

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, JANUARY 21, 2020, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Susie Keck, Council members: 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. Council member Hawnethia Williams was absent.

Council member Kenneth Morgan gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Horton administered the oath of office to new Covington Police officer Chris David Smith.

Mayor Horton mentioned the recent retirement of 911 Communications employee Ms. Suzzan Monroe after 25 years of service to the City.

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1. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 6, 2020, with change to the signature line.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to amend the agenda to remove item #16, "Discussion of contracting with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) for Economic Development Services contingent upon negotiating a successful IGA."

Motion carried unanimously.

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Ms. Rena Starks discussed her non-profit, The BEEE Group – Betterment and Empowerment through Education & Entertainment.

Ms. Bernadette Smith asked if BD has an emergency disaster plan due to the recent explosion of an EtO plant in Spain.

Mayor Horton stated the Covington Fire Department has met with BD.

The City Attorney stated BD has been inspected and is in compliance.

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A public hearing was held at 7:04 PM concerning a SUP for a transitional shelter.

Those who spoke in favor of application:

Angela Clark, Jennifer Stowe, Cindy Galindo, Anna Ingram, Brisa Rivas, and Michelle Williams.

Those who spoke against application:

Mike Lassiter

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to deny an application for a SUP for a transitional shelter to be located at 7188 Turner Lake Road.

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

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4. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to allow the applicant to withdraw application for a SUP application for rezoning for apartments to be located at 9155 Jackson Highway, without prejudice.

Motion deemed out of order due to the lack of a public hearing.

A public hearing was held at 7:36 PM concerning an application for a SUP to construct apartments.

No one spoke in favor of the application.

Those who spoke against the application:

Jonathan Paschal and Bob Richardson

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to deny a SUP application for rezoning for apartments to be located at 9155 Jackson Highway.

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

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- 6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an invoice payable to American Railroad Industries in the amount of \$217,849.82, for the US Corrugated Rail Spur Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 7. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve invoice payable to MHC Kenworth in the amount of \$232,496.00, for the purchase of a bucket truck for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 8. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a letter of support to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the Covington Housing Authority's CHIP grant application.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 9. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a proposal from Keck & Wood in the monthly amount of \$7,500.00, not to exceed 90 days, for Pace Street Streetscapes Improvements Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 10. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the low bid from Anderson Grading and Pipeline in the amount of \$521,734.18, for Covington Town Center Sanitary Sewer Outfall - Zone #2.

**Proposal Cost Summary - J&B Rock Line Item Removed**

Company	Cost
Anderson Grading and Pipeline	\$521,734.18
Legacy Water Group	\$560,481.08

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

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11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a resolution designating Freddy Morgan as voting delegate and Scott Andrews as alternate for the Board of Directors ECG Election process.

Motion carried unanimously.

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12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a resolution designating ECG Inter-Participant Contract (IPC) Authorized Officials: the Electric Director as the Authorized Official and the City Manager as the Alternate.

Motion carried unanimously.

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13. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to nominate Electric Director Freddy Morgan to serve on the ECG Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

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14. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a 90 day moratorium on approvals and construction of apartments.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Housing Authority Director Shemica Tucker discussed bond requirements for tax credits on apartments.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Presented most recent weekly report
- Employee evaluations
- Paving to begin on Pace Street starting January 24<sup>th</sup>

Council member Morgan mentioned the issues discussed in the work session regarding Economic Development will be addressed at the upcoming retreat.

Council member Baggett stated she is still not clear on the ins and outs of the Covington Town Center project and will continue to vote against it.

Council member Floyd stated he attended a recent Planning Commission meeting and commented how professional it was. Council member Floyd congratulated Ms. Suzzan Monroe on her recent retirement and stated 911 Dispatchers were truly the first responders.

Comments from the Mayor:

- Attended recent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ceremony at Newton High School
- February is Black History Month
- Council Retreat is scheduled for February 4th & 5<sup>th</sup>
- Met with Congressman Jody Hice today
- House Bills 774 and 895 will be discussed at the council meeting
- Recent phone call with City's Environmental Attorney

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15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add resolution calling for a moratorium for apartments.

Motion carried unanimously.

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16. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a solution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington, Georgia to impose a 90 day moratorium on the acceptance of applications for multifamily dwellings.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

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Steve Horton, Mayor

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Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk