



REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 2, 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, Acting Deputy Clerk Tiffany Johnston, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez was absent.

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.

Mayor Baggett administered the Oath of Office to new Covington Police Officers Austin Swint and Randy Downs.

1. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 18, 2025 with changes to the public comments to reflect both Mr. Duane Ford and Mr. Robert Clay "attended."

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Rutberg to amend the agenda to remove items:

-8. Discussion of appeal for a Certificate of Occupancy- 9176 Industrial Drive (Ascend)

-9. Discussion of fee proposal from Qk4, Inc. for Task Order #1- Concept Development and Master Agreement for GDOT Project PI 0019217.

-11. Discussion of First Amendment to Structure Lease Agreement for the tower located at 11376 Hwy 36.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve license to sell alcoholic beverages for **on-premises** consumption only for:

Applebee's #97098 5176 Hwy 278
The House of Nosh & Brew 5135 Hwy 278

Motion carried unanimously.

Applicant was in attendance regarding the matter.

4. Motion made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Keck to uphold the HPC's decision on July 9th, 2025 for the property at 2193 Conyers Street, case PMINOR25-0004 and made the recommendation to allow handrails and a gable on the front porch.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Moore 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 PROVISION OF TITLE 5 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 5.04.040 (OCCUPATION TAX LEVIED) AND SECTION 5.04.080 (PAYMENT OF OCCUPATION TAX – EFFECT OF DELINQUENCY) OF CHAPTER 5.04 (BUSINESS LICENSES AND OCCUPATION TAXES GENERALLY)** THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

6. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Henderson to approve the initiation of a text amendment to revise the ordinance to allow a Taphouse with the addition of “must have substantial snacks available.”

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

7. Motion made by Council Member Keck, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Collection of City of Covington Property Taxes by the Newton County Tax Commissioner.

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

8. Motion made by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the Reuse Water Infrastructure System Planning Professional Services proposal.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Casey Duren was in attendance to discuss the proposed taphouse and to answer any questions.

Mr. Warren Liem was in attendance to express his gratitude to the City of Covington and to the Council for the years he was able to live here in the city and that he was accepted. He stated he would be moving out of the city soon.

Comments from the City Manager:

-Informed the council about Georgia Transmission Corporation and a public open house they are having for a transmission line project serving a large project on Alcovy Rd. The meeting will be held Monday, September 8th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Center on Washington Street

Comments from the Assistant City Manager:

-Thank you to Special Projects Coordinator Larry Manning. 5 of the 8 budgeted projects are either approved or currently in progress toward approval.

Council member Keck stated that she is having an Estate Sale in Covington Place.

Council member Johnson stated she does not have a sister named Amy.

Being no further business meeting, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Fleeta S. Baggett, Mayor

Tiffany Johnston, Acting Deputy Clerk