

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM AND BY TELECONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 7, 2022, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett, 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. Assistant City Manager John King was absent.

Darius Bauer of Solid Rock Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Mayor Horton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CPD's Assistant Chief Philip Bradford formally recognized outgoing inaugural Citizen Academy Board members: Jonathan Paschal, Vicki Stafford, Christi (Chris) Walker, Bobbie Shepherd, and Christi Johnson.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 18, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve resolution providing for the approval of the issuance of tax-exempt multifamily housing revenue bonds by the Housing Authority of City of Covington for the benefit of the Reserve at Jackson Highway, LP and for other purposes.

Council members Morgan, Davis, and Henderson voting for. Council members Keck Baggett, and Floyd voting against. Motion **denied** with Mayor Horton voting against, breaking 3 – 3 tie.

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the **final** 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.

4. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the **final** 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.

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Davis to amend the agenda to add, “Discussion of a 60 day moratorium extension.”

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Floyd to remove item #10, “Discussion of RFPs for Pole-mounted and Pad Mount single phase transformers.”

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to appoint Ms. Barbara Schmitt to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton asked the Council to identify candidates for the BOAA to replace Ms. Schmitt's seat.

8. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the sole bid from Burford Tree Service in the amount of \$5,817.00 per linear foot, for Electric Right-of-Way clearing.

Per linear mile rate	\$5,817.00
Emergency hourly rate	\$145.03

Motion carried unanimously.

The Council did not take action regarding a request to use tap fees to fund an upgrade to the Zone #3 sanitary sewer outfall.

9. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve an IGA for the sale of approximately 34.928 acres of the Covington-Newton Industrial Park property for Industrial Development purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a 60 day extension to the moratorium.

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

Comments from the City Manager:

- Has initiated a text amendment that would allow the use of a homeless shelter in Covington.
- Warming Shelter update

Assistant to the City Manager Bailey Dickinson and Ms. Jennifer Phillips of Willing

Helpers gave an update on the Warming Shelter.

- Ribbon cutting for Cricket Frog Trail on March 2nd at 11 AM
- Joint work session with Planning Commission
- Council retreat

CPD Chief Cotton gave an update on a drive by shooting that involved a CPD officer. Chief Cotton asked Council to reach out to their constituents to be on the lookout and call 911.

Council member Henderson stated something needs to be done regarding gun violence and is for video surveillance in certain areas.

Council member Davis stated more needs to be done and would like to see more cameras installed.

Council member Baggett stated the gun violence is awful. Council member Baggett further stated she is concerned about the lack of response time from ambulances. Council member Baggett informed everyone the county did not have any ambulances to transport her from one hospital to another and this issue needs to be addressed. Council member Baggett thanked everyone who reached out to her since her heart attack in early December.

Council member Keck stated she sees the gun violence issues from a distance and will support any initiatives the Council recommends.

Council member Morgan stated vehicles parked on both sides of Lee Street is a safety issue and also disturbs the neighbors. Council member Morgan further stated Banks Street has the same issue and would like to see both streets made one-way. Council member Morgan stated the Citizen Review Board is still major issue and needs to be looked at. Council member Morgan further stated we must bridge the gap between the community and law enforcement.

Mayor's comments:

- Council can make modifications to street directions
- Mr. T.K. Adams' service will be on February 12th and has a proclamation ready to present

11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter into Executive Session at 8:08 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Baggett to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk