

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, SEPTEMBER 3, 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 Hawnethia Williams gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Johnston called for a moment of silence in remembering the year anniversary of the incident involving CPD officer Matt Cooper.

Mayor Johnston introduced Girl Scout Troop 18012, who was in attendance looking for a future project.

The City Manager presented GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Finance Department.

1. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 19, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Whatley 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 12 OF THE SAID CODE OF
ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **ADOPTING CHAPTER
12.06 (WIRELESS FACILITIES AND ANTENNAS IN PUBLIC
RIGHTS OF WAY)** THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING
ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

CPD Sergeant Allen Martin invited everyone to the 36th annual Fuzz Run on Saturday, September 14th at Legion Field. Sgt. Martin stated Officer Matt Cooper will be running the 1 mile fun run.

Ms. Thelma Nolley discussed the Sanitation Department and stated she wants the City to spend monies in the West Ward.

County resident Ms. Joyce Wilson discussed One Newton.

Mr. Steve Horton discussed when the Pace Street project was approved.

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

**Pockets Billiards LLC
6185 Hwy 278 NE**

Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a request for filming in the downtown area September 10-11, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a request for road closure on November 21, 2019 for the annual Lighting of Downtown Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the sole bid from Municipal Emergency Services in the amount of \$41,569.67, to purchase extrication equipment for the Fire Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, 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 12 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **ADOPTING CHAPTER 12.05 (PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY UTILITY ACCOMODATION POLICY)** THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the best bid from Lashley Tractor in the amount of \$79,887.22, to purchase a skid steer tractor w/ attachments for the Street Department.

Lashley Tractor	Option A	\$79,887.22
	Option B	\$77,596.38
Mason Tractor	Option A	\$81,470.00
	Option B	\$79,656.00

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the sole bid from Vermeer Southeast in the amount of \$44,489.00, to purchase a vacuum system trailer for the Street Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the best bid from Latham Home Sanitation to manage the City's residential sanitation needs.

**Advanced Disposal
Curbside Waste Systems
Latham Home Sanitation Company
WastePro**

Council members Whatley, Keck, and McKelvey voting for. Council members Morgan, Williams, and Henderson voting against. Motion carried with Mayor Johnston voting for, breaking 3-3 tie.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the best bids from Latham Home Sanitation to manage the City's 95 gallon container commercial needs and Advanced Disposal for dumpsters and roll-offs.

**Advanced Disposal
Curbside Waste Systems
Latham Home Sanitation Company
Republic Services
WastePro**

Council members Whatley, Keck, and McKelvey voting for. Council members Morgan, Williams, and Henderson voting against. Motion carried with Mayor Johnston voting for, breaking 3-3 tie.

Ms. Judy Hooten discussed issues with the Pace Street Project. Ms. Hooten stated in 2011 the project was initially a "beautification project" and now it is chaos.

Ms. Barbara Morgan also discussed the construction issues.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Williams to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$39,850.00, for the Pace Street project and to have Engineering work with GDOT regarding the issues with the Hooten property.

Council member McKelvey asked that the council be kept updated.

Council member Morgan asked everyone to be patient.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve amendment number one to the City of Covington's Deferred Compensation Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve an agreement with VOYA Financial sponsor election for enrollment and on-going services.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve an agreement with VOYA Financial Agreement for 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for governmental employers.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an agreement with VOYA Financial Agreement for 401(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for governmental employers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Denise Williams wants to see more transparency; wants city to have information out like the county and not have to submit open records requests. Ms. Williams asked Council member McKelvey his legal address.

Council member McKelvey stated his address is 5259 David Circle.

Mr. John McCarthy mentioned issues with bulk waste not being picked up. Mr. McCarthy asked if the new company was going to assist the disabled with garbage pick-up. Mr. McCarthy inquired as to whether the Pace Street project was properly advertised.

A Bouquet by Betty owner Alicia Reynolds stated she was concerned about accidents during the Pace Street construction and stated there were no posted speed limit signs.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Work session scheduled for 9/11 at 5:30 Pm
- 1 year anniversary of the incident involving CPD officer Matt Cooper; please continue to pray for Matt and his family

Council member Whatley stated he hopes the City takes the Pace Street construction concerns seriously.

Council member Morgan stated everything said to the council is important and the council considers everything when voting. Council member Morgan stated we need to work together for the best of the City.

Council member Keck thanked the City for the new council chambers. Council member Keck stated she has been out taking pictures of Pace Street and asking questions. Council member Keck further stated the decision regarding Sanitation was not taken lightly but believes it is best for the City.

Council member Williams stated Covington is blessed and some major decisions were made tonight. Council member Williams further stated she trusts the Public Works Director will do the best of his ability.

Council member McKelvey stated the decision regarding Sanitation was not taken lightly but it was the right thing to do. Council member McKelvey further stated he is looking forward to the election.

Council member Henderson apologized about the Pace Street issues and was uncertain about the price of Sanitation bids.

Mayor Johnston gave an ethylene oxide update and stated it will not be announced when the testing will commence. Mayor Johnston informed everyone the Pace Street project has been in the works since 2011 and the City is not looking to destroy businesses. Mayor Johnston stated earlier he was accused of ignoring the west side, which is not true. Mayor Johnston further stated he hopes the change order will help the Pace Street project. Mayor Johnston stated the Sanitation Department has been supplemented for many years and the City is trying to figure out a solution for better services. Mayor Johnston further stated let's keep working together and to be patient.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Ronnie Johnston, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk