

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,  
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, MAY 1, 2023, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-tem Anthony Henderson, Council members: Susie Keck, Charika Davis, Kenneth Morgan, Fleeta Baggett, 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.

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

Mayor Horton reminded everyone to fill out a Public Comments Card if they wish to speak during Public Comments and everyone is allowed three minutes to speak during their comments.

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1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 17, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to amend the agenda to add "Discussion of a resolution giving ability to the same individuals authorized to award formal contracts on behalf of the City authorization to also execute those contracts."

Motion carried unanimously.

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3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a resolution giving ability to the same individuals authorized to award formal contracts on behalf of the City authorization to also execute those contracts.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Sandi Spears of 5168 N Dearing Street stated she wanted to thank City staff for responding so quickly to a tree limb hitting a power line in front of her house earlier that day, everyone worked well as a team, and gave special thanks to the CPD, CFD, and utilities crew.

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4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **off-premises consumption** only for:

**Regal Beer & Wine Package Store    12651 Town Center Dr, Ste 109**

Motion carried unanimously.

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Transportation Department Manager John Hendrix and Public Works Director Lee Harvey stated the Transportation Department placed a RFQ regarding engineering and design services for the Turner Lake Widening Project, and reported out of the four qualified consulting firms, Keck and Wood was determined to be the most qualified. Mr. Hendrix stated following GDOT guidelines, after negotiations and verification by an independent engineering firm, Keck and Wood responded with a contract amounting of \$310,056.59 for concept design only. Mr. Hendrix stated there will be following requests for preliminary and final civil plans, the project covers the entirety of Turner Lake Road from Hwy 278 to Washington Street, and 2017 SPLOST funds will cover this amount.

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a contract with Keck and Wood Engineering for engineering and design services, concept design only, regarding the Turner Lake Road Widening Project amounting to \$310,056.59.

Keck and Wood Engineering
Columbia Engineering
Croy Engineering
Michael Baker International

Motion carried unanimously.

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6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a Pole Attachment License Agreement for Distribution Poles with Accelecom GA, LLC, formerly GPW (Georgia Public Web).

Motion carried unanimously.

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Community Development Director Ken Malcom stated a RFP (request for proposals) was placed seeking a three-year partnership to begin in 2023 in order to enhance events held during Black History Month and Juneteenth. Mr. Malcom discussed a sole bid submitted by the Newton County Historical Committee on Black Heritage Preservation.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve sole bid by the Newton County Historical Committee on Black Heritage Preservation, including a three-year partnership, for planning and facilitation of events and projects dedicated to African American Heritage and History.

Motion carried unanimously.

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8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the re-appointment of David Waller as the City of Covington representative on the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority Executive Board for a five year term.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Morgan stated the re-appointment of David Waller as the City of Covington representative on the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority was a good appointment, and he appreciated it.

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9. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the nominees for GMA's District 5 Officers for 2023-2024:

*President David Keener, Mayor, City of Social Circle*

*First Vice President Eric Joyce, Councilmember, City of Madison*

*Second Vice President Kurt Ward, Mayor, City of Braselton*

*Third Vice President Amanda Willis, Councilmember, Carlton*

Motion carried unanimously.

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Comments from the City Manager:

- Council Budget Work Sessions scheduled from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday May 30, 2023, Wednesday May 31, 2023, and Thursday June 1, 2023 in the Council Chamber with dinner provided.

Mayor Horton stated he signed the resolution regarding a 90-day trial period for open container in the designated Downtown Entertainment District approved at the April 17, 2023 Council meeting, although he does not agree with it.

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10. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter into Executive Session at 6:56 PM for the purpose of discussing land.

Motion carried unanimously.

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11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to enter into Regular Session at 7:27 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

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12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend agenda to add "Discussion of amended land lease agreements with the Newton County Industrial Development Authority and Archer Aviation."

Motion carried unanimously.

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13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to authorize the Mayor to execute amended land lease agreements with the Newton County Industrial Development Authority and Archer Aviation to include fair market rent amount to be determined by appraisal as required by FAA regulations, and with reduced land leased area boundaries to be determined by survey.

Motion carried unanimously.

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14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to amend agenda to add "Discussion of sole bid from McCart Law Firm, LLC, representing Mr. Edwin Cloud, for the purchase of the Sunset Drive abandoned right-of-way from the City of Covington, and amounting to \$10,000.00."

Motion carried unanimously.

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15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to accept offer from McCart Law Firm, LLC, representing Mr. Edwin Cloud, for the purchase of the Sunset Drive abandoned right-of-way from the City of Covington, amounting to \$10,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

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Steve Horton, Mayor

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Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk