

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, JANUARY 6, 2020, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Susie Keck, Council members: Hawneitha Williams, Kenneth Morgan, Anthony Henderson, Fleeta Baggett, and, Don T. Floyd, City Manager Scott Andrews, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present.

First Baptist Church's Mission Minister John Thompson gave the invocation.

Mayor Horton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Horton called for a moment of silence honoring Chief Almond Turner.

1. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 9, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cindy Jordan with *Say NO to EtO* discussed the additional BD warehouse that is emitting EtO and inquired what is the City's stance.

The City Attorney stated the City is waiting on the Federal Government regarding an EPD panel. The City Attorney further stated BD is complying with regards to their agreement. The City Attorney stated the EPD has a Covington specific website that is updated.

Mr. Jonathan Paschal discussed issues with the creek involving the parking lot at the corner of Conyers Street & Legion Drive.

Ms. Nita Thompson shared an experience involving an employee of Latham Home Sanitation helping her and others.

Ms. Thelma Nolley discussed issues with several customers not getting their garbage picked up.

Mr. Charles Neely discussed issues on the square with traffic control, texting pedestrians, golf carts, and movie company employees.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a request to block parking spaces to remodel Scoops, *expost facto*.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **off-premises consumption** only for:

**Covington Food Mart
9123 Highway 278**

Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a resolution specifying the Mayor and City Manager to communicate City decisions with respect to the Trust by jointly executing written directions to MEAG Power and the Trustee.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a resolution amending the 2019-2020 Budget for the purchase of items for a City-wide training room at new CPD, not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the low bid from Ruben Morgan Construction in the amount of \$39,870.00, to construct an ADA accessible restroom facility at the City’s CNG facility.

SteelCo	\$47,880.00
Malco Construction	\$43,260.00
Ruben Morgan Construction	\$39,870.00

Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve ratifying requests for the Covington Town Center Project from October 2018:

Extension of City Pond Road sewer line

The City will receive the easement on CTC property and CTC will contribute \$500,000.00 for the sewer line, required easements and upgrade of the sewer outfalls.

Acceptance and Maintenance of internal roads

The City is willing to accept Town Center Blvd., Foxfield Way, and Town Center Drive with the issuance of a three-year maintenance bond.

Site Lighting

The City requests CTC to fund the purchase of light fixtures and installation, to the City of Covington’s specifications. The City is willing to put the lights on a twelve (12) month billing for CTC. The City of Covington would assume maintenance and operation of the lights once deeded to the City.

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Morgan, Williams, Floyd, and Henderson voting for. Council member Baggett voting against.

Council member Floyd requested more information on the Covington Town Center Project.

8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an interim contract with the Chamber for ED services until March 31, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to table the discussion of moving the Office of Economic Development (ED) under the Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve two year employment agreement with C Scott Andrews for the position of City Manager.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council acknowledged receipt of the City Manager's Appointment of Municipal Court Solicitor Cheryl Freeman for 2020.

11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve Miscellaneous Appointments for 2020:

Frank Turner, Jr. - City Attorney (with assistance from Greer, Stansfield & Turner, LLP if needed)
Qader A. Baig – Municipal Court Judge -
Piedmont Physicians – Physicians

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to select Council member Williams as Mayor Pro-tem Elect for 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Archie Shepherd commented about the Ivy Street Fire Training House and what a great tool it is for the fire department.

Ms. Barbara Morgan stated the room has mic issues.

The City Manager presented the Council with a staff weekly report of all of the departments.

Council member Henderson commented keep up the good work.

Council member Floyd stated he now gets to serve the citizens from another role.

Council member Williams stated kudos to the City Manager and prays the Council will still work together.

Council member Keck wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated she enjoys seeing the room full.

Council member Morgan also wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he is excited about the new City Manager. Council member Morgan stated he is what Covington needs. Council member Morgan thanked everyone for being here.

Council member Baggett commented how it has been a very eventful 6 weeks. Council member Baggett stated she has a tour of BD scheduled as she is very concerned about EtO. Council member Baggett further stated until she knows more, she is not comfortable with the Covington Town Center situation.

Mayor Horton stated he will not make decisions unless they are the best for the community.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Baggett to enter back into Regular Session at 7:49 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk