

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM AND BY TELECONFERENCE, MARCH 7, 2022, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-tem Fleeta Baggett, Council members: Kenneth Morgan, Susie Keck, Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis and Don T. Floyd, Assistant City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. City Manager Scott Andrews 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 Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 21, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton welcomed Mayor Pro-tem Baggett back.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to table the public hearing for a text amendment to add Sec. 5.12.050 E – Breweries, brewpubs, & distilleries.

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

3. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck 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 13 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **REPEALING SECTION 13.04.030 (UTILITIES COMMITTEES,**

APPOINTMENT) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Henderson, 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 PROVISIONS OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE **OF AMENDING SECTION 16.08.010 (DEFINITIONS), AMENDING SECTION 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) AND ADOPTING SECTION 16.20.635 (SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS);** TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

Mr. Preston Socha discussed his proposed development to be located on Highway 278 next to CVS Pharmacy. Mr. Socha stated Covington is a great community and wants to meet with council individually to discuss the project further.

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

Pockets Billiards

6185 Hwy 278

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve proceeding forward with working with the Atlanta Black Chamber for HUBzone training.

Council members Morgan, Davis, and Henderson voting for. Council members Keck, Baggett, and Floyd voting against. Motion **denied** with Mayor Horton voting against, breaking 3-3 tie.

7. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an invoice payable to Anderson Grading and Pipeline, LLC in the amount of \$74,824.00, for emergency sewer repairs on Alcovy Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the low bid from Anderson Grading and Pipeline, LLC in the amount of \$85,940.00, to repair of a sanitary sewer near Stalvey's.

Anderson Grading and Pipeline, LLC	\$85,940.00
GS Construction, Inc.	\$384,750.00

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a Fourth Amendment to Structure Lease Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the Assistant City Manager:

- City lost employee Jeremy Roden this past weekend
- ARPA wish list
- Bird Scooter has approached the City
- Downtown traffic/parking study

Council member Floyd stated the City lost another retiree, Ray Daniel and to please keep the family in your prayers. Council member Floyd further stated he has been hearing gunfire daily near his residence.

Covington Police Chief Stacey Cotton stated a second arrest was made regarding the recent drive-by shootings and they are ramping up patrol in the area.

Council member Floyd suggested looking at getting another pension plan to retain employees and inquired about bidding out the health insurance. Council member Floyd stated the Milestones out front at city hall needs some names added and some corrected. Council member Floyd further stated the Library is in need of more funding.

Audience member Horace Freeman stated Nelson Heights has two communities and asked what is being done about the shootings.

Council member Henderson stated Mr. Freeman informed him of the history of both communities in Nelson Heights. Council member Henderson further stated something needs to be done regarding the shootings.

Council member Davis stated she had a constituent contact her about all of the recent shootings. Council member Davis informed everyone the West Ward council members will be out in the community on April 2nd. Council member Davis mentioned a left turn issue at Covington Crossing and constituents requesting a Drug Hotline to be able to contact. Council member Davis stated employees could benefit from Diversity & Inclusion training. Council member Davis mentioned tomorrow is International Women's Day and March is Deaf History Month.

Council member Baggett stated she is glad to be back and feels good. Council member Baggett further stated the Takin' Back Our West Ward Community flyer was not inclusive of the East Ward and gun violence needs to be tracked city wide.

Council member Keck stated Covington is seeing a lot of crime and it is going to take a lot money to fix the problem. Council member Keck further stated the City recently offered Diversity & Inclusion training and she was the only council member to attend. Council member Keck stated thank goodness it is spring.

Council member Morgan stated there are major problems in the City and the first West Ward event is on April 2nd. Council member Morgan further stated police precincts are needed in neighborhoods. Council member Morgan wants to see the neighborhood out rallying behind Council on April 2nd.

Mayor Comments:

- Using ARPA funds to combat gun violence
- Public needs to be a unified body
- inflation if rampant

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk