



**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA,  
FEBRUARY 17, 2025, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Fleeta Baggett presided with Mayor Pro-tem Kimberly Johnson, Council members Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis, Susie Keck, Travis Moore, and Jared Rutberg, City Manager Tres Thomas, Deputy City Manager John King, Assistant Clerk Angela Hamilton, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez was not in attendance.

Rev. Dr. Royeese Stowe gave the invocation.

Linda Cook, President of the Government Finance Officers Association, presented the City of Covington with a GFOA Award received by Ashlan Troutman and the Finance Dept.

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1. A motion was made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 3, 2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

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2. A motion was made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Henderson to amend the agenda to:

- Add discussion of Accelecom Customer Service Order for the IT Department.
- Move the Covington Downtown Tourism Association 501c6 Financial update to 4b.

The motion carried unanimously.

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3. A motion was made by Council Member Henderson and seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve a Accelecom Customer Service Order in the amount of \$3,150.00 per month, to increase connection speed to 5G.

The motion carried unanimously.

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Tourism Coordinator Laura Sullivan provided a detailed presentation on the history of Covington Downtown Tourism, which is designed to enhance economic growth, community engagement, and visitors' experiences, including financial status and the 2025 quarterly financial report.

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A Public Hearing was held at 7:05 PM concerning Special Use Permit (SUP) PSU25-001, to allow an auto repair facility at 9162 Old Atlanta Hwy, tax map parcel number C062 007, containing 2.83

acres with a 9000 sq. ft building with accessories, within the M1 Zoning District. The applicant, Allen Dial, attended to speak in favor of the SUP.

4. A motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Keck to approve the SUP to allow an auto diesel repair facility to operate at 9162 Old Atlanta Hwy, with conditions.

- 1. All repair work must be conducted indoors.*
- 2. Any modifications to the site must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate city departments.*

The motion carried unanimously.

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5. A motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve a request to initiate a Zoning Ordinance amendment to Sec. 16.24.040.B,2.a.viii., to remove the requirement for security fencing around Hotels and Motels/Extended Stays, which is specific only to the Covington Town Center Overlay.

The motion carried unanimously.

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6. A motion was made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve a joint resolution with Newton County and the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority concerning the One Water Resources Analysis, which will set the tone for maintaining water resources in the ensuing years.

The motion carried unanimously.

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7. A motion was made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the MGAG RNG Supply Aggregation Program Enrollment Agreement, which will allow tax credits and savings to the city at no extra cost.

The motion carried unanimously.

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8. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Rutberg 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING CHAPTER 15.36 (SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL)**; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

The motion carried unanimously.

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**Public Comments:**

- Mr. Curtis Goss stated he needs a signed statement stating everything is good because he doesn't want to have this problem anymore. Planning & Development Director Judy Thagard will assist with his request.
  
- Mr. Stephen Reedy asked the council to support the Police, Fire, and 911 in whatever financial support they need and the speed limit on Pace Street needs to be reduced from 35 mph to 20-25mph.

**Comments from the City Manager:**

Update – There have not been any reported problems at the Repairers of the Breach warming shelter at 5120 Brown Bridge Road within the last two weeks, he also thanked the Electrical Department for handling 500 outages and five broken poles during the storm last Sunday.

**Deputy City Manager:**

Commended public safety workers: police, fire, and 911 for responding to the aircraft incident over the weekend.

**Council member Johnson:**

Thanks to John King for keeping us well informed, and thank you to everyone who searched for the deceased beaver.

**Council member Rutberg:**

Can we check in on the Pace Street speed limit?

Mayor Baggett stated that the 35-mph speed on Pace Street might be set to run radar.

**Mayor Baggett:**

Thanked Public Safety, Electric, Water & Sewer, and Gas Departments for doing an excellent job; the progress on Floyd Street is coming along. If we get calls from the residents about their utility bills, please advise them to consider their consumption usage. On 4/21/2025, the Mayor will not be in town; Council Member Kim Johnson, Mayor Pro-tem, will oversee that meeting.

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9. A motion was made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Moore to enter into Executive Session at 7:38 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

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10. A motion was made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to enter back into Regular Session at 7:44 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

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Fleeta Baggett, Mayor

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Angela Hamilton, Assistant Clerk