

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2020

The regular meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

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

City Attorney: Mark Popovich

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the agenda as amended with the following additions: (1) Resolution R-20-27 regarding Support of the SRO Program in schools; (2) Resolution R-20-28 regarding CARES funding in the amount of \$413,648.21; and (3) Resolution R-20-29 regarding the Proposed Issuance of Bonds in the amount of \$3,000,000.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments from the citizens at this time.

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted to approve the following minutes as presented: Called Meeting of July 7, 2020 5:30 p.m.; Called Meeting of July 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.; Work Session of July 7, 2020; Regular Meeting of July 14, 2020 and Called Meeting of July 21, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed Issuance of Bonds in the maximum amount of \$3,000,000. There were no comments from the citizens. The Public Hearing was closed. These funds are necessary for the emergency road repairs in specific areas of the City due to the recent heavy rain events.

APPOINTMENTS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Entsminger, Council voted to reappoint Lance Carson to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

PRESENTATIONS

Steve Steele of CHA Engineering was unable to attend as scheduled.

At this time, David Rose of Davenport Associates, presented information regarding the issuance of bonds for the emergency road repair work in the City due to recent rain events. He noted that there had been three bids from banks: BB&T, Highlands Community Bank and Premier Bank. The best and final bid to be presented next week for decision. An allowance is made for the bid process of bonds when emergency situations occur. City Attorney Popovich gave an explanation regarding the resolution to be adopted by Council to assist the process moving forward quickly. It was stated that this action is for interim financing and there is a possibility of grant assistance. A decision can be made later for permanent financing after any available assistance is recognized. By using this process, it allows the City more flexibility for financing.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. Presented an update regarding the EDC progress in development and marketing of sites. Ms. Onaitis noted the efforts regarding a consultant on site development and marketing.

2. Presented an update regarding the Department of Labor's new requirements for employees. The CARES allocation may be used for automatic doors, improvements to restrooms and other issues related to COVID 19. Other areas impacted include the Court House, Library and Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.
3. Presented information regarding the Downtown Planning Grant for Main Street. There are twelve members on the planning team. Items noted included promotion of sites such as the Kroger Building and Gordman's. Diversified housing and rental units were discussed for three school buildings.
4. Updated Council regarding the emergency road repair projects and the possibility of some savings on the projects.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve, on second reading, Ordinance O-20-02 regarding an Omnibus Ordinance Amending and Reenacting Certain Sections of Chapter 6, Animals, of the Code of the City of Covington. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-20-24 regarding BB&T Bank Franchise Tax Refund in the amount of \$37,731. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For. This refund was due to an error at the state level and the Bank did not charge interest to the localities.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Resolution R-20-25 in support of VDOT Smart Scale Application for (1) East Madison Ave. and (2) Pedestrian Bridge at Jackson River Sports Complex. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-20-26 regarding EMS Medical Equipment Grant in the amount of \$70,562 (Carryover funds 50/50 match). Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Entsminger, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Resolution R-20-27 in Support of the SRO Program. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For. This action was taken as the Virginia General Assembly is considering cutting the SRO Program for schools.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Entsminger, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Appropriation Resolution R-20-28 regarding CARES Funding carryover dollars in the amount of \$413,648.21. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

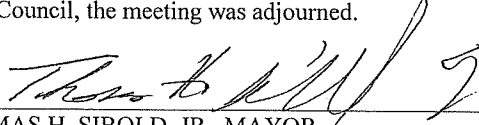
Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5 to 0 to approve Resolution R-20-29 regarding the Issuance of General Obligation Bond in an Aggregate Amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 as presented, with lender to be chosen by City Manager and interest rate less than 1.6%. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker, For.

NEW BUSINESS

City Attorney Popovich presented information regarding vacation of certain paper streets and alleys in the Edgemont Subdivision owned by the City and operated as the Jackson River Sports Complex. The City owns all parcels that make up the Sports Complex and therefore, one (1) deed is needed for the State to see for any grant applications made by the City related to the Sports Complex. Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by

Mr. Tucker, to vacate certain streets and alleys in the Edgemont Subdivision now known as the Jackson River Sports Complex and to authorize the City Attorney to execute document of vacation. Motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Sibold, For; Vice Mayor Crosier, For; Mr. Entsminger, For; Mr. Hunter, For; Mr. Tucker. For.

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