

MINUTES
RECESSED CALLED MEETING
MAY 28, 2020

5/28/20

The recessed called meeting/budget work session was held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 5:00 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

At this time, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to add to the agenda, a closed session pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 for the purpose of discussion of Council appointed personnel. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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City Manager Onaitis noted the following items specifically addressed at the meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020: (1) 2.5% Cost of Living Allowance; (2) \$50 monthly cell phone allowance; (3) Community Services Board request reduced \$12,530; (4) Operations Contingency now at \$13,949; (5) Overall General Fund Budget still remains at \$17,773.279. Ms. Onaitis stated that this is a very tight budget and additional projects need to be delayed. She also noted the possibility of using the soft billing process for the Fire Department as is being used for the Rescue Squad.


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Mayor Sibold inquired about the projected revenue and how this figure was determined. Ms. Onaitis and Mr. David Bryant, Director of Finance and HR, provided information which included: (1) Looking at data during the recession to assist with the percentage needed to arrive at a realistic revenue reduction; (2) Information from the State and (3) Sales Tax. Mr. Bryant noted that the City would have approximately \$800,000 plus for the budget if the COVID-19 emergency had not happened.

Mayor Sibold requested revisiting budget items in December or at the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year to see what had increased or decreased at that time.

A question was asked regarding the CARES Funding for Schools. The schools received money directly from the CARES Funding. This did not come out of the money for the locality.

Much discussion was held regarding the streets, snow and ice removal, emergency repairs needed following a storm event, and concerns related to changes to the overtime allocation.

Three areas of concern regarding slope failures in the City that need addressed are: Edgemont Drive at Grass Street; Ashland and Carpenter Drive and on the Mallow Road. Ms. Onaitis cautioned about any new projects.

The final areas of the budget addressed included utilities funds and water and sewer funds.

Much discussion was held regarding the recycling program for the City. Options for continuing the recycling program were discussed as well as areas of concern with the current program.

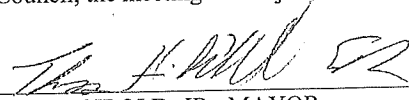
Mr. Bryant noted the current status of the Peter's Mountain Landfill cell closure account. Discussion was held regarding the current status of the cells at the landfill and the amount of time remaining at the landfill. Options were briefly discussed and Council made clear that this issue needs to remain a priority for the future needs of the City.

It was determined that the ad for the Public Hearing on the Budget will be published on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 and the Public Hearing will be held at the regular meeting of Council on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

At this time, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to move into closed session as stated. Motion carried.

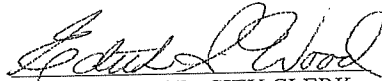
Council reconvened and voted to certify that only the item stated was discussed. No action taken at this time.

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



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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