



REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, JULY 21, 2025, 6:30 PM.

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

Reverend Dr. Royeese Stowe gave the invocation.

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

1. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve the minutes from the Open Executive Session Meeting held on June 9, 2025.

Council member Henderson entered the meeting at 6:33 PM.

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

2. Motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on June 16, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council Member Johnsons, seconded by Council Member Davis to amend the agenda to add:

-AA1. Discussion of Highway 278 CID Project – Phase 1 – Task 2.

-AA2. Discussion of City Pond Road and Williams Road Improvements Project – LMIG Funding.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Neighborhood Food Mart 6155 HWY 36

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve a license for **Personal Service Beer and/or Wine License** only for:

Trendy Nails Salon 7219 Turner Lake Road

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the purchase of a mini excavator for the Electric Department through a Sourcewell bid from Bobcat of Atlanta in the amount of \$57,494.59.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Public Hearing was held at 6:47 PM concerning adding the allowance of a Cigar and Bourbon Lounge to the Covington Municipal Code.

Chamber President Debbie Harper was in attendance to speak in favor of the proposed code amendment.

7. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Henderson to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation 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 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.08.010 (DEFINITIONS) OF CHAPTER 16.08 (INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS) AND SECTION 16.20.010 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS)** AND TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Keck to approve an Agreement of Mutual Aid with Rockdale County.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve a GDOT Indication of Roundabout Support at SR 12 @ SR 142.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the implementation of an all-way stop at Newton Drive and Adams Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the best RFP from Strack, Inc. for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) of the Downtown Square Utilities Relocation project in the amount of \$120,387.00, for Phase I pre-construction services.

**Reeves Young
JDS, Inc.
Strack, Inc.**

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve the best RFP from Playworx Creations in the amount of \$198,983.64, for the design and installation of shade structures at Central Park.

Playworx Creations	\$198,983.64
Shade America	\$246,336.75
USA Shade	\$263,145.52
Bliss Products	No cost submitted
Playground Creations	No cost submitted
New Way Developers	\$147,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve amending the current budget to include additional revenues & expenditures as actual figures become available.

Motion carried unanimously.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the proposed budget.

14. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

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

15. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve a quote from Midwest Employers Casualty in the amount of \$137,105.00 for Excess Worker's Comp Coverage.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the Highway 278 CID Project – Phase 1 – Task 2.

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

17. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Davis to authorize staff to seek additional LMIG Funding for the City Pond Road and Williams Road Improvements Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Thelma Nolley discussed Ms. Perry's issues with her stormwater account.

Ms. Hurst discussed her permit to close Puckett Street from 10121 Puckett Street to Cecelia Street.

Ms. Mattie Goggins thanked John King and John Hendrix for looking into storm drain repairs on Puckett Street.

Ms. Kim Carter discussed the 2025-2026 Budget and a \$4 million shortfall. Ms. Carter recommended cutting costs to optimal efficiency and raising revenues such as fees.

Mr. Carlo Mack thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the first reading tonight.

Reverend Dr. Stowe thanked Covington Police for patrolling through Clark's Grove recently. Dr. Stowe stated the next morning, she observed muddy footprints on her porch.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Thanks to 911, Police, Fire, & city staff for making the Independence in the Park a success despite some bad actors
- Thanks to Sheriff Ezell Brown for all of his help with the event

Council member Henderson inquired as to what has been done to ensure safety in city parks.

Chief Fuesting stated they are pricing Flock cameras and adding other types of cameras.

Council member Rutberg thanked John Hendrix and Eric Tarpley for all of their hard work on the Floyd Street Project. Council member Rutberg asked everyone to please be civil

Council member Moore stated the Christmas in July was a great success due to staff.

Council member Johnson attended the recent Harristown Reunion and had a great time.

Council member Keck thanked the City Manager and staff for implementing 3 different all-way stops.

Comments from the Mayor:

- Asked everyone to settle down so the Floyd Street Project can be completed
- Gas Department achieved the Safety Award for the 3rd year in a row
- Had a booth at the Christmas in July Event
- Electric Department has been quite busy with all of the pop-up storms
- Water/Sewer Department is busy too
- Is Mayor of both the East and West Wards

18. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to enter into Executive Session at 7:53 PM for the purpose of discussing potential land acquisition and personnel.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to enter back into regular session at 8:35 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Fleeta S. Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk