

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,  
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, FEBRUARY 17, 2020, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Susie Keck, Council members: Hawnethia Williams, Kenneth Morgan, Anthony Henderson, Fleeta Baggett, and, Don T. Floyd, City Manager Scott Andrews, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present.

St. Paul AME Church's Rebekah Ali gave the invocation.

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

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1. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 3, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Williams to approve amending the agenda to add, "Discussion of resolution supporting legislation for the Georgia Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act."

Motion carried unanimously.

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Carlton Trail resident Archie Shepherd asked for clarification regarding a recycling issue at his residence.

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3. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **on-premises consumption** only for:

**Elea J's Southern Table**

**6265 Highway 278 NE**

Motion carried unanimously.

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No action was taken concerning a contract regarding moving the Office of Economic Development (ED) to the Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

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A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Economic Development (ED).

10. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to move ED in-house.

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Morgan, Baggett, Floyd, and Henderson voting for. Council member Williams voting against.

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A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Main Street Covington.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to move Main Street Covington back in-house.

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Morgan, Baggett, Floyd, and Henderson voting for. Council member Williams voting against.

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A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Tourism.

It was the consensus of the Council to leave Tourism at the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce.

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12. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the adoption of a resolution of the City of Covington affirming its commitment to the prohibition of discrimination.

Motion carried unanimously.

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A public hearing was held at 8:17 PM concerning a proposed Text Amendment to Sec. 16.20.235 for Dwellings, Single-Family Detached.

13. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan 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 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) OF CHAPTER 16.16 (STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS) AND TO ADOPT SECTION 16.20.235 (DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED) OF CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS)** AND TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

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14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams 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 PROVISION OF TITLE 13 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 13.08.290 (INDUSTRIAL SERVICE) AND SECTION 13.08.300 (LARGE INDUSTRIAL SERVICE)** OF CHAPTER 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

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15. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve Easement and MOU between the City and EROCK, LLC, for Storm water Maintenance of property adjacent to Pace and Elm Streets.

Motion carried unanimously.

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16. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an affidavit stating the City’s plan to protect the confidentiality of the location and address of family violence shelters in the state of Georgia.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 17. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to place 100% of the sales from the MEAG Municipal Competitive Trust into the Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 18. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the low bid from Air Conditioning Specialist, Inc. in the amount of \$20,950.00, to replace the server room AC units at City Hall.

Air Conditioning Specialist, Inc.	\$20,950
Sluss-Padgett	\$30,291
Estes Services	\$30,763

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 19. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an invoice payable to Pittman Construction Co. in the amount of \$58,460.00, for emergency repairs to Access Road due to water main rupture.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 20. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the low bid from Tag Grinding in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, for grinding services of yard debris.

Tag Grinding	MW Collins Inc	TriScapes	TFR Enterprises
\$ 20,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 162,500.00	\$ 425,000.00
\$ 4.50	\$ 3.00	\$ 23.33	\$ 5.94
\$ 4.38	\$ 3.75	\$ 7.41	\$ 7.31
\$ 20,008.88	\$ 125,006.75	\$ 162,530.74	\$ 425,013.25

\*the first price is for bulk onsite grinding, second price is per load to haul to mill and third price is per load to haul to landfill

Motion carried unanimously.

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21. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a resolution supporting legislation for the Georgia Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Ms. Barbara Morgan expressed her concerns regarding moving Economic Development and Main Street Covington to the City.

Council member Keck stated the Chamber wanted ED out from under their umbrella.

Council member Williams informed everyone she is having right knee surgery on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Council member Keck stated the decisions made tonight were the right ones for Covington.

Council member Morgan stated the council made decisions with the best interests at heart. Council member Morgan thanked the city manager and stated employee morale is better.

Mayor's comments:

- Arbor Day event 2/21 at 11 AM at Legion Field
- Covington was named Tree City again
- Filming rules need updating from 2012

It was the consensus of the Council to have the city manager and staff to look into updating the filming rules.

Comments from the City Manager:

- CPD will be moving to their new building on 2/24/20
- HR conducting a salary survey

The City Manager recognized his spouse in the audience.

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22. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and discussing land opportunity.

Motion carried unanimously.

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23. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Council member Floyd discussed Newton County's decision to purchase the old Cousin's School.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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Steve Horton, Mayor

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Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk