



**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA,
FEBRUARY 3, 2025, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Fleeta Baggett presided with Mayor Pro-tem Kim Johnson, Council members: Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis, Susie Keck, and Jared Rutberg, City Manager Tres Thomas, Deputy City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. Council member Travis Moore was in attendance via teleconference.

Rev. Dr. Royeese Stowe gave the invocation.

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

The Covington Police Department recognized outgoing Citizens Academy Board Members – Stephanie Kazar, Ross Pots, and Ashley Nuqui.

1. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 6, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the list of streets for the 2025 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG), ex post facto:

Walkers Bend Parkway
Lakeview Drive
Laural Drive
Azalea Drive
Azalea Court
Forest Drive
Ginn Street

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the selection for the MEAG Election for Off-system Energy Sales margins FY 2025, ex post facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the sole source bid from Anixter in the amount of \$232,200.00, for the purchase of Tantalus Meters for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the best/low RFP from TSW in the amount of \$150,000.00, for the Downtown Master Plan Phase II.

HGOR
Inspire Placemaking Collective
Interface Studio LLC
Thomas & Hutton
TSW

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve a proposed application for City appointment to boards, committees, commissions, or authorities with change to *Date of Birth* to now read *Applicant must be 18 years or older*.

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

7. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the Fire Department's request for continued use of part-time firefighters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Members of the Facilities Committee were in attendance to discuss the proposed City Hall Site Plan. Kim Carter gave an overview of the process and stated the next step is a Campus Plan.

After a lengthy discussion,

8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to move forward with the afore-mentioned next phase.

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

9. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve a GDOT Landscaping & Lighting Letter of Support for the Multi-Use Path, Streetlighting, and Landscaping along US 278 from CS 681/Turner Lake Road to SR 81.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Ms. Denise Williams had concerns regarding the warming shelter closing tomorrow morning and was trying to help the individuals.

Tres responded the weather is becoming mild and the purpose of the shelter is for cold weather.

Council member Rutberg left the council meeting at 7:37 PM and returned at 7:39 PM.

Mayor Baggett explained the reason of having two warming locations and stated the City is doing what is best for those in need. Mayor Baggett stated officials will be meeting with EMA regarding the matter.

Ms. Maria Niederhofer expressed concerns regarding her Airbnb located at 4159 Carroll Street having issues/problems with the overflow shelter located on Carroll Street. Ms. Niederhofer stated the residents were not notified that the overflow shelter opening.

Mr. Richard Moton was in attendance to discuss the convenience fees for paying utility bills.

Finance Director Randy Smith explained the options for paying utility bills without fees.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Council Retreat will be held on Thursday, 2/13/2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Covington Municipal Airport
- Thanked the staff for all their efforts during the two recent snow events

Council member Johnson expressed gratitude to Tres & Dalton for getting gas to the warming shelter and thanked Latham Sanitation for picking up the trash on Carroll Street.

Council member Moore thank the Finance staff for a clean audit.

Council member Rutberg thanked the Facilities Committee for their hard work. Council member Rutberg also thanked staff for the great audit and the staff for the great work done to City streets in January.

Council member Henderson inquired about the issues on Carroll Street.

The City Manager responded that he would look into the matter.

Mayor Baggett stated Newton County shared the warming info without helping or offering a solution. Mayor Baggett further stated the City will look into having the second location shut down as soon as possible.

10. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Keck to enter into Executive Session at 8:13 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Davis to enter into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Fleeta S. Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk