

MINUTES

CALLED JOINT MEETING WITH COVINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
JANUARY 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held jointly with the Covington Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., telecommunicated electronically from the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Planning Commission Chairman Tad Robertson, with all members present electronically: Jerry Morgan, Wayne Lamb, Patrick Scruggs, Max Shawver, Mike Wickline, and Steve Wilson, as well as Development Service Coordinator Eric Tyree. Mayor Thomas H. Sibold, Jr. called the City Council meeting to order with all members present electronically as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman William E. Carson, Jr., Councilman Raymond C. Hunter, and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.  
City Manager: Krystal Onaitis  
City Attorney: Mark Popovich

The meeting was held electronically via Zoom. Chairman Robertson and Mayor Sibold read statements declaring that due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus health emergency and pursuant to Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, the Planning Commission and Council would convene electronically for this called meeting to transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue the operations of the City. On a motion made by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council agreed by consensus to conduct the meeting electronically.

Also present electronically were Angela Giegerich, who requested the Special Use Permit for Angie's Dog Grooming, LLC; David Oliver, property owner at 1203 W. Jackson Street; and Debbie Cartwright, an employee of Angie's Dog Grooming.

Chairman Robertson welcomed new Planning Commission members and paid tribute to the late Carolyn O'Conner, who served on the Planning Commission for several years. He asked if any from the public sector would like to speak for or against the Special Use Permit. None responded, and neither the Clerk for Council nor the Secretary for Planning Commission had received any citizen comments or communications on the Special Use Permit for Angela Giegerich to allow the selling of pet supplies and groom of dogs at 1203 W. Jackson Street.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Tyree explained that this was a conditional permit because the City Code does not specifically address this pet grooming business, only for veterinary clinic (C-3) conditions for kenneling, which Ms. Giegerich does not plan to do, so it was labeled as a Special Use Permit. He suggested the code be changed to reflect this, and City Manager Krystal Onaitis and Attorney Mark Popovich agreed that this business will not go outside the bounds of the C-2 permit.

At questioning from Chairman Robertson, Ms. Giegerich stated the business will operate Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and has ample parking for her clients. She will not be boarding any animals, only grooming and sale of pet retail items. She does not plan to make major changes to the building, only painting. She does not anticipate additional noise. Owner David Oliver stated that the business is on the opposite end of the residential area on Kadel Street. The apartment above the building is currently vacant, but he is actively seeking new tenants. Ms. Onaitis reminded members that several businesses, including two hair salons, a tanning salon, a garage, and several other businesses are beside or adjacent to the building, and she does not feel that the noise ordinance will be a factor unless Ms. Giegerich operates outside of the normal business hours.

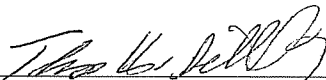
Vice Chairman Morgan asked about additional signage and lighting, and Ms. Giegerich stated she only planned to place vinyl lettering on the front windows and didn't plan on using lights that would be distracting to drivers on the street.

Mr. Tyree added that the businesses surrounding her business are currently zoned C-2, and the Comprehensive Plan shows it will remain that way in the future. The issue here is more that the Code doesn't address pet grooming specifically.


With no further questions, Chairman Robertson and Mayor Sibold closed the public hearing. Mayor Sibold asked what decision was made about a similar pet grooming issue on Riverside Street several years ago, and Mr. Tyree responded that it was up-zoned to a C-3, reiterating that the Code needs to be amended to address this issue. Chairman Robertson asked for recommendations, and Mr. Wilson made the motion to adopt a special use permit to allow the selling of pet supplies and grooming of dogs at 1203 W. Jackson Street, seconded by Mr. Lamb. Roll call vote showed a unanimous decision: Mr. Lamb, For; Mr. Morgan, For; Mr. Scruggs, For; Mr. Shawver, For; Mr. Wickline, For; Mr. Wilson, For; and Chairman Robertson, For.

Mayor Sibold asked for a motion to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval for a Special Use Permit for Angie's Dog Grooming, LLC. Vice Mayor Crosier made the motion, seconded by Mr. Tucker, and the vote showed Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Carson: For; Mr. Hunter: For; and Mr. Tucker: For.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned by consensus after a motion from Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker and Mr. Hunter.

  
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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

ATTEST:

  
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REBECCA W. SCOTT  
CITY CLERK