

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, JULY 22, 2019, 6:30 PM.

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

Minister Jane Solomon gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Johnston informed everyone of City Planner Denise Brookins impending departure from the City and wished her well.

Mayor Johnston read a statement regarding the air quality issues due to BD.

Mayor Johnston read a proclamation proclaiming *City of Covington 8/11 Day*.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Williams to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of road closure on August 3, 2019 for the Back to School Bash" to be added to Consent Agenda as 5e.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bill Hoosen discussed several city customers wanting to move to solar and would like the standby fee removed. Mr. Bill Hoosen also discussed Plant Vogtle, climate change, and green energy.

Council member Whatley left the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Ms. Megan Hollingsworth discussed the environment and asked the Council to not penalize those who want to go solar.

Council member Whatley returned to the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Mr. Roderick Sawyer discussed parking issues on Lee Street.

Mr. Steve Martin of 4165 Phedora Street discussed issues with people from a local gym working out near his residence. Mr. Martin also discussed issues with the 3-way stop and unnecessary traffic in the area.

Ms. Thelma Nolley discussed issues with Curbside Sanitation and her can needing to be replaced.

Mayor Johnston thanked Robert Foxworth for all of his hard work raising funds for the fireworks on July 4th.

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

**Blockers Soul Food Restaurant
6129 Hwy 278, NW**

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve request to block parking spaces on July 20, 2019 for unloading office equipment and furniture, *expost facto*.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve request for road closures on July 30, 2019 for filming in the downtown area.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve request for road closures on September 14, 2019 for a community reunion.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a request for road closure on August 3, 2019 for the Back to School Bash.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the low/best bid from Novatime in the amount of \$69,894.00, for Time & Attendance software and hardware.

Novatime	\$69,894.00
Time Clock Plus	\$70,183.00

Council member McKelvey stated he would like the City to look into software providers who integrate better.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve levying the 2019 Millage Rate at the rollback rate of 7.413 mils.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the purchase of transformers from Tri-State Utility Products in the amount of \$106,493.00 for Nisshinbo.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the low bid from TriScapes, Inc. in the amount of \$561,751.13, for the construction of sidewalks on SR 81 in Oxford.

Peach State Construction	\$602,690.00
TriScapes, Inc	\$561,751.13

A grant was awarded to the City of Covington for the project but the City of Oxford will be responsible for the match as the sidewalks are in their jurisdiction.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve an IGA for reimbursement by the City of Oxford to the City of Covington for sidewalk construction invoices in connection with aforementioned grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve an IGA with the Newton County Board of Elections and Registration to conduct Special Elections held in conjunction with general municipal elections.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a resolution calling for a Special Municipal Election to be held on November 5, 2019 dealing with allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces.

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

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the best bid from Strategic Government Resources (SGR) in the amount not to exceed \$26,500.00.
Council's top 5:

*GovHR
Mercer Group
Novak Consulting
Slavin Management
SGR Consulting*

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Whatley 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 9 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 9.12.020 (DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN CITY)** AS A PART OF CHAPTER 9.12 (WEAPONS) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

Mr. Richard Allong discussed a zoning issue with growing microgreens at his residence at 7239 Lakeview Drive.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Gas Director Mike Jewell named Chair of the GMA Gas Section Committee for 2019-2020
- Both of August's meetings will be held at Legion Field
- Will be in new council room at the first meeting in September
- Electric Review Committee initial meeting at the airport at 6 PM on 7/30
- Pace Street Project update
- Sanitation recycling and yard waste pick-up update
- Puckett Street sidewalk project still waiting on easements

Ms. Tabatha Lamadieu discussed the future of the Sanitation Department and wanted to know what will happen if the City doesn't sell. Ms. Lamadieu stated both the police and other departments were underpaid.

Mr. Robert Foxworth stated it takes a lot of people and time to put on Covington's fireworks show. Mr. Foxworth offered to give the council a tour next year.

Council member Henderson stated he received a complaint from a constituent regarding the parking lot at Central Park. Council member Henderson thanked the mayor for addressing the BD issue.

Council member Morgan stated the Council will make the best decision regarding the Sanitation Department. Council member Morgan informed everyone Mr. Jerry Bray passed away recently.

Council member McKelvey asked those with Solar Newton to keep him updated and to follow up. Council member McKelvey explained the reasoning for the "stand-by fee." Council member McKelvey informed everyone he is closing on his residence tomorrow.

Council member Williams stated it is great to have citizens in the audience and involved. Council member Williams further stated the Council is working on the people's behalf.

Mayor Johnston stated he would like to meet with Ms. Lamadieu tomorrow. Mayor Johnston further stated the City will be hosting a community clean-up this coming Saturday. Mayor Johnston informed everyone he does not want the BD issue used for political purposes.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Ronnie Johnston, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk