

MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
JULY 13, 2021, 5 p.m.

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 5 p.m., from the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas Sibold. The following members were present: 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 purpose of the meeting was to tour the Alleghany Highlands Industrial Heritage and Technology Discovery Center located at 233 N. Maple Avenue. Alleghany Historical Society President Dr. Paul Linkenhoker conducted the tour, assisted by members Mike Wade, Boyd Harrison, Bill Atherholt, and Marian Paxton. Dr. Linkenhoker led members through all areas of the first floor of what is commonly called the Rooklin (Nettleton) Building, highlighting displays showing the *Covington Virginian* newspaper printing; agriculture; film and fiber manufacturing; smelting pig iron at several Alleghany County furnaces; paper at Westvaco; brickmaking; generating and storing electricity at the Bath County Pumped Storage facility; and the items from the Covington Machine Shop (old Halmode Building).

The second floor tour included hands-on stations that generated electricity and storage; siphoning; a vacuum pump that blew up balloons; and a Maker's Space, which will be filled with totes of LEGOs and similar building materials. Space is also reserved for a music history display, including a grand piano from the estate of former Vice Mayor Bill Zimmerman. Dr. Linkenhoker thanked Council for their continued support of the project, stating the Historical Society planned to complete the project by the end of summer and open to the public by Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Following the tour, the group reconvened in Council chambers. Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to add the treasurer's report and fourth quarter financial report to the Called Meeting since time was available, Mr. Carson seconded, and members agreed by consensus.

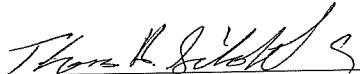
Treasurer Theresa Harrison reported accounts for the Highlands Community Bank CD and Bank of America remained the same, while the following accounts posted modest gains: BB&T Celebrity, BB & T Escrow, Premier Savings, Premier Sewer Debt, and U.S. Bank Water System.

Director of Finance David Bryant presented the fiscal year 20-21 Quarter IV Finance Budget Summary, reminding members that all numbers reflected the total revenues and expenditures as some will be received in July. The General Fund is currently meeting or exceeding expectations, showing total revenues of \$18,463,525, which is 3.88 percent above the adopted budget. He stated that Sales and Use Taxes have been "solid," which is somewhat surprising during the COVID pandemic. The year-to-date expenditures total \$15,598,383, which is 85.08 percent of the projected \$17,321,688. Health and Welfare Services did exceed the budget due to needs related to the pandemic. An appropriations resolution of \$110,000 will be considered in the Regular Meeting, and approximately 85 percent of that appropriation will be returned by the State. Water and Sewer Revenues are "okay," considering the Governor's moratorium on shut-offs is still in place and should end on August 29. Expenditures in Water and Sewer will have leftover funds that will be carried over into the 2022 fiscal year for projects. Solid Waste revenues are down, and he anticipates the collections will fall short due to less volume being hauled to the landfill during the pandemic. The greatest issue was with recycling, with \$67,616 spent, which is 179.79 percent of the \$37,608 budgeted.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, Council agreed by consensus to allow Major George Hackbarth of the Salvation Army to present his material on the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Major Hackbarth said the funding may be used by local private or public organizations that are nonprofit (501c3) or governmental agencies that have checking accounts, Federal Employer Identification Numbers, a Data Universal Number Systems, and valid email addresses. The Salvation Army was allocated \$225,563 for the City,

and Alleghany County is eligible for \$5,147, based on the percentage of unemployed workers. These funds may be used for food, lodging, one-month assistance for rent or mortgage, transportation for food or shelter, minor emergency repairs to equipment or buildings, and supplies and small equipment for feeding or sheltering people. He said recipients may apply to only one agency in the area, and the "simple" application is available at the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army Board will determine which groups receive funds, and money not used is required to be returned and will be given to other localities. He has advertised in the local newspaper for groups to apply and asked members to help identify and notify other groups that are eligible. Pastor Stephanie Clark asked if churches could apply, and Major Hackbarth said they could, but the funding must be used in Covington.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus on a motion by Mr. Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker, in order to move into the Regular Meeting.



THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND,
AS SUCH, EX-OFFICIO OFFICER OF THE
CITY OF COVINGTON, VIRGINIA

ATTEST:



REBECCA W. SCOTT
CITY CLERK