

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, OCTOBER 4, 2021, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton, Council members: Kenneth Morgan, Fleeta Baggett, Anthony Henderson, and Don T. Floyd, City Manager Scott Andrews, Assistant City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. Council member Susie Keck was in attendance by teleconference and Mayor Pro-tem Hawnethia Williams 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 administered the oath of office to new Covington Police officers Phillip Matthews and Matthew Shelnutt.

Vice President of Economic Development Asher Dozier presented the Be Pro Be Proud GA program. Mr. Dozier invited the Council to a breakfast on October 20th at 8 AM at the Newton County College & Career Academy.

Mayor Horton presented a proclamation declaring Georgia Cities Week - October 3 – 9, 2021.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on September 20, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to remove item 13 from the agenda, "Discussion of modification to hiring entry level positions."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of resolution recognizing 911 Telecommunicators of the Covington – Newton County 911 Center as First

Responders and part of the critical infrastructure of the Public Safety framework.”

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a resolution recognizing 911 Telecommunicators of the Covington – Newton County 911 Center as First Responders and part of the critical infrastructure of the Public Safety framework.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to add, “Discussion of letter of support for the EDA Build Back Better (BBB) Grant Application.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse

1065 Access Road

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:14 PM concerning annexing 4.4 acres on Eagle Drive.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the **first** reading of an annexation ordinance for the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Morgan to approve initiating a text amendment for adding temporary office trailers with no maximum occupancy stipulation.

Motion die for the lack of a second.

9. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve initiating a text amendment for adding temporary office trailers with a 2 year maximum occupancy stipulation.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a sole source bid from Axon Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$199,927.57 per year, for the purchase of tasers for police department.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a sole source bid from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$117,649.55, for the purchase of a Digiticket Software system for the police department.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve change order payable to Anderson Grading and Pipeline in the amount of \$145,965.00, to replace approximately 414 foot of 6 inch clay sewer main and an 8 foot manhole in conjunction with the Puckett Street Water Main Replacement project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton appointed Sandi Spears to the Covington Redevelopment Authority to fill the unexpired term of Randy Conner.

13. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson appoint Sandi Spears to the Covington Downtown Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Teto Stone.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an updated Opportunity Zone Map as recommended by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a GDOT Project Framework Agreement (PFA) detailing Preliminary Engineering commitments for Phase 1 of the Hwy 278 CID.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve designating MEAG as the City's agent to nominate and acquire any combination of resources to optimize the City's Supplemental Power Supply Requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a letter of support to the Regional Coalition, consisting of the City of Covington, Newton County, and the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority, for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBRC) application being submitted to implement a number of infrastructure improvement to create capacity for future development.

Motion carried unanimously.

Thelma Starr Nolley was in attendance to state her garbage and bulk waste is not being picked up. Ms. Nolley expressed concerns regarding former City sanitation employees.

Mayor Horton expressed condolences for Ms. Nolley's sister's recent passing.

Charika Davis was in attendance to introduce herself as running for Council member's Williams seat.

Mayor Horton acknowledged former Council member Roger Tingler in the audience.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Interactive development map coming soon
- Cricket Frog Trail Trestle Project needs more engineering and will be completed soon

Council member Keck informed everyone early voting starts October 12 and runs through October 29.

Mayor's comments:

- COVID #s are decreasing
- Booster shots are available
- No Scare on the Square this year

Mayor Horton thanked everyone for the prayers for his mother and hopefully she will have knee surgery in mid-November.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk