



The City of
Colonial Heights, Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2011

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**City of Colonial Heights Courthouse Construction Project Begins with
Demolition of City-Owned Buildings at 231 Chesterfield Avenue**

The project facilitating construction of the new City of Colonial Heights Municipal Courthouse began today with the commencement of demolition activities to remove all existing buildings on city-owned property at 231 Chesterfield Avenue (the former site of the Colonial Heights Baptist Church).

The project will start initially with the removal of asbestos from the site, with the major, more visible demolition work not occurring for a few weeks.

“Given the age of the existing buildings, the demolition project does have some unique elements,” said Colonial Heights City Engineer Chuck Henley. “We have, however, engaged an experienced contractor; and we are confident that our team will assure a safe, efficient, and timely project.”

As part of its Regular Meeting on February 8, the Colonial Heights City Council approved proceeding with the demolition project and authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement with the low bidder on the project, S. B. Cox Inc. of Richmond. While preliminary cost estimates for the demolition project were as high as \$500,000, the successful bid from S. B. Cox was for \$147,152.

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“It had been an expressed hope of the City Council that moving forward with the project in the current economy would result in cost savings for the City,” said Colonial Heights City Manager Tom Mattis. “That obviously turned out to be true, as the contract amount for the demolition is significantly lower than all had anticipated. It is certainly our hope that we will see a similar occurrence when the costs for construction of the new courthouse are determined later this year.”

Simultaneous to this demolition project, the City is also currently engaged in the development of initial plans and specifications for the new courthouse. The current schedule calls for the selection of a design/construction team by the fall, with the actual construction of the new building anticipated to begin spring of 2012.

While the contractual deadline for completion of the demolition project is June 15, cooperative weather conditions and no unanticipated issues should allow the project to be completed in a quicker timeframe.

Given the nature of the project, the property at 231 Chesterfield Avenue will be a high-security site with no access to the public. All media and/or public inquires should be made through the City Manager’s office

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