

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,  
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, APRIL 4, 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, Assistant City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. City Manager Scott Andrews was absent.

The Church at Covington's Pastor Darryl Hooper gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Horton presented a Proclamation acknowledging April as Child Abuse Prevention Month to A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center, Inc.'s Lauren Gregory, who was in attendance.

Mayor Horton administered the oath of office to new CPD officer Devin Small.

GPTC's Dr. Irvin Clark, Dr. Tavaréz Holston, and NC IDA's Asher Dozier discussed the upcoming Job Fair to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 2 PM.

Economic Development Manager William Smith announced the designation of Covington's Washington Street Opportunity Zone by the Department of Community Affairs.

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A discussion ensued regarding a request from Latham Home Sanitation Co, Inc. for a residential solid waste rate increase.

Ms. Barbara Jarvis of Latham Home Sanitation Co, Inc. was attendance to answer any questions if needed.

Mr. Lamonte' Buchanan opposed the request and stated his garbage is not being picked up.

Ms. Thelma Nolley also opposed the rate increase due to garbage not being picked up correctly. Ms. Nolley stated they do not deserve a raise and further alleged she is being overcharged.

Ms. Jeanette Perry stated she cannot get her car to the street due to mobility issues and informed the council limbs are hanging over power lines on her street. Ms. Perry asked council member to ride the neighborhoods. Public Works Director Lee Harvey discussed the City's Sanitation policies and details regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Council member Baggett stated she received more calls about trash than anything else and asked staff to conduct a quality control assessment after a route is run.

Council member Keck stated she receives calls and pictures but get an immediate response to any issues. Council member Keck further stated she believes Latham is doing a great job.

Public Works Director Lee Harvey stated Latham provides great reporting.

Council member Morgan suggested looking at the contract to see if it can be improved upon.

Council member Davis inquired as to what is being done to reduce customer irritants. Council member Davis stated she does not want it to appear that the City doesn't care.

Council member Floyd stated there is a resident on Dearing Street that is sometimes forgotten.

1. Motion made by Council member Keck to approve the requested rate increase without passing the cost along to the customer.

Motion **died** for the lack of a second.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the rate increase, as requested.

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

It was the consensus of the Council to revisit at a later date.

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A discussion ensued regarding a request from Waste Management for a commercial solid waste rate increase.

Council member Baggett discussed issues with inconsistent dumping of dumpsters and bags hanging on the dumpsters.

No action was taken by Council regarding this matter.

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3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the low bid from Anderson Grading in the amount of \$65,690.00, for the Jefferson Avenue sanitary sewer outfall crossing repair.

Anderson Grading	\$65,690.00
Site Engineering	\$266,000.00
GS Construction	\$425,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

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4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve a scanning project with MCCi in the amount of \$109,336.00, for scanning services for Engineering and Planning & Zoning documents, to be paid over two budget cycles.

Motion carried unanimously.

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5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve selecting Mike Jewell as voting representative and John King as alternate for the 2022 MGAG Annual Election.

Motion carried unanimously.

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6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 13 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **ADOPTING SECTION 13.08.330 (RENEWABLE ENERGY CUSTOMER AGREEMENT TARIFF NO.1) OF CHAPTER 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM)** THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

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7. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve purchasing 90 transformers for upcoming projects from Stuart Irby in the approximate amount of \$722,695.00, for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

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8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve purchasing 618 meters from Anixter in the amount of \$2,134,310.15, for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

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9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the bid from Anixter in the amount of \$68,565.00 to purchase of infrastructure for reading of Tantalus meters.

Motion carried unanimously.

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10. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve placing 50% of the MEAG Power's 2021 Year-end Settlement in the Flexible Operating Account – Short Term Portfolio and 50% into the New Generation and Capacity Funding Account – Intermediate Term Portfolio. (\$1,012,070 each)

Motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Horton appointed Mr. Randy Vinson to the Covington Housing Authority Board.

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11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve a resolution for recertification as a City of Ethics.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Ms. Rosalie Campbell discussed concerns regarding speeding and accidents on Dearing Street and asked the Council for help.

A Dearing Street resident stated he has contacted 911 for help for the accidents.

Ms. Gracie Smith discussed what a hardship it is on senior citizens with the bank near the square closing and stated parking and accessibility is an issues with the branch on Hwy 278 at Pace Street. Ms. Smith also complained about golf carts holding up traffic not possessing tags or seatbelts.

Ms. Barbara Jarvis stated her son's best friend passed away on June 27<sup>th</sup> and the Covington Fire Department did a wonderful procession at his funeral. Ms. Jarvis further stated Covington has some outstanding employees and as a vendor, she would like to make a donation to Covington Fire Department.

CHA's Shamica Tucker thanked the mayor for his appointment to the Housing Authority Board.

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Comments from the Assistant City Manager:

- Introduced new employee Amanda Huggins
- Upcoming Community Clean-up

Council member Henderson asked if Newton County Tomorrow has discussed looking into transportation.

Mayor Horton stated not that he is aware of. Mayor Horton further stated Newton County has recently conducted a transportation study and the City has requested information.

Council member Davis thanked the staff who helped with the event last Saturday. Council member Davis stated everyone had a great time.

Council member Morgan stated he appreciated the staff and community for a great event. Council member Morgan further stated the community would like a police precinct the neighborhood now. Council member Morgan informed everyone the Corner Pantry is now open and transportation is important to the community.

Mayor's Comments:

- Great event on Saturday
- NC Chairman wants to partner with the City for July 4<sup>th</sup> event and would like a letter from the City

It was the consensus of the Council for the Mayor to draft a letter to Newton County.

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12. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Morgan to enter into Executive Session at 9:15 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

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13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

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Steve Horton, Mayor

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Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk