

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, MARCH 2, 2020, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Susie Keck, Council members: 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. Council member Hawnethia Williams was absent.

Council member Baggett's niece Ashley Smith gave the invocation.

City Manager Scott Andrews introduced Honorary Mayor Kaleb Waddleton.

Honorary Mayor Kaleb Waddleton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 17, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the Called Meeting minutes from February 19, 2020, as amended:

Add to Motion 1: "contingent upon the City successfully negotiating contracts to secure its interests."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, 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 16.16.020 (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.

4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson 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 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.

The Mayor stated Council member Williams recently had right knee surgery and is doing well in a rehab facility.

The Mayor informed everyone retired employee Billy Skinner is at home on hospice care.

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member McKelvey 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 8 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES **FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING CHAPTER 8.26 (BOARDED UP STRUCTURES)** THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of construction agreement with GDOT for sidewalks to be installed along SR 81."

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of invoices payable to ElectriCom for work done at Covington Town Center project."

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bernadette Smith discussed traffic calming and the possible repaving of Wheat Street.

Ms. Johsie Cruz was in attendance to state she is officially running for Congress District 4 seat. Ms. Cruz further stated she is visiting each city to see what is needed.

8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for road closure in the downtown area April 19, 2020 for the Spring Bike Fest.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for road closure in the downtown area May 16, 2020 for the Covington Fireman's Memorial Trust.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for an event permit in the downtown area June 12th, August 14th, September 11th, and October 16th for the Arts Association's Downtown Sounds Concert Series.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Laura Bertram of Newton Family Connection discussed the upcoming Census Kick-off.

11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve to send general support letter and storm water letter with additional language for the proposed Covington Square rehab project located at 2101 Washington Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a sole source bid from Zoll Medical Corp. in the amount of \$25,271.56, to purchase a Zoll X-Series Cardiac Monitor for the Covington Fire Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a MOU with the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority for an Interim Service Plan for new Eastside High School.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to remove "Discussion of Glover Street drainage project" from the agenda until the project can be formally bid.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck 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 8 OF THE SAID CODE OF
ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING CHAPTER**

**8.04 (GARBAGE, YARD TRIMMING AND WEEDS) THEREOF,
TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.”**

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Keck seconded by Council member Morgan to approve Amendment One to the City of Covington Defined Contribution Retirement Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a revised Central Business District and Downtown Development Authority map, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with activating a Downtown Development Authority and a Covington Development Authority.

18. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a construction agreement with GDOT for sidewalks to be installed along SR 81 in the City of Oxford.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to invoices payable to ElectriCom, for work done at Covington Town Center project.

Invoice 1909060	\$108,349.74
Invoice 1909646	\$20,516.76

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Meeting Kaleb was the highlight of the week
- Presented weekly report
- Future paving on the Cricket Frog Trail

Council member Floyd asked staff to look at ruts on the landscaping on Pace Street.

Council member Keck informed the audience Council is available to attend neighborhood meetings.

Council member Morgan stated 2020 is major election year and encouraged everyone to vote.

Council member Baggett informed everyone Council member Williams is doing well in a rehab in Madison.

Mayor's comments:

- will be attending newly elected officials training along with Council members Floyd and Baggett March 4-6
- will be looking into complaints regarding parking spaces in the downtown area being illegal
- golf cart issue regarding restraints and liability insurance
- Called Meeting on 3/11 regarding economic development
- need to look at Council Meeting calendar in September
- will be reviewing a proposed scooter ordinance

20. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and investigative purposes

Motion carried unanimously.

21. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to enter back into Regular Session at 8:06 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

Marketing & Communications Manager Trey Sanders asked the council if they are willing to close the square from 4 PM – 8 PM on May 8th for a Book Bus

event, due to a conflict at Legion Field. Mr. Sanders stated there will be 20+ vendors, Brian Strickland and Eric Stokes will be in attendance.

It was the consensus of the Council to allow Mr. Sanders to poll the downtown merchants to see if they are ok with the closure.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk