

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, OCTOBER 7, 2019, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Ronnie Johnston presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Kenneth Morgan, Council members: 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 was absent.

Council member Kenneth Morgan gave the invocation.

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

1. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on September 16, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Thelma Starr Nolley discussed why some people can get away with not paying taxes and not others. Ms. Nolley asked the City Attorney if a vehicle with a political sign can be parked on city property.

The City Attorney stated yes, it is considered Freedom of Speech except during early voting and on Election Day, then it has to be at least 150 feet away from the polling location.

Ms. Nolley also discussed monies not being spent on the west side of the city.

2. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for filming in the downtown area October 2-4, 2019, expost facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for filming in the downtown area October 7-11, 14-17, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for filming in the downtown area October 15-21, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for road closures in Covington Place on Halloween.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for road closure in the downtown area for the Scare on the Square.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for filming in the downtown area November 4-6, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve road closures in the downtown area on December 7, 2019 for the Lion’s Club Christmas Parade.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Little Phillies	9148 Highway 278
Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse	1065 Access Road

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for **off-premises consumption** only for:

Pure Food Mart	4120 Washington Street
Walmart # 459	10300 Industrial Blvd NE

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a license for a **Beer and/or Wine Retail Amenity** only for:

Ridge Avenue and Company	1120 Monticello Street
---------------------------------	-------------------------------

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a resolution for Highway 278 CID TIP solicitation for 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a resolution supporting *Locally – Established Building Design Standards for Residential Dwellings*.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 14. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the low bid from Williams in the amount of \$612,901.68, to purchase a 2000 GPM Pumper apparatus for the fire department.

Ten-8	\$625,000.00
Williams	\$612,901.68*

*the City was able to negotiate with Williams to get the price to \$574,576.21.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to authorize the City to submit an application for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for Recreational Trails Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00, with a match of \$200,000 from the City.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 16. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the final contract with Latham Home Sanitation, Inc., for residential and small commercial sanitation services.

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

- 17. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member McKelvey to approve the final contract with Advanced Disposal Services Macon, LLC, for commercial container solid waste collection services.

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

- 18. Motion made by Council member McKelvey, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington, with the addition of a tier from 9kW to 10kW:

“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 13 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 13.08.380 (RIDERS AND ADJUSTMENTS)** OF CHAPTER 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jason McCarthy asked for an update on the Ethylene Oxide testing. Mr. McCarthy stated BD put out a press release and he does not think the company they used for testing is as good as Montrose. Mr. McCarthy requested advance notice when the City will update the public.

Ms. Cindy Jordan stated Covington needs 24/7 monitoring system.

Another audience member stated she and Council member Morgan toured BD and stated the company was very abrasive to them.

Comments from the City Manager:

- Electric projects update
- Executive Session scheduled tomorrow at 5:30 PM to discuss the City Manager Search
- Executive Session scheduled for Wednesday at 10 AM to discuss the City Manager Search

Council member Morgan thanked everyone for all of the prayers and support in his wife's recent loss of two sisters. Council member Morgan suggested putting together a committee to rectify the Ethylene Oxide issue and not to point fingers. Council member Morgan suggested an ordinance change making it mandatory adding speed humps to new subdivisions.

Council member Keck congratulated Mrs. Knight on becoming a grandmother. Council member Keck stated she wants to see third-party independent monitoring for Ethylene Oxide.

Council member McKelvey asked to see numbers regarding solar at the next work session before the next meeting.

Mayor's comments:

- Testing company Montrose to give update at the 10/21 council meeting
- Has approached BD about reimbursing the City for the testing due to a leak so another test can be done

Mayor Johnston stated last week his mother had a stroke and to please keep her in everyone's prayers.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Ronnie Johnston, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk