

MINUTES  
CALLED MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021

6 p.m.

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 6 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 Vice Mayor David Crosier as Mayor Thomas Sibold was having difficulty accessing the Zoom meeting but was available momentarily; then all members were 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  
Other Participants: Stephen Steele, Key Account Manager for CHA Consulting

The meeting was held electronically via Zoom. Vice Mayor Crosier 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.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project for Jackson Street from South Byrd Street to South Lee Street. Information on the amount of funding available, the requirements on benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, eligible activities, and plans to minimize displacement and provide displacement assistance as necessary will be available.

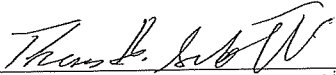
Mayor Sibold opened the Public Hearing and asked for citizen comments. No comments had been submitted to the City Clerk. Multiple public service announcements were published in the local newspaper and on the City website and social media outlets.

Stephen Steele of CHA Associates presented the overview of the project, projecting a visual representation of the area and the anticipated changes that will include the following:

- 1,200 feet of new sidewalk will line both sides of Jackson Street from Byrd to Lee and will include new pavement with ten foot shoulders and 10 foot eastbound and westbound traffic lanes. The sidewalks will be raised approximately four inches but will allow residents to access their driveways.
- New pedestrian crosswalks will be placed at the north and south portions of Byrd, Stewart, and Lee. These crosswalks will be stamped to create the appearance of brick.
- Drainage improvements along Jackson, North and South Lee, North and South Stewart, and North and South Byrd will include ditch improvements with rock lining and four drop inlets to prevent water from running across Jackson. Additionally, the construction of 1,600 feet of drainage pipe will run along and under the railroad tracks to prevent water from standing on the southern portion of the project area. Mr. Steele called this drainage will provide the "backbone" of this project and future projects in the area. Ms. Onaitis added that the drainage will help alleviate strain on the wastewater treatment plant at times. In response to Mayor Sibold's question about a wastewater pump station on Jackson Street, Mr. Steele said the station is located beyond of the scope of this project and it was updated and rehabilitated and should have at least twenty years of service remaining.

The projected total cost of the project is \$1,152,100, with a contingency budget of \$152,100. The grant total is \$1 million, and Steele emphasized that all grant money will be maximized in order to be most beneficial but could change with the bidding process. Ms. Onaitis added that they may be able to ask for DEQ grants for wastewater management to help with costs. Mayor Sibold stressed that Council is only asking for a CDBG grant and that any construction will be in the future, providing the grant is approved. The tentative date for grant submission is April 1, and then a 6-9 month review process will follow, which will compete with similar projects from other localities for limited grant funds.

With no further questions or comments, Vice Mayor Crosier closed the Public Hearing. The meeting was adjourned by consensus to move into the Work Session.

  
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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