

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, LEGION FIELD, AUGUST 5, 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.

Grace UMC's Pastor Dr. Robert Crawford gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Johnston opened the discussion regarding alleged air quality issues at BD and facilitated Q & A.

Mayor Johnston announced there will be a Town Hall meeting on August 20, 2019 at 5:30 PM at the Historic Courthouse to discuss the matter further.

Some of those in attendance tonight were:

Governor Kemp's Chief of Staff Tim Fleming, State Senator Brian Strickland, State Senator Hank Johnson, Environmental Attorney Randy Quintrell, EPD Director Rick Dunn, and District Health Director for Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale Health Departments Dr. Audrey Arona.

Attendees representing BD:

Vice President of Environmental, Health and Safety Ellen Kondracki and Senior Operations Manager of the Sterilization facility Ron Pasdon

Attendees with questions/concerns:

Commissioner JC Henderson, Patrick Brennen, Quinton Champion, Nita Thompson, Cindy Jordan, Debby Brannan, Elisa Hunt, Blaine Boslian, Stephanie Grooms, Mary Barotio, Thomas Nave, Ana Christina Macias, Jason McLandry, Joi, Monica Darrah, Clair Brown, Melody Moody, Gene Wells, Eric Threets, Jody Hutchins, Maxine Clark, Jamal Hardeman, Jackie Pike, William Golden, Bertram Brown, Dale Delong, Jack Moody, Tracey Jordan, Gladstone Nicholson, and others.

Mayor Johnston called for a recess at 9:24 PM.

Mayor Johnston called the meeting back to order at 9:35 PM.

1. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 22, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Morgan 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 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.

3. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Williams to approve removing item 7, “Recreation Board update,” from the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Fire Marshal Officer Jonathan Fuqua informed every one of the upcoming Community Risk Reduction Town Hall Meeting scheduled on August 22, 2019 from 6 PM – 8 PM at Legion Field.

4. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for filming in the downtown area July 29, 2019, expost facto.

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

5. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for filming in the downtown area August 1, 2019, expost facto.

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

6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for filming in the downtown area August 7 & 8, 2019.

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

7. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for a downtown permit in September for Lunchtime Concerts on the Square.

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

8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a request for road closure on October 6, 2019 for the Rotary Car Show.

Motion carried with Council members Whatley, Morgan, Keck, McKelvey, and

Henderson voting for. Council member Williams voting against.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **off-premises consumption and ancillary tastings only**:

**Town Square Olive Oil, LLC
1130 Church Street**

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

10. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the low bid from Fortis Engineering Solutions in the amount of \$216,110.46, for the Walnut Street Culvert Replacement project.

A&S Paving	\$304,346.24
Anderson Grading & Pipeline	\$221,958.00
AMCON	\$248,261.04
Site Engineering	\$430,380.50
Fortis Engineering Solutions	\$216,110.46

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the purchase of transformers, (2) two 1500 kVA 277/480 volt units and (2) two 2000 kVA 277/480 volt units, from Tri-State Utility Products in the amount of \$129,518.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Williams to approve proceeding with a request for the abandonment of Turner Lake Rd/Old Clark Street and retain easements for utilities through the area.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 9:49 PM on the proposed relocation of polling location to 2116 Stallings Street.

13. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a resolution on relocation of the Municipal Election Polling Location.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

-Work session tomorrow 6 PM at the airport – sanitation proposals

Council member Henderson thanked everyone for staying and stated he looks forward to finding a solution to the BD situation.

Council member McKelvey stated he agrees with Council member Henderson and stated he knows everyone is concerned.

Council member Williams stated tonight is a sign the community cares and what the council does will be good for everyone as a whole.

Council member Whatley thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Council member Morgan thanked all the representatives from the state and BD from attending tonight.

Council member Keck stated she did not know what ethylene oxide was and we will get to the bottom of this issue. Council member Keck asked everyone not to feed the fear.

Mayor Johnston thanked city staff and the city attorney for all of their efforts.

Mayor Johnston stated he is proud of the community and the city will lead with county regarding this matter.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Ronnie Johnston, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk