

CALLED MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM AND BY TELECONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 1, 2022, 12 NOON.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Council members: Don Floyd, Charika Davis, Susie Keck, and Anthony Henderson. City Manager Scott Andrews, Assistant City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. Council member Morgan was in attendance by teleconference and Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett was absent.

Mayor Horton gave the invocation.

Mayor Horton 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 Floyd to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of NEGRC letter/cost of assisting with the CHIP grant."

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Morgan was in the meeting by teleconference at 12:15 PM.

2. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a proposed Covington Digital Internet Business Plan as discussed, and creation of associated business enterprise fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the **first** reading to repeal ordinance **13.04.030 Utilities committees, appointments.**

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a resolution amending the 2021-2022 budget to add a Deputy Clerk position.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Davis to approve a vaccination incentive allowance as discussed by staff.
6. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the previous motion to allow for a medical leave vaccination incentive policy as discussed by staff.
7. Motion made by Council member Davis seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the previous motion to allow for a medical leave vaccination incentive policy as discussed by staff based on current CDC guidelines.

Council member Morgan left the meeting at 1:02 PM.

Audience member Denise Williams inquired as to whether the City will ARPA funds for the incentive.

The City Manager stated no.

Ms. Williams recommended using ARPA Funds as that is what the funds are there for.

Council members Davis and Henderson voting for. Council members Keck and Floyd voting against. Motion carried with Mayor Horton voting for, breaking 3 – 3 tie.

Mayor Horton called for a break at 1:28 PM.

Mayor Horton called the meeting back to order at 1:37 PM.

Mayor Horton informed everyone he was not voting to incentivize the unvaccinated.

8. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to revisit the previous vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Keck to approve creating a medical leave policy for vaccinated employees based on CDC guidelines.

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Davis, and Floyd voting for. Council member Henderson voting against.

Mayor and Council acknowledged receipt of information regarding Elected Officials salaries.

Council member Floyd inquired for information on providing a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees.

10. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Henderson to authorize the City Attorney to file/submit notification of the City's intention to participate in the National Opioids Settlement.

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Davis, and Henderson voting for. Council member Floyd voting against.

11. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a proposal from Northeast Georgia Regional Commission in the approximate amount of \$20,000.00 for assisting with the CHIP grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Thelma Starr-Nolley asked if the Deputy Clerk job would be posted in-house only.

The City Manager stated it would be posted both in-house and outside.

Council member Floyd informed everyone the Covington lost another citizen, Mr. T.K. Adams. Council member Floyd asked everyone to keep Mrs. Adams in their prayers.

Council member Charika Davis stated she and Council member Keck toured the homeless shelter last week and said it has changed her perception.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk