

MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2019

2/19/19

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. with the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker. Councilman C. J. Entsminger, Jr. was absent.

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Planning Commission Chairman Tad Robertson called the Planning Commission to order with the following present: Chairman Robertson, Mr. Jerry Morgan, Mr. Bryan Parker, Mr. Wayne Lamb and Mr. Josh Haynes. Ms. Carolyn O'Conner and Mr. Patrick Scruggs were absent.

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The purpose of the meeting was to hold a joint Public Hearing with the Covington Planning Commission regarding a request of Covington Farm and Fuel, LLC, J. W. Tingler, to rezone lots described as 135 N. Alleghany Avenue and 00000 N. Alleghany Avenue from R-3 to C-1 for the purpose of expanding the business footprint to enable use as administrative office space.

No

Mr. J. W. Tingler spoke on behalf of his request. He explained the use of the house on the property for office space. Remodeling was underway and the request for the rezoning does not anticipate any additional traffic in this area. Zoning Administrator Eric Tyree noted that all residents in the area had been provided with all the information they had requested. The Public Hearing was opened. There were no comments from the citizens present. The Hearing was closed. Following discussion, Mr. Parker made a motion to recommend approval of the rezoning to City Council, seconded by Mr. Morgan. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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The next item on the agenda was an update regarding the Comprehensive Plan. This Plan includes profiles of the community, recreation and economy. The Vision Statement in the Comprehensive Plan is as follows: "The Alleghany Highlands become known as the recreational and cultural hub of Western Virginia." Part of the recommendation included development of a joint steering committee/planning committee possibly made up of several members of Council, Planning Commission and representatives of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and Planning Board. A Public Hearing will need to be held regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

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Following the adjournment of the Planning Commission, Council discussed possible procedures for recruitment of a city manager. Interim City Manager Clay Goodman presented information regarding the two methods of recruitment.

One method would be to hire a consulting/recruitment firm which would prepare a brochure, based on Council requirements, for potential candidates. They would possibly have a pool of candidates as well. The firm would do the advertising, background checks, provide a list of prospective candidates and assist with narrowing the list to those individuals Council may wish to contact. This method would come at a cost of approximately \$23,000 or more. The process would take four to six months and possibly longer. This method is done very professionally and has the ability to meet with more people.

The second method would be to have Council, assisted by City staff, do the necessary advertising and recruitment process. This is a very time consuming process for Council. This process would be less costly to the City. The City staff has limited contacts to find candidates.

Mr. Tucker expressed his appreciation for the professionalism of the consulting firm and the assistance with the process. He preferred going with a consultant. He stated that it is Council's job to direct and choose the right candidate.

Mayor Sibold expressed concerns regarding the cost of the consultant fees.

Vice Mayor Crosier expressed concerns regarding the cost and was not in favor of a consulting firm at this point.

Mr. Hunter inquired about the number of applicants that were interviewed before.

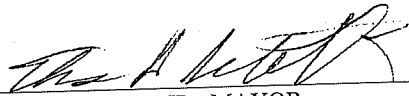
Following discussion, Council chose to refer any decision regarding the recruitment of a city manager to the March 5th work session when Councilman Entsminger could also be present for discussion and input.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to add to the agenda, a closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) regarding real property/real estate. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Following the closed session, Council reconvened and voted to certify that only the matter stated was discussed. No action taken at this time.

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

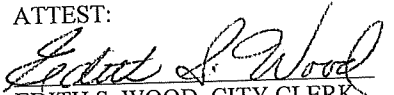
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THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND, AS SUCH,
EX-OFFICIO OFFICER OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON,
VIRGINIA

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ATTEST:



EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK

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