



**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA,
JANUARY 6, 2025, 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 City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present.

Ms. 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 Officers Paxton Cox, Ethan Booth, Jason Cabe, and Teairra Byrd.

Members of the Civility Taskforce presented the first Civility Award to Larry Manning of the IT Department.

1. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 16, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Johnson, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve the **final** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington and rezoning:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, TO **ANNEX A TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 95.556 ACRES**, LOCATED ON HAZELBRAND ROAD NE, IN LAND LOTS 282, 283, AND 298, NINTH LAND DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 36, TITLE 36, OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED, 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 against.

- 3. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Davis to amend the agenda to add to the Consent Agenda:

5d. Approval of low bid from Power Pros Power Line, LLC in the amount of \$112,635.08, for contract labor to install an overhead line in order to provide an alternate feed to Piedmont Newton Hospital.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Pace Street BP

2106 Pace Street

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve a license for **ancillary tasting & off-premises consumption** only for:

Regal Beer & Wine Liquor Store

12651 Town Center Dr. Ste 109

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve a sole source purchase of 8 Viper reclosures from G & W Electric in the amount of \$240,184.00, for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the low bid from Power Pros Power Line, LLC in the amount of \$112,635.08, for contract labor to install an overhead line in order to provide an alternate feed to Piedmont Newton Hospital.

Power Pros	Premier Power	Utec	Service	PowerGrid	Mastec
\$ 112,635.08	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 223,125.00	\$ 228,850.00	\$ 238,340.25	\$ 267,500.00

Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve adding 10835 Hazelbrand Road to the Future Land Use Map as IND.

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

9. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Moore to approve zoning 10835 Hazelbrand Road M2 Heavy Industrial to allow for a Data Center.

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

10. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Henderson to award Engineering Services for GDOT Project involving SR 12/US 278 from SR 81 to Hospital Drive to QK4, Inc.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the best bid from Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$308,228.00, to purchase a 4-wheel Loader for the Transportation Department.

Vendor	Model	Year	Bid Amount
Tractor and Equipment Co.	Komatsu WA 320-8	2024	\$330,197.54
Dobbs Equipment	John Deere 624 P	2025	\$330,497.00
Border Equipment	Case 721G2	2025	\$318,890.00
Cowin Equipment Company, Inc.	Hitachi ZW180PL-7	2025	\$310,887.00
Yancey Brothers	Caterpillar 938-14A	2025	\$308,228.00
WetPro	JCB 437ZX	2024	\$273,858.27

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Moore to approve a Resolution pledging to practice and promote Civility in the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve setting qualifying fees for Council Posts to be filled by the election on November 4, 2025 at 3% of annual salary of the office or \$360.00.

Council Post #1 East Ward
Council Post #2 West Ward
Council Post #3 West Ward

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve Miscellaneous Appointments for 2025:

Frank Turner, Jr. as City Attorney (with assistance from Strickland & Turner, LLP if needed)

Qader A. Baig as Municipal Court Judge

Piedmont Physicians as City Physicians

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the appointment of Council member Johnson as Mayor Pro-tem for 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the appointment of Council member Rutberg as Mayor Pro-tem Elect for 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor and Council acknowledged receipt of the City Manager’s appointment of Kellie Key as Municipal Court Clerk.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Planning Retreat dates 2/12, 2/13, or 2/20 to be held at the Airport
- Board/Committee application form to be finalized unless there are any changes
- Several boards, committees, and authorities’ duties overlap

The Deputy City Manager informed everyone the Welcome Center had 132,422 guests in 2024 which is 12% increase from 2023.

Council member Henderson hoped everyone had a Happy New Year and announced his intention to run for re-election.

Council member Rutberg thanked all employees who helped in removing the plaques from the Emory Street bridge and thanked John King for helping with utilities and billing issues. Council member Rutberg inquired about what happens to monies saved from purchases less than budgeted.

The City Manager stated it goes back into the General Fund.

Council member Davis stated all dates for the retreat work for her. Council member Davis asked for a report of how much money has the City made from the EV Charging Station.

Mayor Baggett stated the Tesla Charging Station near Lochridge is full of vehicles not charging.

Council member Johnson stated she accepts her appointment as Mayor Pro-tem.

Council member Keck stated if anyone is interested in government, now would be a good time.

Mayor Baggett informed everyone the warming shelter is close to over capacity and will be adding a wish list on Amazon.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Fleeta Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk