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CALLED MEETING  
MAY 22, 2018

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A called meeting of the Council for the City of Covington was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in 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 the following members present: Mayor Sibold, Vice Mayor David S. Crosier, Councilwoman Mary Ann Beirne, Councilman Raymond C. Hunter and Councilman S. Allan Tucker.

City Manager: Richard Douglas

The purpose of the meeting was: (1) To hold a Public Hearing to receive additional nominations for appointment to the Covington City School Board; and (2) to hold a work session for the proposed budget for FY 2018/2019.

Mayor Sibold explained that this Public Hearing to receive additional nominations for the School Board was due to the understanding that Council would need to receive an information form from the candidates prior to the Public Hearing. The notice for the first Public Hearing stated that Council had "requested" the forms, not "required" the forms.

At this time, the Public Hearing was opened to receive additional nominations for appointment to the Covington City School Board. Mr. Ron Leichter and Ms. Erika Hunter were submitted. There were no additional nominations. The Public Hearing was closed. The candidates for appointment to the Covington City School Board are: current Board member Mrs. Cindy Bennett, Mrs. Betty Graves, Ms. Erika Hunter, Ms. Tonya Jones, and Mr. Ron Leichter. Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2018 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A brief work session was held regarding the proposed FY 2018/2019 budget. Mayor Sibold stated that Council has cut the tax increase on real estate from \$0.08 to \$0.04 per \$100. A Public Hearing on the proposed budget will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at the regular meeting. This will allow Superintendent Melinda Snead-Johnson and the School Board time to meet and adjust the school budget prior to the public hearing.

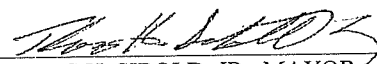
Mayor Sibold stated that this has been a very difficult budget. The City has experienced significant losses to revenue due to loss in sales tax revenue an increased EMS costs. Social Services costs have increased over \$500,000. Employee health care costs have also increased and employees are paying more and many are taking higher deductibles.

Mayor Sibold expressed appreciation to City Manager Douglas and Director of Finance and HR David Bryant for all of the hard work they have done on preparing the budget.

All departments have taken cuts including \$600,000 from Public Works and \$100,000 from the Police Dept. No raises have been included with the longevity pay contingent upon finances at that time.

City Manager Douglas expressed appreciation to Mr. Bryant and all department heads for their hard work during a very difficult budget process.

No further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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

ATTEST:

  
EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK