

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, CITY HALL, JULY 1, 2019, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Ronnie Johnston presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Kenneth Morgan, Council members: Hawnethia Williams, Josh McKelvey, Anthony Henderson, Michael Whatley, and Susie Keck, City Manager Leigh Anne Knight, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present.

Council member Morgan gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Johnston administered the Oath of Office to new Covington Police Officer Gregory Ward, Jr.

1. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on June 17, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

City employee Clifford Carter inquired as to what the Sanitation severance package will be.

Mr. Carter was informed the City has not received the RFPs for Sanitation Services as of yet.

Ms. Sara Vinson of Solarize Newton discussed the standby fee the City charges for solar customers.

Mr. Maurice Carter discussed the City using Electric Enterprise funds to supplement the budget.

Ms. Karen Couch, also with Solarize Newton, asked the City to do away with the solar stand-by fee as the City of Oxford does not charge a fee.

2. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for filming in the downtown area June 23, 2019, expost facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for road closures in the downtown area July 3, 2019, to set up for the Stars and Stripes Fest.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for filming in the downtown area July 8 - 12, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a change order in the amount of \$40,940.00 for the CHA Stormwater Project, expost facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a road closure on Melody Circle due to pipe replacement.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a resolution calling for a Special Municipal Election to be held on November 5, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a resolution to hold a hearing on relocation of the Municipal Election Polling Location.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve changes to the Airport's Hangar Ground Lease Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve Harris annual System Maintenance Agreement Amendment No. 7 in the amount of \$210,606.00, for the 911 Center.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to make the following appointments to the Covington Parks Conservancy:

Ashlan Webb
Randy Conner
Bess Dobbs
Janet Goodman
Mike Tinsley
Greg Richardson
Shamica Tucker
Lucy Courchaine
Garden Club representative
Racket sport representative

Anderson Bailey – Council representative

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve amending the current budget to include additional revenues and expenditures as actual figures become available.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the City's FY 2019-2020 Budget with the stipulation of placing a hold on the \$13,000.00 budgeted for Newton County Tomorrow until they submit a strategic plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a GMA Lease Agreement for the purchase of Sanitation vehicles.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve an IGA regarding housing of City inmates at the Newton County Jail.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Electric Review Committee meeting schedule for 7/30 at 6 PM
- City Manager search firm presentations 7/17 – 7/18
- Pace Street LCI update
- Central Park groundbreaking 7/11 @ 9:30 and update
- Ashley Drive drainage project update
- Legion Field stream bank restoration update
- Solid Waste RFP questions due 7/2, proposals due in 7/15
- Stars & Stripes Fest this Thursday

Council member Henderson thanked everyone for attending and thanked the City for the streaming services. Council member Henderson inquired as to how much money the Sanitation Department is losing per year. Council member Henderson stated he does not want to put people out of a job.

Council member McKelvey also thanked everyone for attending and thanked the City for the streaming services. Council member McKelvey stated his residence is under contract set to close on July 27th. Council member McKelvey further stated he will remain in the City.

Council member Williams thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a happy July 4th.

Council member Keck stated no one has contacted her regarding the solar standby fee and asked those concerned to contact her. Council member Keck further stated she is very passionate about alternate energy.

Council member Keck thanked the City for the new website and streaming services. Council member Keck stated her heart goes out to the Sanitation workers and mentioned they are offered educational opportunities. Council member Keck wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

Council member Morgan stated regarding the Sanitation issue, he does not understand why everyone is waiting until the last minute and people need to be at council meetings voicing opinions. Council member Morgan mentioned speeding issues in Brown Bridge Crossing subdivision.

Council member Whatley wished everyone a happy 4th of July and stated he is glad the City is streaming.

Mayor's comments:

- Excited about election and the possibility of having forums and debates
- Wants Covington to be the best city in the state
- Wants candidates to keep race polite, respectful and clean

Mayor Johnston wished everyone a happy 4th and to keep pets at home and inside residences.

16. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Morgan to enter into Executive Session at 7:42 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Whatley to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ronnie Johnston, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk