



REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, AUGUST 4, 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 Moore, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 21, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Keck to approve the **final** 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), AMENDING SECTION 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) OF CHAPTER 16.16 (STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS), AND ADOPTING SECTION 16.20.155 (CIGAR LOUNGE) TO CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS), TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”**

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Davis to reverse the Historic Preservation Commission's decision of case PMAJOR25-0003 to construct a new home at 4117 Dearing Street and **approve** a Certificate of Appropriateness, with conditions:

- *Final construction drawings including elevations, materials, window/door specifications, and porch details shall be submitted to staff for review and approval prior to the issuance of building permits.*
- *All work must comply with the guidelines of the South Covington Historic District. Any deviations from the approved plans must be reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.*
- *All windows and doors shall have hoods and sills.*
- *Home to be constructed as presented.*

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington - Chapter 5.12 Alcohol Amendment to create a definition and add a Cigar Lounge establishment into the Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance & establish fee for the license, with change to 60% alcohol sales/40% other sales.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Davis 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 3 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 03.16.090 OF CHAPTER 3.16 (LODGING TAX)** THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Henderson 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 3 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **ADOPTING CHAPTER 3.18 (INSPECTION OF RECORDS)** THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, **TO DEANNEX TWO TRACTS OF LAND ON EDGEFIELD LANE, IN LAND LOT 192, TENTH LAND DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, FROM 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 unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve allocating up to \$1,000,000.00 of the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation funds to the Alcovy Road Sewer Rehab project

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the low bid from United Systems & Software in the amount of \$102,200.00, for remaining ERT's for Gas Meter Change and AMI Meter Replacement.

WESCO	\$115,150.00
United Systems & Software	\$102,200.00

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the low bid from Southern Pipeline Inc. in the amount of \$861,725.00 for Blanket Gas Contract/Gas Main Extensions.

Southern Pipeline Inc.	\$861,725.00
Harrison & Harrison Inc.	\$2,046,950.00
D. Lance Souther Inc.	\$2,302,750.00

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve a down payment in the amount of \$500,000.00 payable to Williams Fire Apparatus, which leaves a balance of \$578,546.69, for the purchase of a new engine for Station 23, ex post facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve the FY 26 Federal/GDOT Tentative Allocation of federal funding in the amount of \$712,500.00, with the City's match estimated at \$18,750.00, for FY 26 Airport projects:

-N.W. Apron Asphalt Rehabilitation: Crack Seal, Rejuvenation, & Marking
-Limited Airport Layout Plan Update

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve the best RFQ from Sunbelt Builders in the Guaranteed Max Price of \$569,595.00, for Central Park Restroom Facilities.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve participation in new National Opioid Settlements with Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve levying the 2025 Millage Rate at 6.406 mils.

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

16. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve an E-911 Debt Intergovernmental Agreement with Newton County.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Leathers discussed traffic issues on Alcovy Road at Chick-fil-a and I20 WB at Exit 92. Mr. Leathers mentioned trash issues at Exit 90.

Ms. Shamica Tucker thanked staff for getting additional signage up regarding the Alcovy Road project. Ms. Tucker informed everyone several residents were evacuated yesterday due to the flash flood and thanked the City for staff's quick response.

Ms. Rosie Crawford inquired as to which meters were going to be replaced and was informed it is gas meters.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Special Called Meeting tomorrow at 6:30 PM

Comments from the Deputy City Manager:

- Conyers Street Gym Rehab documents have been submitted

Comments from the Mayor:

- School started today
- Back to School Bash was great
- Had flooding in several areas across the City
- Attended Clements Middle School's Open House – would like to partner with school and show support
- Asked council to nominate members at the 8/18 meeting for the Citizen's Review Board as all members have expired
- In talks with UGS students regarding beautification of Exit 92

17. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Keck to enter into Executive Session at 7:46 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Keck to enter back into regular session at 8:02 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Fleeta S. Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk