

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, TELECONFERENCE, JANUARY 4, 2021, 6:30 PM.**

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

Mayor Horton gave the invocation.

Mayor Horton called for a moment of silence in remembrance of former City employee Steve Biggers and asked everyone to pray for the family.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 7, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add, "Acknowledge receipt of appointment of Municipal Court Solicitor Cheryl Freeman."

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Nolley stated she spoke with Council member Williams to check on large trucks going down Avery Street tearing down lines.

City Manager Scott Andrews stated the information was relayed to the Public Works Department.

3. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Morgan to table a public hearing for an application to rezone 9155 Jackson Hwy from NR2 (Neighborhood Residential District 2) to NR3 (Neighborhood Residential District 3) for proposed future development until the February 1st meeting in order to receive a traffic study by the applicant.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 6:55 PM public hearing for a Special Use Permit for an oil change business.

Ms. Jennifer Rutberg spoke against the SUP.

4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a Special Use Permit for an oil change business to be located at 3216 Highway 278.

Council members Morgan, Williams, and Henderson voting for. Council members Keck, Baggett, and Floyd voting against. Motion **denied** with Mayor Horton voting against, breaking 3-3 tie.

5. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an IGA with Newton County for Covington Municipal Airport Timber Harvest.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an IGA with the City of Oxford for sidewalk construction invoices, expost facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve agreement with MGAG to provide marketing services for the Gas Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Keck seconded by Council member Williams to approve a MOU for Joint Water Relocation/Construction at Brown Bridge Road @ Yellow River.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a GDOT Special Encroachment for SR 81 @ Cricket Frog Trail and permit application for a traffic signal.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a Resolution for commercial solid waste increase.

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

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a Resolution to support continuation of the Tax Credit Program for Film and Television Production.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the 2021 LMIG estimated cost including 10% contingency of \$546,394.72 and GDOT's contribution is \$168,968.32 which leaves a balance of \$377,426.40 to be funded by SPLOST:

| Location | Beginning | Ending |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Town Branch Ct. | Monticello St. | End |
| Bethlehem Way | Usher St. | Clark St. |
| Sockwell Ave. | Floyd St. | End |
| Turner St. | Alcovy Rd. | Railroad Tracks |
| Griffin Ln. | Morris Dr. | End |
| Malcom Dr. | Corrydell Pkwy. | Whispering Pines Cir. |
| Whispering Pines C | Malcom Dr. | End |
| Malcom Ct. | Malcom Dr. | Malcom Dr. |
| Corrydell Pkwy. | Eagle Dr. | End |
| South Emory St. | Washington St. | Reynolds St. |
| South Emory St. | Reynolds St. | Ivy St. |
| McClure St. | Leverett Cir. | Malcom Dr. |

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to table the discussion of RFPs for Broker Services for Employee Benefits until the February 1st meeting.

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

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington with change to add Covington Troup 222:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE COVINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE, ENACTED AND ADOPTED ON THE 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 12 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 12.20.010 (DEFINITIONS) AND SECTION 12.20.020 (ESTABLISHMENT OF PARK HOURS AND DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS) OF CHAPTER 12.20 (PARKS)** THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to table the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington amending the Electric Service Tariff until the January 19th meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to appoint Frank Turner, Jr. as City Attorney for 2021(with assistance from Greer, Stansfield & Turner, LLP if needed).

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to Qader A. Baig as Municipal Court Judge for 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to appoint Piedmont Physician Group as the City Physician for 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Keck to approve selecting Council member Baggett as Mayor Pro-tem Elect for 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Council acknowledged receipt of the City Manager's Appointment of Municipal Court Solicitor Cheryl Freeman for 2021.

Ms. Bobbie Shepherd wished everyone a happy new year.

Community Development Director Trey Sanders gave a filming update.

Assistant City Manager Freddy Morgan comments:

- Pre-pay meter update
- New Electric Director Shawn Dowe to start on January 11th.

City Manager comments:

- COVID-19 numbers are on the rise

Mayor Horton asked for prayers for a healthier new year. Mayor Horton stated winter is here and homelessness is in abundance.

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

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk