

MINUTES
RECESSED CALLED MEETING
MAY 26, 2020

5/26/2020

The recessed called meeting/budget work session of the Council for the City was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:30 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 all members present as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman Edmond J. "Eddie Joe" Entsminger, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.
City Manager: Krystal Onaitis

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At this time, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, to add to the agenda, a closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 regarding performance of a specific public appointee. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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The following individuals presented information to Council regarding their budget request for FY 20/21: Melinda Snead-Johnson, Superintendent of Covington City Schools; Sheriff Kevin Hall and Ingrid Barber, Executive Director of the Community Services Board.

Melinda Snead-Johnson, Superintendent of Covington City Schools, gave a presentation to Council regarding: (1) the FY 20/21 School Budget; (2) Impact of COVID-19 on the School System; (3) the Feeding Program; and (4) CARES Funding. Mrs. Snead-Johnson explained the priorities need related to staffing, return of staff and students following the early closure of schools due to COVID-19, remediation for students and the One on One Initiative for Pre-K to 12. She noted the impact of the teacher shortage and building needs for all schools. Requirements due to COVID-19 will require items such as masks, gloves and additional cleaning. No date has been set for the reopening of schools at this time. The Feeding Program to assist students due the COVID-19 closure of schools will end on Wednesday. The Summer Feeding Program will begin on June 1, 2020. At this time, 8,199 meals have been served to students. The CARES ACT Funding has been received in the amount of \$209,851. The number one priority is education with the purchase of approximately 475 Chrome Books and the One on One Program. Other items that funds will be used for include the cleaning requirements, masks, gloves, remedial efforts, feeding costs and the support of students when they return. Mrs. Snead-Johnson thanked Council for their continued support for the Covington School System. Mayor Sibold expressed appreciation to Superintendent Snead-Johnson for her presentation.

ATTE:


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Council discussed the changes from the draft budget presented on May 19th. The budget has an overall 10% cut in departments and agencies.

Discussion was also held regarding the reopening of City Hall and the economy. Mayor Sibold noted that we need to be working with the City Attorney to safely reopen the economy. City Manager Onaitis noted that she is developing guidelines for reopening of government, recreation and businesses.

Discussion was also held regarding the Governor's mandate for wearing masks beginning Friday, May 29th. Mayor Sibold noted that this is not to be a Police Dept. enforcement.

Sheriff Kevin Hall was present to address vehicle concerns for his Department where funds had been cut in the Joint Services budget. Discussion was held regarding the "special fund" that was created to clarify the items billed to the City of actual services received. This is a work in progress as no actual agreement has been made between the City of Covington and Alleghany County at this time. Following discussion, Mayor Sibold thanked Sheriff Hall for attending the work session and presenting his information.

Ingrid Barber, Executive Director of the Community Services Board, presented information regarding the growing number of services being provided to the community and costs involved. She noted that the City of Covington has 34% of the clients being served. An explanation of her budget request was to be able to receive appropriate state funding if the City met the 10% match as requested. Mrs. Barber also noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on services and

staffing. Mayor Sibold expressed his concerns related to the inability to fund city schools and other city needs and departments that have been cut by 10%.


W. Brief discussion was held regarding the funding of the DEQ Consent Order which is currently in the FY 20/21 Budget, and the proposed budget with no tax increase or fee increases.

as CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was held pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 for the purpose of discussion regarding a specific public appointee.

o the Following the closed session, Council reconvened and voted to certify that only the item stated
l A.1 was discussed. There was no action taken at this time.

for No further business to come before Council, the meeting was recessed to Thursday, May 28,
vin 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for an additional work session on the FY 20/221 Budget.



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

ATTEST:


EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK

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