

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM AND BY TELECONFERENCE, MAY 17,
2021, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Steve Horton, Mayor Pro-tem Hawnethia Williams, Council members: Susie Keck, Kenneth Morgan, Fleeta Baggett, Anthony Henderson, 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 led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Horton read a proclamation declaring May 28th as "National Poppy Day."

Ms. Marcia Floyd gave a brief history of National Poppy Day.

Mayor Horton read a proclamation honoring Little Bethel Baptist Church 137th Anniversary.

Mayor Horton read a proclamation honoring Newton College and Career Academy HOSA Appreciation Day.

Council member Williams entered the meeting at 6:41 PM.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 3, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve Amendment 1 payable to Thomas & Hutton in the amount of \$20,110.00, for the Glover Street Drainage Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to table, "Discussion of request for waived/reduced rental fees at Legion Field to be used in association with the Juneteenth Celebration to be held on June 19th and June 20th" until the June 7th meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Williams to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of zoning change that would allow DR Horton Homes to construct a temporary non-paved road for Wildwood subdivision and continue to build-out all 34 lots remaining in Phase 1 provided they commit to have the second paved road completely constructed by June 2022."

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to amend the agenda to add, "Covington Housing Authority to give an update on Walker's Bend."

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **off-premises consumption** only for:

278 Management LLC 9199 Highway 278
dba Kwik Stop

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to table a request for City sanctioned Gospel Music Festival at Legion Field, indefinitely.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve letter of intent for electrical services for Courtyard by Marriott with a payback of 5.6 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve letter of intent for electrical services for Residence Inn by Marriott with a payback of 5.6 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve letter of intent for electrical services for Publix Super Markets, Inc. with a payback of 6 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the sole bid from Vermeer Southeast in the amount of \$72,600.00, to purchase a new brush chipper for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the low bid from GRESCO in the amount of \$51,921.00 with a total cost of ownership \$207,684.00, to purchase transformers for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton appointed Juanita Thompson and Barbara Morgan to the Covington Redevelopment Authority to fill the unexpired terms of Scottie Jay and Camie Meller.

13. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a GICH letter of support for Mansemar's proposed redevelopment of Covington Square.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to **amend the agenda** to remove item 15, "Discussion of request of capital to support the redevelopment of Covington Square."

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to **remove** item 15, "Discussion of request of capital to support the redevelopment of Covington Square."

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to table a public hearing and resolution regarding an update to the Urban Redevelopment Plan until the June 7th meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve applying for a CDBG Homeowner Assistance Program Grant with the City's portion being \$37,500.00.

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

18. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a water and sewer territory swap contingent upon acquiring sewer service area east of the city limits from Newton County BOC.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the proposed slate of officers for Election of GMA'S District 5 Officers for 2021-2022:

- President Rey Martinez, Mayor, Loganville
- First Vice President Jay Riemenschneider, Councilmember, Auburn
- Second Vice President Hardy Johnson, Councilmember, Braselton
- Third Vice President John Howard, Mayor, City of Monroe

Motion carried unanimously.

The Council **did not take action** regarding a request for a zoning change that would allow DR Horton Homes to construct a temporary non-paved road for Wildwood subdivision and continue to build-out all 34 lots remaining in Phase 1 provided they commit to have the second paved road completely constructed by June 2022.

CHA's Shamica Tucker presented an update on new construction and illegal dumping at Walker's Bend. Ms. Tucker also gave an update regarding the tornado damage at the homeless shelter.

Ms. Thelma Starr Nolley discussed an issue with a council member touring a potential candidate around city hall disrespecting Council member Williams. Ms. Nolley stated a Planning Commission member purchased property in the west ward and is allowing trucks to drive across sidewalks.

Ms. Judy Hooten discussed traffic issues near East and Floyd Streets.

Mr. Mark Thomas thanked the council for what they are doing for traffic issues near East Haven subdivision and expressed concerns regarding trail walkers and traffic.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Upcoming Budget Work Session 5/24 at the Airport
- Congrats to Sgt. Travis Pierce on his recent promotion

Council member Floyd stated there will be a Memorial Day service at 10 AM at Monticello and Church Streets where the crosses are placed. Council member Floyd mentioned there is a VA Clinic in Covington open and ready to serve veterans. Council member Floyd stated he has witnessed golf carts on the walking trail.

Council member Williams stated she had an opportunity to visit Central Park and is looking forward to see it completed.

Council member Keck stated she was informed of a large homeless community living around the trail and something needs to be done. Council member Keck thanked the Council for the Wildwood discussion.

Council member Morgan mentioned there are election campaign signs in yards already.

Council member Morgan stated he would like to see traffic calming measures in the ordinance for new subdivisions. Council member Morgan further stated he is still concerned about mom & pop car lots and personal care homes in neighborhoods. Council member Morgan asked for a pre-pay meter update.

The Assistant City Manager stated the process has not been resolved with the billing system.

Mayor's comments:

- Thank you letter from City South Fulton
- Work session regarding SUPs with legal
- Walk-in vaccines, mobile vaccine vehicles available for large events

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk