



REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, AUGUST 18, 2025, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Fleeta Baggett presided with Mayor Pro-tem Kimberly Johnson, Council Members: Anthony Henderson, Travis Moore, Charika Davis, and Jared Rutberg, Deputy City Manager John King, Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. Council member Susie Keck attended via teleconference and City Manager Tres Thomas was not in attendance.

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 Henderson, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 4, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the minutes from the Called Meeting held on August 5, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg 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 PROVISION OF TITLE 5 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTIONS 5.12.030 (DEFINITIONS), 5.12.040 (HOURS OF OPERATION), 5.12.050 (LOCATION), 5.12.060 (QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSEES), AND 5.12.190 (REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTAURANTS) OF CHAPTER 5.12 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Moore 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 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.

5. Motion made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Moore 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 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.

6. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the **final** 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.

7. Motion made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Davis to amend the agenda to add:

-Discussion of joining the Mississippi Hub natural gas storage in the annual demand cost of \$127,029.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the 2025-2026 renewal of the City's Property & Casualty Insurance with Traveler's in the amount of \$1,437,070.00, through the City's Broker, Gary Massey.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the best RFQs from Magnolia River and Keck & Wood for Engineering services for the Gas Department.

**Sapp Engineering & Services, LLC
Campos EPC
Keck & Wood
Kleinfelder, Inc
Kimley & Horn
Magnolia River
SGC**

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to approve a contract with Mississippi Hub Storage Service in the amount of \$127,029.00, for annual demand cost.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council Member Rutberg, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the East Ward's appointments to the Citizens Review Board (CRB) - Scott Willis, Brian Jackson, and Bill Sanfelice.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the West Ward's appointments to the Citizens Review Board (CRB) - Greg Shy, Rosie Crawford, and Scotty Scoggins, with Jeffrey Johnson as a backup.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Baggett appointed Tommy Davis to the Citizens Review Board (CRB).

Mr. Robert Ford was in attendance to urge Council to adopt a Non-Discrimination Ordinance to prevent discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations within the city limits.

Mr. Robert Clay was in attendance to discuss storm water drainage issues at his residence and requested that the city clean his storm ditches out.

Mr. Deacon Powell, Mr. Linh Austin, and Mr. Andrew Gardner representing Ascend Elements attended to request the immediate issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy upon delivery of an acceptable affidavit from either an engineer at BW Engineering or another qualified engineer within a 60-day period. Both City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr and Chief Doss advised against the issuance of the requested Certificate of Occupancy.

John King left the meeting at 7:21 PM and returned at 7:23 PM.

It was the consensus of the Council that an affidavit would need to be presented in order to grant a Certificate of Occupancy.

Council Member Jared Rutberg thanked Deputy City Manager John King for facilitating the donation of a fax machine.

Comments from the Deputy City Manager:

- The UGA Archway partnership will be having a Housing Summit on September 4th from 10 AM -2 PM at Newton Piedmont College
- Floyd Street traffic striping was completed today

Comments from the Mayor:

- We've had a quiet week for Covington

Being no further business meeting, the meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Fleeta S. Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk