

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, APRIL 3, 2023, 6:30 PM.

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

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

Mayor Horton read a proclamation acknowledging April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mayor Horton presented the proclamation to Lauren Gregory of A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center, Inc., in attendance to discuss Child Abuse Prevention month. Ms. Gregory mentioned Pinwheel Palooza scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 10:30 AM-11:30 AM at 216 Brookstone Place Social Circle, GA 30025.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on March 20, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton stated Council member Fleeta Baggett is currently home recovering from surgery.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve adding "Discussion of Tesla electric charging stations and solar farms" to the agenda, as requested by Council member Keck.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scotty Scoggins of 5122 Swann Street SW stated he wanted to thank people of the community that do work that remains unseen, garbage and recycling collection, contracted cleaning staff, City employees of the Transportation Department, Community Development, Public Safety, and Facilities Maintenance. Mr. Scoggins also wanted to thank the businesses/merchants of the Covington Square.

Ms. Angi Beszborn of 1116 Clark Street stated her attendance was in regards to a complaint against her business, Mystic Grill, roping/blocking off two parking spaces one day a week (typically Saturdays) for 4-6 hours to display Vampire Diaries cars. Ms. Beszborn wanted to apologize, as she did not realized she was doing anything wrong, as several other merchants on the Square also block off parking spaces. Ms. Beszborn stated she has been blocking off parking for three and a half years with no complaints, and Vampire Diaries fans love the cars. Ms. Beszborn collected 601 names in two and a half days petitioning to continue to allow the display of the cars, and she is in favor of proposed permitting if necessary.

Mr. Mike Crowe of 25 Cornish Trace Drive stated opposition of the proposed apartments/multi-family development by Flat Rock Road (Alcovy Rd Overlay proposal). Mr. Crowe stated concern regarding the effects of the proposed development on the water reservoir, traffic, and roads.

City Planner Renee Criswell stated the owner of said property concerning the proposed re-zoning has requested tabling the discussion with the Planning and Zoning Commission until May 9, 2023. Ms. Criswell stated proper signage of proposed re-zoning shall be placed, public notices advertised, and information placed online and in City Hall lobby to keep citizens notified with updates.

Mayor Horton stated that after the Planning and Zoning Commission votes on proposal, the Council holds a public hearing and two readings as well. Mayor Horton reminded public wishing to speak during “Public Comments” to fill out a card prior to the meeting beginning.

Mr. Bradley Hill of Main Street Trolley stated the Vampire Diaries cars Ms. Angi Beszborn parks by the Mystic Grill are an attraction every business around the Square benefits from, at her own expense. Mr. Hill stated the cars are iconic along with other Vampire Diaries memorabilia, filming locations, and tourist attractions. Mr. Hill stated there should be exceptions for the fans, as they bring large revenue to the community.

3. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the lowest bid from Kraft Power Corporation for the replacement of WRF stand by generator amounting to \$48,855.00.

Kraft Power Corporation	\$ 48,855.00
Energy Systems Southeast	\$ 54,510.00
Process Equipment Controls (PEC)	\$ 62,970.00

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a three-year insurance renewal with Corvus through Gary Massey Agency Inc. amounting to \$42,940.56 for a Specialty Coverage Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the lowest bid from engineering consultant Keck and Wood amounting to \$77,520.00 for the Lead & Copper Rule Revision, Program Development, and Implementation.

Carter & Sloope	\$ 104,500.00
Keck and Wood	\$ 77,520.00

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the sole bid from Anderson Grading and Pipeline amounting to \$188,204.00 for the Watermain Capital Improvement Project on Roseberry Court.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve acceptance of the Mayor signing the GDOT Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement on 3/28/2023 for the Exit 92 Beautification Project, ex post facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gail Tucker was in attendance to a request for a 12-month extension of a SUP for 9135 Ford Street for a proposed adult day care facility that was initially approved on April 18, 2022. Ms. Taylor Tucker, who was also in attendance, stated there have been many roadblocks in the development of the facility, and she has an architect and general contractor now to assist with moving forward with the development plans. Ms. Taylor Tucker further stated she is in a better

place financially than she was a year ago, and has been working diligently with the City Planning and Zoning staff.

- 8. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a 12-month extension of the SUP regarding 9135 Ford Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 9. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the Mayor and City Manager signing the MEAG Power’s 2022 Year-End Settlement amounting to \$882,860.00, and apply 100% of the amount to the monthly MEAG bill.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 10. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the selection of Gas Director Mike Jewell as voting representative and City Manager Tres Thomas as alternate for the 2023 MGAG Annual Election.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve bid from ITsavvy, Option 2, for sale, installation, and support of two Juniper routers to allow upscaling internet service at the Covington Fiber Central Office amounting to \$57,097.84.

Itsavvy Option 1 (software not included)	\$ 33,627.84
Itsavvy Option 2 (software included)	\$ 57,097.84

Motion carried unanimously.

- 12. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the Covington Fiber Residential and Business rates as proposed by staff, including a required 3-month contract from customer and an option to cancel 30 days after contract expires.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve low bid from CGS Waterproofing for a new roof at the City of Covington Auto Shop, LAS Operations building, and LAS Control building amounting to \$121,000.00 with a 20-year warranty on labor and materials.

CGS Waterproofing	\$ 121,000.00
Georgia Unlimited Roofing	\$ 139,950.00
Alpha Roofing	\$ 155,533.40
Bennett Sheet Metal Works	\$ 177,343.00
Dusty Greer Roofing	\$ 178,000.00
Rycars Construction	\$ 196,550.00
Skyline Construction	\$ 199,930.00
Exterior Solutions of Georgia	\$ 202,550.00
Roof Management Inc.	\$ 214,470.00

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve appointment of Warren Gallop, nominated by East Ward Council member Susie Keck, to the Citizen’s Review Board.

Motion carried unanimously with East Ward members.

15. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the **first** reading of a proposed charter amendment in Section 2.05 and Section 2.11 to provide that the mayor and council shall have the power, by ordinance or resolution, to authorize agents of the city to sign contracts, and for other purposes.

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND **SECTION 2.05 AND SECTION 2.11** OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON; TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ACTS AND ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

16. 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 16TH 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 **AMENDING SECTION 13.40.100 (STORMWATER UTILITY BILLS, PAYMENT, DELINQUENCY AND COLLECTION) OF CHAPTER 13.40 (STORMWATER SYSTEM) THEREOF**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

17. 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 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 8 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 8.20.040 (EXEMPTIONS) OF CHAPTER 8.20 (NOISE CONTROL) THERETO**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington, with provision for any applicant to have the ability to appeal denial of permit:

“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 12 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE **OF AMENDING SECTION 12.04.010 (ENCROACHMENTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY) AND DELETING SECTION 12.04.020 (OBSTRUCTION OF STREETS AND SIDEWALKS PROHIBITED) OF CHAPTER 12.04 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS GENERALLY) THEREOF**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson 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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 10.08.020 (PARKING REGULATIONS) AS A PART OF CHAPTER 10.08 (PARKING AND THROUGH TRAFFIC) THEREOF**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

20. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the initiation of a text amendment proposed by Council member Susie Keck to allow EV charging stations and solar farms within the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

-Boards and Committees Appreciation Banquet is on April 13, 2023 from 6 PM-8 PM at Legion Field

Mayor Horton thanked City of Covington staff for working day to day through the recent bad weather events.

21. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to enter into Executive Session at 7:54 PM for the purpose of discussing land.

Motion carried unanimously.

22. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to enter into Regular Session at 8:03 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

23. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to amend the agenda to add "Discussion of Sewer Main Easement purchase by City of Covington for the Eastside Sanitary Sewer Basin Improvements Project from New Covenant Christian Ministries, Inc."

Motion carried unanimously.

24. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a Sewer Main Easement purchase by the City of Covington from New Covenant Christian Ministries, Inc. amounting to \$42,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk