

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

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett, Council members: Susie Keck (via teleconference), Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis, and Don T. Floyd, Interim City Manager Tres Thomas, Assistant City Manager John King, Deputy Clerk Amanda Huggins, and Attorney Bob Stansfield present. Council member Kenneth Morgan, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. were absent.

Mayor Horton read the public notification regarding “emergency circumstances resulting from a confirmed active COVID-19 case” providing access by teleconference and in person.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Davis to approve providing for public and member participation via teleconference or phone links.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton informed every one of the possibility of the meeting being closed abruptly due to a previous incident of computer hacking during earlier work session teleconference presentation.

Pastor Russell Graves of Clear View Ministries Church gave the invocation.

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

2. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 16, 2022, with change to the Mayor’s comments:

“Recently, a resident of Washington Street raised safety concerns for elderly citizens crossing Washington Street. His concerns were based upon the speeds at which vehicles travel on Washington Street. He asked if the intersection of Brown and Washington Street could be made a 4-way stop. He was informed someone would to look into the matter and ask that the traffic engineers be asked to evaluate the Brown, Hendricks, and Lee Street intersection on both Washington and Clark Streets.”

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the **final** reading of a text amendment to **Section 16.28 Civic Design Provisions** 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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.28.020 (BUILDING DESIGN), AND AMENDING SECTION 16.28.050 (SIDEWALKS)**; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the **final** reading of a text amendment with regards to **Code Clean-up** 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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 14 AND TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTIONS 14.16.030 (CONFORMANCE TO THE MASTER PLAN), 14.16.070 (STREETS), 16.04.050 (RELATIONSHIP TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN), 16.04.060 (ADMINISTRATION OF ZONING ORDINANCE), 16.12.030 (PRE-APPLICATION MEETING), 16.12.070 (PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE), 16.12.100 (PROCEDURE FOR ANNEXATION), 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES), 16.16.030 (SPACE DIMENSIONS), 16.20.020 (ACCESSORY USES), 16.20.160 (CREMATORIES), 16.20.170 (CHILD AND PERSONAL CARE USES), 16.20.240 (DWELLING, CARETAKER/EMPLOYEE), 16.20.260 (EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES), 16.20.330 (GASOLINE STATION AND GASOLINE STATION WITH CONVEINENCE STORE), 16.20.350 (HOME OCCUPATION), 16.20.370 (HOTEL/MOTEL), 16.20.475 (LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES), 16.20.510 (MIXED USE BUILDING), 16.20.620 (ROOMING AND BOARDING HOUSE), 16.20.650 (SPORTS TEAMS AND CLUBS), 16.20.760 (YARD SALE REGULATIONS), 16.20.770 (ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDENS), 16.28.020 (BUILDIGN DESIGN), 16.28.025 (BUILDING TYPOLOGY), 16.28.030 (STREETSCAPE

DIMENSIONS), 16.28.040 (BLOCKS), 16.32.060 (CLASSIFICATION OF STREETS), 16.32.140 (PERMITTED ENCROACHMENTS UPON REQUIRED SETBACKS), 16.32.170 (STREET FRONTAGE REQUIREMENT), 16.40.010 (OPEN SPACE), 16.40.030 (TRANSITIONAL HEIGHTS AND YARDS), AND 16.44.010 (OFF-STREET AUTOMOBILE PARKING SPACES); TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett 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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.08.010 (DEFINITIONS), AMENDING SECTION 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) AND ADOPTING SECTION 16.20.635 (SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS)**; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

6. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the L3Harris contract renewal in the amount of \$226,798.56. Split cost is based on call volume which is approximately 70% (county)/30% (city). This should be the last renewal as a new radio system begins testing this December and should finish Spring 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a 911 Dispatcher “Stay Incentive” in the amount of \$2,500.00 per current employee for a total \$57,500.00, which will be absorbed into the current FY E911 budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the City of Covington sponsorship of the Juneteenth parade, which involves waiving all fees associated with parade.

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

9. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the sole RFP from Urban3 in the amount of \$61,830.00, for city-wide development and infrastructure revenue analysis to be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve Project Farm's utility rate schedule Option 2.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the low bid from Futura in the amount of \$67,350.00, for the purchase of mapping and staking software for the Electric Department.

Futura	\$67,350.00
Partner Software	\$77,750.00

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the low bid from Stuart Irby for purchase of four 2500 KVA transformers for Project Farm in the amount of \$224,400.00.

Sunbelt Solomon	\$84,094.00
TriState	\$124,832.00
Anixter	\$110,490.00

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request from the Electric Director to sale under-utilized bucket truck 837, which purchased in 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Davis to approve bidders and bid providers as requested and grant the City Manager the authorization when/if the *Notices to Proceed* will be given to contractors for the Eastside Sanitary Sewer Basin Improvements totaling \$6,865,251.60, to be paid through recently approved GEFA loan.

Company	Bid Amount	Materials
GoForth Williamson	\$965,700.00	Inline Pump System
P3 Polymers	\$86,176.00	Watertight Manhole w/Barscreen
Core and Main	\$933,775.60	DIP, Fittings, Valves, and Steel Casing
Consolidated Pipe and Supply Company	\$4,879,600.00	Gravity Sewer Pipe, Manhole Covers
Total	\$6,865,251.60	

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to table the discussion of Planning Commission nominations until June 21st Council meeting until additional information can be presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve Downtown sidewalk tiles requests for Mrs. Lee Aldridge and Mr. T.K. Adams. The Council also approved a tile for Mr. Steve Horton.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington, Georgia to request that the Georgia General Assembly adopt legislation amending the Charter of the City of Covington to amend procedure for filling of vacancies in office for Mayor or Council, with change, if needed, for subsection (b) to mirror subsection (a) and include “or any council post.”

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve **first** reading of proposed Charter Amendment to Sections 2.08 and 6.02, budget provisions:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2.08 AND SECTION 6.02 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON; TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ACTS AND ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hawnethia Williams voiced concerns regarding nefarious activities and noise problems in the area of Lee & South Streets and Lee & Ivy Streets. Ms. Williams suggested the placement of NO PARKING signs as there are safety issues due to the narrow streets.

Mayor Horton stated he did not recollect the council voting to put up signs. Mayor Horton further stated he spoke with one of Mrs. Williams’ neighbors and with the police. Mayor Horton stated he can get the street surveyed by staff. Mayor Horton asked both the City Manager and Chief Cotton to get with Ms. Williams to discuss further.

Mr. Mike Murphy (via Zoom) expressed concern about the disruptive behavior during the work session and would like Mayor Horton to contact IT to shut that down in a better way. Mr. Murphy stated the Planning Commission needs younger blood as they search for new members.

Mayor Horton agreed it was embarrassing which is why he felt the best option was to shut down the work session. Mayor Horton informed Mr. Murphy they were submitted to the City Clerk.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Recap of public meeting held on June 1, 2022 included a brief review from Keck & Wood recommendations
- Feedback from merchants regarding signage, employee stickers on cars, crosswalks, and time limits on parking

Council member Baggett stated the EMS is still a mess and mentioned an article that came out in the paper Saturday and was causing phone calls she is still trying to return, from National EMS, Central, and Priority EMS employees. Council member Baggett further stated something needs to be done about this issue.

Council member Davis asked if we have a noise ordinance.

Mayor Horton responded that The City does have one. Mayor Horton explained the state has laws regarding vehicle noise.

Chief Stacey Cotton said his staff does address these laws and tickets have been written for noise ordinance violations from vehicles, but not many. Chief Cotton stated they are hard to write because once an officer turns the corner to catch up to the vehicle in violation the music is turned down.

Council member Davis stated she was aware of the “No Left Turn” sign on Turner Lake and she is still seeing people make the left turn out of the shopping center. Council member Davis asked if there was a way to ban this action or stop people from doing this.

Chief Cotton stated he will pass on the request at staff meeting on Tuesday and inform his officers to be more vigilant in enforcing but he doesn’t have enough officers to monitor at all times.

Council member Floyd mentioned the “Wall of Honor” at City Hall needs to be updated.

Mayor Horton stated the original engraver was hard to get in touch with therefore someone else was contacted. Mayor Horton further stated the new contractor recently came out and took all the information to complete the update but is backlogged.

Council member Floyd expressed concerns regarding a homeless camp on the trail near Emory Street.

Chief Cotton stated he had an officer ride the trail and there were no camps, but some homeless people are walking the trail. Chief Cotton stated if a report is made it can be investigated.

Council member Davis requested “No Golf Carts” signs for walking trail as she has received phone calls about this.

Chief Cotton stated he has only one report of someone riding a cart/vehicle down the trail and encouraged everyone to contact 911 if someone is spotted doing on the trail in a vehicle. Chief Cotton further stated pedestrians are happy to see the trail being patrolled and thank him for it.

Council member Henderson saw that we did not get approved for the CHIP grant and asked for confirmation.

Mayor Horton confirmed the City did not get approved, but there was another grant being looked into. Mayor Horton stated there is a lot of competition for grants and the need is great.

Council member Henderson asked if there was a plan regarding the ARPA funds.

Mayor Horton stated more discussion needs to be had in the near future and he was working with the Finance Director. Mayor Horton further stated infrastructure, utilities, and rental/mortgage needs are being looked at.

Council member Baggett gave an ambulance update for the next 24 hours.

19. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Floyd to enter into Executive Session at 8:17 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Amanda Huggins, Deputy Clerk