

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, TELECONFERENCE, MARCH 1, 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.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 15, 2021 with addition to motion 8, "to be paid out of the Water/Sewer Fund."

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the **final** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington with changes: to allow townhome standards within the Covington Town Center Overlay that are different than townhome standards generally applicable city wide found at [16.28.025](#), as recommended by planning commission but with requirement that townhome component comply with existing guidelines for sidewalks and require the use of architectural shingles:

"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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.24.040 (COVINGTON TOWN CENTER OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT) OF CHAPTER 16.24 (OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICTS)**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of proposed Senate Bill 256."

Motion carried unanimously.

David Will with Royal-Will Law Firms discussed a bill that was introduced in the Senate on Thursday, SB 256. Mr. Will stated the bill was apparently drafted by DPH without any input from the Boards of Health. Mr. Will further stated the bill will eviscerate Boards of Health and will be a major setback for public health in the state.

4. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Williams to approve legal to draft a letter on behalf of the Council asking local legislation to not support SB 256, as written.

Motion carried unanimously.

A resident discussed noise ordinances and stated there is an issue with noise in their subdivision. The complainant stated she has to close her windows in order to work from home.

It was determined the complainant lives in Hanley Mill Subdivision, which is out in the county. They were directed to contact the Newton County Board of Commissioners.

5. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **off-premises consumption and ancillary tastings only**:

Bread & Butter

1124 Monticello Street

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **Beer and/or Wine Retail Amenity only for**:

Woven LLC

1140 Church Street

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request from Strategic Real Estate Partners, LLC for exterior building finish reflected in the attached plans and elevations relating to the development of a proposed 200,880 sf industrial office/warehouse building on that certain 19.89 acre tract of land on Hwy 142 at Parcel # C08045000 pursuant to that certain Declaration of Protective Covenants for Covington/Newton County Industrial Park, dated August 29, 1984, recorded in Deed Book 233, Page 901, Newton County, Georgia Records, as subsequently extended, for a proposed development located on to not be required to adhere to the specific standards outlined in the Declaration of Protective Covenants for Covington/Newton County Industrial Park dated August 31, 1984 and amended October 12, 2004 with regards to the building exterior; the development will be required to meet all city and county codes and requirements of the existing M2, Heavy Industrial District Zoning requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton read a proclamation recognizing the year 2021 as Newton County's Bicentennial and celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Newton County.

8. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the low bid from Wrecking Corp of America, LLC in the amount of \$84,800.00, for the removal of yard debris and demolition of the sanitation office building located at 5120 Turner Street.

Zaveri Enterprises, Inc.	\$89,500.00
Coconut Construction, LLC	\$98,832.00
CMEC, LLC	\$98,500.00
Wrecking Corp of America	\$84,800.00
Complete Demolition Services, LLC	\$86,000.00
Southern Environmental Services, LLC	\$229,352.00
The M Mitchell Group, LLC	\$111,769.53
ERS, Inc.	\$104,500.00
Genco Construction, Inc.	\$318,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the best bid from Environmental Products Group in the amount of \$204,900.00, to purchase a leaf truck for the Street Department.

Environmental Products Group	\$204,900.00
Peachstate Freightliner	\$174,597.00
Peachstate Freightliner	\$200,950.00
Peachstate Freightliner Option 1	\$184,031.00

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the best bid from Environmental Products Group in the amount of \$149,600.00, to purchase a knuckle boom truck for the Street Department.

Environmental Products Group	\$149,600.00
Peachstate Freightliner	\$147,805.00
Peachstate Freightliner Option 1	\$151,505.00

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve adding a Land Application System Operator position.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Keck to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter requesting Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's assistance with writing an application for a One Georgia Grant to support the development of Process Equipment & Controls' facility along Hazelbrand Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Charika Davis thanked the Council for allowing her to serve on the Covington Planning Commission.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Proposed Retirement Recognition Ceremony on April 13th in front of City Hall
- Welcome Center EV charging station installed

Council member Williams asked for an update on the recently approved traffic study proposal.

Public Works Director Kevin Sorrow stated they are having an informational meeting tomorrow and it could take 6 to 8 months to implement.

Council member Keck thanked everyone for getting the EV station installed. Council member Keck stated she walked the entire City portion of Cricket Frog Trail on Saturday. Council member Keck further stated she is glad City Hall is back open.

Council member Floyd stated he hopes to have face to face council meetings soon.

Mayor's comments:

- Looking into CHIP and CDBG grants.
- Prayers to the community regarding COVID.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk