

**CALLED MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, PUBLIC BY TELECONFERENCE,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2020, 5:30 PM.**

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

Mayor Horton gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Horton started a discussion of Boards and Commissions generally.

Council member Williams stated it is difficult to get people to serve on boards.

Mayor Horton discussed the process of Board & Committee appointments and by whom.

Council member Morgan expressed concerns with the way the last three appointments went.

Council member Henderson entered the meeting at 6 PM.

Mayor Horton went over the timeline starting in June when the Council was asked for nominees.

Council member Williams stated members were “influencers” in the community.

Council member Morgan stated he felt the Council was led to re-appoint the three whose term was up.

Mayor Horton stated the process could have went another way but the Council re-appointed the three by a majority vote.

Council member Baggett stated she felt the Council went with the Planning & Zoning Director’s recommendation.

Council member Morgan stated the Council was supposed to discuss the matter at the recent retreat and it was not brought up. Council member Morgan further stated the Council is elected for a purpose and two black females have left the City and Council should be concerned.

Council member Baggett stated she did not know anything was going on that department and was surprised the Planning & Zoning Director resigned.

Council member Williams stated she wondered how long the director would stay.

Mayor Horton discussed how the vote went back on July 6th and stated the Mayor and Council represents the City.

Council member Keck stated she received complaints about the Planning Commission not getting the agenda and corresponding information until the day of the meeting. Council member Keck stated do not confuse performance with race.

Council member Floyd stated he has received complaints also. Council member Floyd state there are two sides to every story and the matter needs to be discussed in a different forum.

Council member Morgan stated he would like to see some changes to the Planning Commission.

Both Council members Baggett and Floyd stated they are not in favor of removing members of any board on a whim because no one would ever volunteer for any board.

Council member Williams stated people tend to gravitate to what they are familiar with.

1. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to make changes to the Planning Commission.

Motion withdrawn.

Mayor Horton submitted the following Action items taken from tonight's discussion:

1. Prospective board and committee members must submit an updated bio\resume`.

2. Staff shall not ask board or committee members if they are willing serve a subsequent term unless directed to do so by the City Council.
3. Related annual training will be required for all board and committee members including sexual harassment and diversity training held at prescribed intervals.
4. Attendance and performance guidelines or guidelines that detail behavior for which board and committee members may be removed from office will be prescribed by City Council members along with the assistance of the City Attorney.
5. Guidelines for monitoring the behavior of board and committee members when interacting with each other, citizens, and City staff will be defined and implemented by the City Council.
6. A follow-up work session to re-visit items 1-5 will be scheduled and discussed at the October 5th, 2020 City Council Meeting.
7. The Mayor and City Council will schedule and attend at least one retreat annually. The City Attorney, City Manager, and/or City Clerk will attend on an as-needed basis.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk