

MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2021

A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:30 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 as follows: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilman William E. Carson, Jr., and Councilman S. Allan Tucker. Councilman Raymond C. Hunter was absent.
City Manager: Krystal Onaitis

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion to amend the agenda to move the first portion of the Closed Session for a discussion regarding the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected as it relates to public financing pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(6). Mr. Tucker added a second, and members agreed by consent. After returning from the Closed Session, Vice Mayor Crosier read a certification verifying that the only matters discussed in Closed Session were the ones previously stated; Mr. Tucker seconded, and members agreed with an aye vote.

Mayor Sibold opened the Public Hearing, the purpose of which was to solicit public input related to bond issuance for creation of a pad-ready site for economic development and asked for Citizen Comments. None were made, so he closed the Public Hearing.

James Sanderson, Senior Vice President of Davenport & Company, stated the plan concerning the pad-ready site at the Alleghany Commerce Center is to finish negotiations with the lender and bring recommendations to Council on November 2 or 9 with documents and the resolution for bond issuance. Ms. Onaitis asked the potential closing date, and he said he planned to close by November 16.

David Bryant, Director of Finance, presented the first quarterly report for July 1-September 30, 2021. He said the first summary of the fiscal year reflects items going back to FY 2020, so it has the least information for the year. He reminded members that this year's revenues and expenditures were built with fewer restrictions due to COVID impacts and the need to preserve fund balance; therefore, the fund balance was not used to build the budget. The year-to-date revenues showed \$1,177,844 or 6.01 percent of the budget, largely because general property and other local taxes and state categorical aid were not collected during this quarter. Expenditures of \$3,449,591 were on target with expectations, showing 17.6 percent of the year-to-date activity.

The Utility Fund had no projected numbers because commercial bills for July are actually based on June 2021 readings. He said that revenues are close to expectations and slightly higher than last year, and the expenditures are on target. Revenues for the Solid Waste Fund showed \$138,103, with landfill charges and collections for residential and commercial customers. He emphasized that the Recycling Portion was on target at \$37,000, the same as last year's first quarter, and he praised Ms. Onaitis for adding the compactor. It has reduced the \$4,000-\$6,000 monthly bills that occurred when the transition was made from JRE to RDS to \$1,000-\$1,200. He was concerned about rising fuel, electric, natural gas, and material costs and supply costs having a negative impact on the budget, but he promised monthly analysis of revenues and expenditures and to use conservative cost control if necessary. He stated that all budget items seem favorable moving into FY 2022.

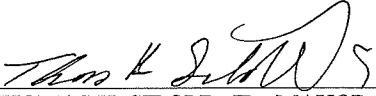
Mayor Sibold asked if the joint agreement with recycling has begun yet, and Ms. Onaitis responded that a meeting is planned soon with representatives from Alleghany County and Clifton Forge to formalize an actual agreement. She also reported that John J. Crowder has been hired for the Building Official position and has "hit the ground running" in working with staff. Mayor Sibold emphasized that, while he couldn't discuss what was said in the Closed Session at the beginning of the meeting, he was pleased with the line of credit and the "favorable numbers."

Vice Mayor Crosier made a motion enter into closed session to enter into Closed Session pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Section 2.2.-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for

the purpose of discussing matters related to specific Council-appointed personnel. Mr. Tucker made a second, and members consented. Mayor Sibold informed staff and media members present that no action would be taken when they returned.

After returning from Closed Session, Council voted by consensus to certify that only the matter stated was discussed on a motion from Vice Mayor Crosier, seconded by Mr. Tucker.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned by consensus.



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