

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, JANUARY 3, 2022, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Council members: Kenneth Morgan, Susie Keck, Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis 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. Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett was absent.

Council member 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 officer Kyle Tesky.

Mayor Horton informed everyone Council member Baggett is still out on medical leave and welcomed new Council member Charika Davis.

Mayor Horton presented a proclamation honoring Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Day.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 13, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to remove item #8, "Discussion of shelter building."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to remove item #13, Discussion of permanent Permit Technician position for the Engineering Department."

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of agreement with Willing Helpers Medical, Inc. in the amount of \$125,000.00, for operation of the Warming Shelter."

Motion carried unanimously.

Newton County Recreation Director Dwayne Mask was in attendance to ask council for a Letter of Intent from the City in support of the proposed Miracle League Tournament, to be hosted by Newton County in October 2024.

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to authorize the Mayor to sign a Letter of Intent in support of the proposed Miracle League Tournament.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:12 PM concerning a Special Use Permit to allow a Gold Cart Rental operation in the Town Center Mixed-Use (TCM) zoning.

6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a SUP to allow a Golf Cart Rental operation at 1174 Clark Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:25 PM for the rezoning of 10200 City Pond Road from M-2 (Heavy Industrial) to NM (Neighborhood Mixed-use). Arthur Lynn of Emory Equity, Matt Mitchell of Thomas and Hutton, and property owner Cathy Sigman all spoke in favor of the rezoning.

7. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to authorize the mayor to execute a GDOT Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement with regards to the SR 81 at Turner Lake Road Sidewalk Installation project.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Morgan to authorize the mayor to execute a GDOT Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement with regards to the SR 81 at Flat Shoals Road Sidewalk Installation project.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a GDOT Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application for Fiscal Year 2022, street list, and to move forward with bidding process.

Location	Beginning	Ending
Walnut St	Avery St	West St
Thrash St	Fair St	Blackwell St
Fair St	Sunny Dr	Thrash St
Piper St	Hwy 278	Old Atl Hwy
Midway Dr	Washington St	end
Crestview Dr	Dearing St	Forest Dr
Farmington Ln	Crestview Dr	Forest Dr
Farmington Ct	Farmington Ln	end
Forest Dr	Dearing St	end
Linwood Dr	Dearing St	end
Linwood Dr	Dearing St	Crestview Dr
Ashley Dr	Dearing St	Brooks Cove
Libby Cove	Ashley Dr	end
Brooks Cove	Ashley Dr	end
Technology Dr	Bob Williams	end
Hospital Dr	Hwy 278	Tate St

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Application for the Eastside Sewer Expansion Project in the amount of 27.5 Million.

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

11. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve a GDOT Contract for the Taxiway A2 design and a reimbursement in the amount of \$271,357.65.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a 2 year City Manager Employment Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve Miscellaneous Appointments for 2022.

Frank Turner, Jr. - City Attorney (with assistance from Greer, Stansfield & Turner, LLP if needed)

Qader A. Baig – Municipal Court Judge

Piedmont Physicians – Physicians

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to appoint Council member Baggett as Mayor Pro-tem and Council member Henderson as Mayor Pro-tem Elect for 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Morgan seconded by Council member Davis to approve an agreement with Willing Helpers Medical, Inc. in the amount of \$125,000.00, for operation of the Warming Shelter.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Please keep John King's family in your prayers in the recent passing of his mother
- Possible work session on 1/13 or 1/20 to discuss the Planning Commission
- Results are in from recent survey
- Welcome to Ms. Davis and good to see Ms. Williams
- Covington very lucky with regards to recent tornado
- Electric crews still out working from storm

Council member Floyd thanked the electrical crews for their hard work. Council member Floyd stated he has been receiving complaints regarding sanitation issues.

Council member Davis stated she made it through the first meeting. Council member Davis thanked those who did and did not vote for her and stated she is here for all of the citizens.

Council member Keck stated electrical crews are still working hard to get everyone's power back on. Council member Keck wished everyone a happy New Year.

Council member Morgan stated earlier today traffic was backing up onto Emory Street and informed everyone City Hall has two drive-through windows. Council member Morgan further stated he has concerns for those who have medical issues when the power is out.

Mayor's comments:

- Sanitation ordinance provides for a senior discount
- Potential work session regarding Covington Housing Authority and Homeless Shelter
- COVID#'s are extremely high

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter into Executive Session at 8:28 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to enter back into Regular Session at 8:47 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk