

# 2020 City of Covington Accomplishments



City Clerk Audra Gutierrez selected as "Clerk of the Year" by the Georgia Municipal Clerk's Association!

The Natural Gas Department received the APGA Safety Award for 2019 and the HEAT Award from the Gas Authority.



THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT WON THE CUSTOMER CHOICE BID TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO THE NEW EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL. THEY HAVE PROCEEDED TO INSTALL A THREE-PHASE TEMPORARY AND ARE CURRENTLY INSTALLING THE PERMANENT UNDERGROUND SERVICE.

Parks, parks and more parks! The playground at Central Park was completed and water service was run to Central Park to prepare for the bathrooms. Thirty-six new trash cans and benches were also placed at Central Park. A couple miles away at the new Welcome Center on Oak Street, a hammock park with grills, picnic tables and a community garden was created.



A second drive through lane was installed at City Hall to process utility payments.



The IT Department implemented 24/7 cybersecurity monitoring of the city's network including upgrading the Operating System & Engineering Server.



Eight employees received Georgia Crisis Intervention Team Training for 911 Telecommunicators.



THE PACE STREET CORRIDOR PROJECT WAS COMPLETED.



The paving of the west leg of the Cricket Frog Trail began and the east portion of the trail has been completed!



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**COVID-19 put a damper on the Events Calendar but we offered some socially responsible events for the community to enjoy including drive-in movies and concerts at Legion Field.**



The Planning and Development Department advanced the development of Covington Town Center and Three Ring Studios while also hiring a new planning and zoning manager, city planner and permit technician.



Human Resources completed the salary survey using a third party, Archer Group. Using information collected from employees and department heads regarding job responsibilities and department structure, Archer Group's data will be merged with the existing pay structure and utilized for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

**911 Dispatchers were given access to the Flock camera system to assist in monitoring the cameras for the CPD and the Newton County Sheriff's Office.**



The Covington Police Department moved into a new facility at 13183 Harland Dr. N.E.



The former home of the Covington Police Department, located at 1143 Oak Street S.E., was renovated and converted into the City of Covington's Welcome Center. The Welcome Center houses a film and television museum that pays homage to movies and shows that were and are filmed in Covington. It is also home to the Community Development Department which includes Downtown, Tourism, Special Projects and Economic Development.



CUSTOMER SERVICE STARTED TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE ELECTRONICALLY. ONCE THE APPLICATION WAS ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE, CUSTOMERS THAT ARE CURRENTLY LOCATED OUT OF STATE OR WORK DURING CITY HALL'S BUSINESS HOURS ARE NOW ABLE TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS ELECTRONICALLY.

**Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.** -*Mattie Stephanek*



# The truth is that **TEAMWORK** is at the **HEART** of great achievement.

-John C. Maxwell



## 2020 Team COV ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sewer upgrades completed on Pace Street and Lackey Street including replacing old and undersized sewer mains and manholes
- Milled and resurfaced 3.12 miles of roadway during the 2020 LMIG Paving Project
- Street Department rehabilitated over 50 storm-water inlets
- Restroom facility completed at the CNG station
- Three Ring gas installations completed
- Installed new transformer and service for Legion Field ice skating rink
- There were no violations of EPD permit requirements in the following mandated programs: Industrial Pretreatment, Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG); Cross Connection; Water Reclamation Effluent Quality; Land App Irrigation, Monitoring and Site Management; and Watershed Protection Plans
- Electric Department completed all the infrastructure installation and lighting at Covington Town Center phase 1 and 2.
- Fire Department completed their 5-year strategic plan
- Four new Covington Police officers graduated the police academy and hired six new officers
- Municipal court have been conducting "must appear" hearings via Zoom with great success
- 911 created a quiet room for dispatchers for employees to de-stress
- Police Department solved all homicides for the year
- Covington Police officers participated in handing out school supplies to over 300 children in September in the neighborhoods of Nelson Heights, Green Acres, Walkers Bend and the Covington Housing Authority
- Exhaust system at Fire Station 21 replaced to offer better cancer protection for firefighters
- Electrical work completed at 911 Center to prepare for new radio system
- Increased police officer's pay to remain competitive
- Human Resources facilitated the new COVID-19 FMLA guidelines and ensured safe working practices are implemented
- IT Department scheduled cybersecurity training for all employees
- Economic Development facilitated the redevelopment of the former Kmart into a Roses Department Store
- Finance received the CAFR award and the PAFR award for 2019
- Locks of Love Bridge created at Legion Field
- Implemented ClearGov for purpose of financial transparency
- Community Development Department contracted with Great Estates to create Covington's largest downtown Christmas lights display
- Human Resources finalizes 3rd party salary study with Archer Group to offer competitive salaries to City of Covington employees and stay competitive to retain employees
- Economic Development created a video presentation for the GICH committee resulting in the awarding of technical assistance from GICH
- The ice skating rink, Covington on Ice, at Legion Field opened
- Completed diversity training for all employees

**The City of Covington team has not allowed the COVID-19 pandemic to interrupt services to our community and view serving the citizens of Covington a  
PRIORITY & PRIVILEGE.**