

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, TELECONFERENCE, JULY 20, 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.

Mayor Horton gave the invocation.

1. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 6, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the minutes from the Called Meeting held on June 24, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of contract with Newton County for lawn maintenance."

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of increasing law enforcement presence in the downtown area."

Motion carried unanimously.

Newton County Office of Economic Development's Senior Project Manager Serra Hall informed everyone of an upcoming virtual job fair on July 30th from 10 AM – 2 PM.

5. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a road closure of Hunter Street from July 9th – July 13th to honor Judge Horace Johnson, *expost facto*.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 6:51 PM concerning a Special Use Permit to operate a personal care home.

6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a Special Use Permit to operate a personal care home to be located at 7125 Puckett Street.

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

A public hearing was held at 7:02 PM concerning a Special Use Permit public hearing for a Special Use Permit for auto sales.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to **deny** a Special Use Permit for auto sales at 5199 Jackson Highway.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd 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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 10.18.030 (OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS) OF CHAPTER 10.18 (MOTORIZED CARTS)** THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve an Agreement with Pyrotechnico which brings total contract price to \$51,000.00, for fireworks event in September.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a contract with Hollywood of the South Tours/Georgia LLC for promotion and expansion of tourism in the City.

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

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement for the provision of Geographical Information Systems.

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

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a contract with ESRI for Small Government Term Enterprise License Agreement to be cost shared three ways with the Newton BOC and the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve a resolution amending the FY2021 Budget to move funds for Tree Preservation from Planning & Zoning to Public Works.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve acceptance of allocation of federal funding assistance for Construct SE Apron Phase II (Site Preparation and Utilities) at the Airport, in the proposed amount of \$166,667.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) Intergovernmental Agreement with changes to Exhibit 'A' with the understanding that the amounts may be reduced by 25% in the event all municipalities do not execute the IGA.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Keck to terminate the contract with Newton County for lawn maintenance.

Motion **died** for the lack of a second.

17. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Floyd to suspend the contract with Newton County for lawn maintenance.

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

18. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the use of part-time employees or contractors to supplement the City's lawn maintenance.

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

Mayor Horton stated he received an email asking for increased law enforcement presence in downtown Covington relating to recent civil unrest currently taking place in our community, state, and nation. Mayor Horton further stated Chief Cotton and Sheriff Brown have talked and have come up with a plan for how they will deal with downtown security concerns in the short-term.

Ms. Monica Darrah discussed the lack of social distancing in the downtown area and restaurant employees not wearing masks.

Council member Williams stated she also has concerns. Council member Williams further stated this country has lost two icons in the Civil Rights movement.

Council member Keck stated wearing a mask shows you care.

Council member Baggett stated she agrees with wearing a mask and informed Ms. Darrah to report the restaurant to the Governor's hotline.

Council member Morgan stated most businesses are requiring patrons to wear a mask. Council member Morgan informed the Council he would like a future discussion of SUPs.

Council member Henderson stated he noticed a lot of young people not wearing masks and expressed concerns regarding personal care homes in the city.

Mayor's comments:

- COVID-19 Hotline number 1 844 442-2681
- Looking to re-establish call-ins to discuss COVID-19
- Both Rev. Vivian and Rep. Lewis's lives were a testament they were consistent in their beliefs

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk