

**RICHMOND CITY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2022  
CITY HALL  
SECOND FLOOR TRAINING ROOM  
9:30 AM**

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**Mayor Blythe called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.**

**PRESENT: Commissioner Arnold, Brewer, McDaniel, Newby and Mayor Blythe  
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Minerich: City Manager, Lisa Cassity: City Clerk, Sharon Cain: Finance Director, Philip Williams: Codes, Planning, Safety & Risk Management, Rodney Richardson: Police Chief, Sam Kirby: Fire Chief, Taylor Six: Richmond Register, Scott Althaus: Richmond Utilities, Tyler Johnson: Community Development, Althea Causey: Human Resources Coordinator**

**Lancaster Ave Zone Change Request**

City Manager and Planning & Zoning Director recapped the request from Mr. Ronald Gosses. They explained that he's been to the City Commission and was referred to Planning & Zoning Commission to review the proper process for an area of town, not just one certain property. Mr. Gosses submitted signatures of residents from Lancaster Ave and Oak Street that were in agreement of a zone change from R2 to R1. By the different zone for this area, the residents are hoping to preserve the integrity of the historical neighborhood. The Planning & Zoning Commission discusses this request at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and did not move forward.

City Attorney laid out the three options for these property owners to successfully zone their property to a R1.

1. Individual Property owners in that area of town would contend with the city proceeding with a non-consensual annexation as a whole.
2. Individual Property owners each consent to an individual zone change request for their own properties. Each owner would need to submit a boundary and plat.
3. The city enforcing stricter building controls, however the properties that are being demolished are owned by the state which is not under the city jurisdiction.

Mayor responded that since Mr. Gosses didn't attend the Workshop for the discussion that he'll set up a meeting to address the process.

**ARPA Funding**

City Manager and Finance Director explained the items that are going to be allocated in the first payment: 80 hours covid time if needed to each employee, Room in the Inn Program \$50,000, Tourism Reimbursement, City Hall Ventilation System, Police ballistic vehicle, regular police vehicles, Armory Property Project, Premium Pay, and Incentive Pay. These items will require a budget amendment

just for the ARPA funds. Based on the survey results, all these items will be addressed.

Commissioner McDaniel questioned if the ARPA funds would go towards a homeless shelter. City Manager responded that the city has been very gracious to the homeless population and currently working with United Way for a Way Point Center and possibly hiring a social working for the Police Department.

Mayor Blythe questioned if these programs and funds are sustainable for the future, such as Madison Home and Room in the Inn program.

City Manager laid out the time lines for possible pay outs on Premium Pay and Incentive Pays and explained that ECU, Madison County School Board have both provided this to their employees. He further informed the commission that Tuesday there will be 2 separate orders and based on those results will be an Ordinance for budget amendments.

### **Police Vehicle Request**

City Manger explained that it would include 5 total vehicles and 1 armory vehicle. The ballistic vehicle would either be a 6 or 12 passenger van. Chief Richardson explained the benefits of the vehicle with require no special CDL license to drive and mentioned that no other cities have this type of vehicle except the state police. City Commission agreed for the Chief to finalize quotes and present for approval.

### **Departmental Reports- None**

### **City Manager's Report-**

City Manager introduced 2 guests that have requested the city ABC Administrator to request from the State ABC office for two additional licenses. City Attorney explained that Richmond currently holds 16 licenses as of the 2020 census.

An Order will be presented at the next meeting for the commission to approve the ABC Administrator to request 2 additional licenses from the state. This process will have to be advertised with bids submitted.

### **Board of Commissioner's Discussion**

**McDaniel-** None

**Arnold-** None

**Brewer-** None

**Newby-** None

**Mayor Blythe-** Thanked everyone for the items presented today.

### **Adjournment at 10:35 a.m.**

Motion: Commissioner McDaniel

Seconded: Commissioner Arnold

**VOTING:**

Commissioner Brewer  
Commissioner McDaniel  
Commissioner Newby  
Commissioner Arnold  
Mayor Blythe

**YES**

x  
x  
x  
x  
x

**NO**

ATTEST:

City Clerk

MAYOR

  
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