

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,  
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, MAY 20, 2024, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Fleeta Baggett presided with Mayor Pro-tem Susie Keck, Council members: Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis, Kimberly Johnson, Travis Moore, and Jared Rutberg, City Manager Tres Thomas, Deputy Clerk Amanda Huggins, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. Deputy City Manager John King and City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez were absent.

Rosie Crawford gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Baggett administered the Oath of Office to new Covington Police Officer Rob Bagley.

Chief Philip Bradford stated that as of last week, the Covington Police Department was fully staffed for the first time in a very long time.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 20, 2024 with corrections to Item 27 as stated by City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

2. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the following appointments to the Covington Downtown Development Authority and the Covington Redevelopment Authority:
  - a) Re-appointment of Sandi Spears to the Covington Downtown Development Authority
  - b) Appointment of Brad Stewart to the Covington Downtown Development Authority
  - c) Appointment of Travis Moore to the Covington Downtown Development Authority
  - d) Re-appointment of Sandi Spears to the Covington Redevelopment Authority
  - e) Re-appointment of Monique Snow to the Covington Redevelopment Authority

Council member Moore recused himself from the vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

3. Motion made by Council member Johnson, seconded by Council member Moore to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington, with correction to spelling as stated by Council member Rutberg:

“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 CHAPTER 8.04 (GARBAGE, YARD TRIMMINGS AND WEEDS) OF TITLE 8 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES (HEALTH AND SAFETY) FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 8.04.090 (GARBAGE COLLECTION – COLLECTION POLICIES, COLLECTION FEES AND FRANCHISE FEES)**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Johnson, Moore, Davis, and Rutberg voting in favor. Council member Henderson voting in opposition.

\*\*\*\*\*

4. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the hauled septic waste discharge permit application, with resolution.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Johnson to designate Deputy City Manager John King as flag bearer for the 2024 Parade of Flags during Opening General Session at the GMA Annual Convention.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Johnson to designate Mayor Fleet Baggett as 2024 GMA Convention Voting Delegate.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

Comments from the City Manager:

- National Public Works Week, thank you to the Transportation and Street departments, Fleet Maintenance, Sanitation and Engineering Departments, and the Covington Municipal Airport employees, Public Works team is the backbone of our community

Council member Keck wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Downtown Covington Square on Monday, May 27, 2024, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Council member Johnson stated she is working with Fire Chief Joe Doss regarding a smoke detector blitz on the west side of the city, and Captain Davis has agreed to collaborate. Council member Johnson congratulated Pashion Wilson and the finance team for winning the Energy, Efficacy, and Conservation Block Grant.

Council member Moore thanked Engineering Manager Mike Willis for the invitation to the Stormwater 101 presentation by Hope Larisey with Integrated Science and Engineering on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Council member Rutberg stated there was a great turnout for the SWOT event at The Center today, and he enjoyed attending Career Day at the STEAM Academy. Council member Rutberg further stated the Miracle League is hosting an Industry Games week possibly in August 2024 and asked local businesses to consider participating. Council member Rutberg thanked the Street Department, City Manager Tres Thomas, and Deputy City Manager John King for the “No Outlet” signage at Ellen Court.

Mayor Baggett stated there was a burglary at Mayfield Hardware and approximately \$1,000.00 worth of merchandise was stolen. Mayor Baggett further stated that there were some City employees in the parking lot that witnessed the theft and assisted the Covington Police Department in catching the thieves. Mayor Baggett thanked City employees for their assistance. Mayor Baggett explained that when events are cancelled such as movie nights and the farmer’s market due to weather, the reason is to give ample notification for the vendors that prepare several days ahead of the event of cancellation.

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Keck to enter into Executive Session at 6:53 PM for the purpose of discussing land.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

8. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Rutberg to enter into Regular Session at 7:23 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

---

Fleeta Baggett, Mayor

---

Amanda Huggins, Deputy City Clerk