

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, JANUARY 18, 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, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett and Assistant City Manager John King were 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.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Called Meeting held on December 29, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton stated Mayor Pro-tem Baggett is still out on medical leave and hopefully will be back on 2/1.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 3, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of a resolution approving a City Homestead Exemption.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing held at 6:46 PM concerning a SUP for 10200 City Pond Road. Both Arthur Lin and Matt Mitchell spoke in favor of the SUP.

4. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Davis to amend the Future Land Use Map for 10200 City Pond Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to rezone 10200 City Pond Road from M-2 (Heavy Industrial) to NM (Neighborhood Mixed-use).

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a SUP to allow a multi-family development over 5 acres to be located at 10200 City Pond Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:29 PM regarding an appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission's denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for Dorchester Place subdivision. Both Kathy Zickert of Smith Gambrell & Russell and Tiffany Hogan of DR Horton spoke in favor of appealing the denial of the Certificate of Appropriateness for Dorchester Place. Darryl Moore, Getra Sanders, Blaney Bostian, Lee Durden, John McCarthy, Mark Sanders, Michelle Sanders, Callie Carter, Cathy Laseter, and Michael Waters spoke against appealing the denial.

Mayor Horton called for a break at 8:25 PM.

Mayor Horton called the meeting back to order at 8:34 PM.

7. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's decision to deny DR Horton's application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Dorchester Place subdivision citing visual compatibility with the rest of the neighborhood and relationship to the historic look and value of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 8:45 PM regarding a text amendment for the addition of traffic study requirements.

8. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington:

“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 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.12.050 (ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS) AND SECTION 16.12.140 (SPECIAL USE PERMITS, APPLICATION PROCEDURES) OF CHAPTER 16.12 (PROCEDURES)** THEREOF TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 8:51 PM regarding a text amendment for the allowance of variances in conjunction with SUPs.

9. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington:

“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 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.12.140 (SPECIAL USE PERMITS) OF CHAPTER 16.12 (PROCEDURES)** THEREOF TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve initiating staff to bring forth recommendations for GA Conservancy downzones.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve initiating staff to bring forth recommendations for consideration of changes to Densities by zone.

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

12. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve initiating staff to bring forth recommendations for consideration of Design Standards/Building Standards.

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

Covington Housing Authority Director Shamica Tucker discussed having Council look into affordable housing for those who work at/in Covington.

A public hearing was held at 9:46 PM regarding submission of a 2022 CHIP Grant Application. Former Council member Hawnethia Williams spoke in favor of the City applying for the grant.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve applying for the 2022 CHIP Grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a resolution requesting the Georgia General Assembly approve a Homestead Exemption from Ad Valorem taxes levied by the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bill Dashiell discussed zoning consideration for Washington Street.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Maddi is leaving the City to go back to Arizona.
- Bailey Dickinson was promoted to the position of Assistant to the City Manager.

Council member Floyd asked about the VRBO status. Council member Floyd stated the Rock Quarry was very muddy recently.

Council member Davis stated she was contacted by a City employee who was riding with another employee and that employee contracted COVID and the other employee had to quarantine. Council member Davis asked if employees could ride in separate vehicles.

Council member Keck stated she received complaints regarding burning at Neely Farms which is leaving ash on vehicles in Wildwood Subdivision and request Code Enforcement to look into. Council member Keck announced that there is no need for Covington to give any concessions and developers need to come with quality and up-hold standards. Council member Keck stated she is proud of the decision Council made tonight.

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:

- We have a responsibility to the community and it is not personal
- Newton County School System letter
- Piedmont Newton Hospital conditions
- COVID Georgia numbers are high
- Look into giving a cash or sick leave incentive for getting vaccinated

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk