

MINUTES

CALLED MEETING

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

5:30 p.m.

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. electronically telecommunicated from 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 electronically 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

The meeting was held electronically via Zoom. Mayor Thomas Sibold read a statement declaring that due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus health emergency and pursuant to Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, Council would convene electronically for this called meeting to transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue the operations of the City. Councilman Allan Tucker made a motion to conduct the meeting electronically, and Vice Mayor David Crosier seconded. Council voted 5-0 to conduct the meeting via Zoom as follows: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Entsminger: For; Mr. Hunter: For; Mr. Tucker: For.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider recommendations from City Attorney Mark Popovich concerning three proposed amended ordinances: O-20-13: Amending and Reenacting Certain Sections of Appendix A, Subdivisions, of the Code of the City of Covington; O-20-14: Amending and Reenacting Certain Sections of Appendix B, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Covington, and to Repeal Chapter 36, Signs; and O-20-15: Amending and Reenacting Certain Sections of Chapter 8, Buildings, by Adopting Article V, Spot Blight Abatement, to the Code of the City of Covington.

Mr. Popovich presented the proposed changes to proposed ordinance O-20-13, Amending and Reenacting Certain Sections of Appendix A, Subdivisions, of the code of the City of Covington, explaining that it was for Council's consideration prior to directing this proposal to the Planning Commission for their approval. After a Planning Commission affirmative vote, the proposed ordinance would then return to Council for their vote. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council voted 5-0 to direct the proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission for consideration as follows: Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Entsminger: For; Mr. Hunter: For; Mr. Tucker: For.

Mr. Popovich next presented ordinance O-20-14, Amending and Reenacting Certain Sections of Appendix B, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Covington. He stated that significant updates were needed to bring the Zoning chapter up to Virginia State Code, in addition to significant revisions to Covington's floodplain overlay district. He removed Chapter 36, Signs, because the Sign chapter has been incorporated in the Zoning ordinance. Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to refer O-20-14 to the Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Tucker. Council voted 5-0 to direct the proposed ordinance for the Planning Commission's consideration with a roll call vote

showing Mayor Sibold: For; Vice Mayor Crosier: For; Mr. Entsminger: For; Mr. Hunter: For; Mr. Tucker: For.

Attorney Popovich and City Manager Krystal Onaitis spent a short time discussing proposed ordinance O-20-15, particularly the Spot Blight Abatement, added to help enforce property maintenance and building code standards. This will complement the “Keep Covington Beautiful” public service campaign as it addresses areas difficult to enforce, such as pet hygiene; property upkeep such cutting grass and maintaining sidewalks; and at-risk structures. Mr. Popovich stated this proposed ordinance will require a public hearing and public notices run in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks before Council may vote on it. No action was necessary at this point.

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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca W. Scott, City Clerk