

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM AND BY TELECONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 21, 2022, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Council members: Kenneth Morgan, Susie Keck, Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis and Don T. Floyd, City Manager Scott Andrews, Assistant City Manager John King City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. 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.

Georgia Municipal Association's Sherri Bailey presented the City of Covington with the 2022 Visionary City Award.

1. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to remove item 4 from the agenda, "Re-discussion of public hearing for a text amendment to add Sec. 5.12.050 E – Breweries, brewpubs, & distilleries."

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton stated Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett was out on medical leave.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the minutes from the Called Meeting held on February 1, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 7, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Morgan to allow current employees decide which of the two options is best

for his/her family (retroactive for vaccinations) with regards to a City COVID incentive benefit.

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

5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to table the re-discussion of a 60 day moratorium until all council members can be in attendance.

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

6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of Tree City application submittal, ex post facto."

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of purchase of meter reading equipment from sole source provider."

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of change/correction to GEFA Loan application."

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of revised Appendix D to the Hwy 278 CID Project Framework Agreement (PFA)."

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to table the discussion of HUBzone Training until the March 7th meeting to allow the Atlanta Black Chamber to be in attendance and present.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:15 PM concerning a text amendment adding Short Term Rentals.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Covington adding Short Term Rentals, with changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve an agreement with Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. for Building Department Services including building inspection and building plan review.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve Professional Services Agreement for Southeastern Gas Engineering to perform work related to the Stanton Springs North site.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the sole bid from VON Corporation in the amount of \$26,564.51, to purchase an ARC Reflection Radar/Thumper bid for the Electric Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve City of Covington Open Records Designees as stated in O.C.G.A. §50-18-71(b)(1)(B):

For CPD records – Office Coordinator
For 911 – Administrative Assistant

All other City records – City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the Retirement Review Committee members:

Committee Chairman/City Manager	Scott Andrews	standing
Committee Member/Finance Director	Randy Smith	standing
Committee Member/HR Director	Paul Dailey	standing
Committee Member/Council	Susie Keck	
Committee Member/Council	Charika Davis	
Committee Member/Retiree	Willie Davis	3 year term
Committee Member/Employee	Denise Stiles	3 year term

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a Tree City application submittal, expost facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the sole source bid from Anixter in the amount of \$69,106.00 for the purchase of meter reading equipment.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a change/correction to page 4 of the GEFA Loan application for the Eastside Pump Station.

Motion carried unanimously.

20. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a revised Appendix D to the Hwy 278 CID Project Framework Agreement (PFA).

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

- ARPA/SPLOST Project timeline
- Work session on March 7th to discuss GICH
- Square Construction Project

Council member Morgan stated the West Ward elected officials plan to meet with constituents starting the first Saturday in April in Nelson Heights to talk about safety issues and take back the community neighborhood by neighborhood.

Council member Davis stated she is excited about getting out into the community to hear ideas and suggestions. Council member Davis informed everyone about the upcoming Black Heritage parade on February 26 at 10 AM from New Hope Baptist Church to the square.

Council member Henderson inquired about the recent work session discussing ARPA monies.

The City Manager stated he would follow up with the auditors and report back.

Council member Floyd stated last Sunday he attended the Covington Police Department Awards Ceremony and commended Chief Cotton and staff for a great event.

Mayor thanked the Council for their hard work and stated he is proud to live in Covington.

21. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter into Executive Session at 8:18 PM for the purpose of discussing land opportunities.

Motion carried unanimously.

22. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk