towns of Iron Gate and Clifton Forge in this Process: Agreed that a representative of the respective governing Councils of Clifton Forge and Iron Gate would be invited to Participate in ex-officio capacity at future meetings.
- G. Agenda for next meeting: Agreed that Mayor Clark and Chairman Bennett, with advice of Chief Administrative Officer, would prepare agendas for future meetings and disseminate same on a timely basis.
- H. Discussed the need for background information and agreed that a Copy of the 1987 consolidation proposal and copy of Clifton Forge Reversion agreement would be distributed to each member. Also discussed and agreed that other documents deemed pertinent by members should be provided to either Chief Administrative Officer prior to close of business on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 for copying and distribution.

Discussion ensued regarding agenda items, but no further action was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 by Mayor Clark and Chairman Bennett, respectively.

Minutes composed by John Doane, Recorded by Edith S. Wood (Gail).

~~STEPHANIE R. CLARK, MAYOR  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL~~

~~STEPHEN A. BENNETT, CHAIRMAN  
ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS~~

ATTEST:

  
GAIL WOOD, CLERK