

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, MAY 2, 2022, 6:30 PM.

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

Pastor Willie Davis of Murray Memorial CME Church gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Horton presented a Proclamation acknowledging May as Older Americans Month.

Mayor Horton presented a Proclamation acknowledging the 53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 18, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton vetoed motion #3 from the April 18th Regular Council meeting concerning the **final** reading of a text amendment adopting SECTION 16.20.135 (BREWERIES, BREWPUBS AND DISTILLERIES) with the change - food sales must equal 20% of by the drink sales excluding Distilleries with tastings & tours only.

2. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the **final** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington, with the change – 50% of all sales in all establishments must be attributed to food sales:

“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 TITLES 5 AND 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTIONS 5.12.030 (DEFINITIONS) AND 5.12.050 (LOCATION) OF CHAPTER 5.12 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES),**

AMENDING SECTION 16.08.010 (DEFINITIONS) OF CHAPTER 16.08 (INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS), AND ADOPTING SECTION 16.20.135 (BREWERIES, BREWPUBS AND DISTILLERIES) TO CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve a request for a residential solid waste rate increase of approximately 10% from Latham Home Sanitation Co., Inc., with the City absorbing the costs.

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

5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a request for a commercial solid waste rate increase of approximately 5% from Advanced Disposal/Waste Management with the City absorbing the costs.

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

6. 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) OF CHAPTER 16.08 (INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS), AMENDING SECTION 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) OF CHAPTER 16.16 (STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS), AND **ADOPTING SECTION 16.20.345 (HOMELESS SHELTER)** TO CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

7. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to amend the agenda to remove item #10, "Discussion of Eastside Sanitary Sewer Basin Improvements –Easement Acquisition."

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to amend to add, "Discussion of the placement of two sidewalk pavers, 1) in honor of Ms. Louise Adams 41 years of service to the Covington Housing Authority Board and 2) honoring the City's Bicentennial."

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Morgan seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add, "Discussion of City specialty insurance renewal with Corvus."

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Floyd seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda to add, "Enter into Executive Session to discuss land opportunities and personnel."

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the sole bid from RJDE, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for the Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehab/Replacement project.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the nominees for District 5 Officers for 2022-2023:

President John Howard, Mayor, City of Monroe

First Vice President David Keener, Mayor, City of Social Circle

Second Vice President Paul Walton, Mayor, Hull

Third Vice President Eric Joyce, Councilmember, Madison

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve amending Human Resources Policy 304 – *City Holidays* to include Juneteenth - June 19th.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the placement of two sidewalk pavers, 1) in honor of Ms. Louise Adams 41 years of service to the Covington Housing Authority Board and 2) honoring the City's Bicentennial."

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the City's specialty insurance renewal with Corvus in the amount of \$40,919.84, option 2.

Motion carried unanimously.

Former Council member Hawnethia Williams voiced concerns of unruly, loud, disruptive, and disrespectful behavior occurring on the corner of Lee and Ivy Streets. She stated she is thankful for Harristown, but there are always people coming into the neighborhood that do not live there. She stated she is thankful for the CPD for responding to calls which has reduced the amount of disruptive behavior, but there is one house in particular at Lee and Ivy Streets that is like a nightclub with illegal activity such as gambling. Ms. Williams further stated there are many seniors in the community who are disturbed and people are parking on both sides of the street which is very dangerous.

Ms. Thelma Nolley asked if sanitation is checking up on all complaints in all neighborhoods and does not like that there are two sets of rules for voicing complaints. Ms. Nolley stated one of the employees used a racial slur from the trash service.

Comments from the Assistant City Manager:

-Community Clean-up of Turner Street, Herring Street, and the Mill Village

Council member Floyd inquired if the sidewalk around Scoops is the City's responsibility to clean because it looks terrible.

Council member Baggett stated the City cleans the sidewalks twice a year and she has asked the owner to wash the sidewalks down every night at closing but they refused.

Mayor Horton stated he would have staff check into.

Council member Baggett stated her voice is back.

Council member Morgan stated with regards to Ms. Nolley's issue he wants a conversation with Latham to discuss further to avoid future incidents. Council member Morgan suggested NO PARKING signage on both sides of the street to address Ms. Williams' issues. Council member Morgan stated a temporary police precinct is needed in the Nelson Heights Community and is vital to community relationships. Council member Morgan stated there needs to be a text amendment that includes speed humps in new neighborhoods at the developer's expense.

It was the consensus of the Council to initiate the process of a text amendment to mandate speed humps in new developments.

Mayor Horton stated the customers are the City's customers and not the contractor's customers.

Council member Keck stated Latham is trying to do everything in their power to take care of any issues. Council member Keck announced early voting has started. Council member Keck stated Newton Trails' fundraising event is May 14th.

Mayor's comments:

-Letter from Mr. Doug Doster for City's support of the homeless shelter
-Charter amendment to handle an absence in Mayor/Council position

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter into Executive Session at 7:46 PM for the purpose of discussing discuss land opportunities and personnel matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Amanda Huggins, Deputy Clerk