

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, FEBRUARY 6, 2023, 6:30 PM.

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

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

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 17, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Frank Turner Jr. entered meeting at 6:34 PM.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Baggett to table the discussion of Procurement Policy until the March 6, 2023 Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson 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 16.28.050 (SIDEWALKS)**; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

4. 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 **AMENDING SECTION 13.08.360 (SECURITY LEASED LIGHTING SERVICE) OF CHAPTER 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM) THEREOF**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Horton stated Mrs. Shirley Smith of Repairers of the Breach contacted him with concerns about the homeless population in the City and was to come before Council. Mrs. Smith was not in attendance. Mayor Horton questioned Council on scheduling a meeting to discuss possible solutions to address the growing homeless population in the City. Council member Keck stated homelessness is a terrible problem and thinks community churches should be involved. Council member Keck would like to discuss possible solutions at the Council Strategic Planning meeting February 22, 2023 with GMA. Special Projects Coordinator for the City Manager’s Office Bailey Dickinson stated there is an interfaith collaborative working with Repairers of the Breach currently, and recommends a standing yearly project to include in the budget and a dedicated staff member representative. Council member Davis asked for a report on the Warming Shelter. City Manager Tres Thomas stated he emailed receipts received from the County regarding the Warming Shelter to Council.

It was the consensus of the Council to have Mr. Dickinson review options by checking with other municipalities on how they address homelessness and discuss findings at the Strategic Planning meeting.

Ms. Thelma Nolley stated she has not received any response from the City in regards to the trash service driver speeding. Ms. Nolley questioned who was handling the former engineering responsibilities of City Manager Tres Thomas. Mr. Thomas explained consultants currently assist with the City’s engineering needs. Ms. Nolley stated citizens of Covington want to know why there are no black people represented at Council meetings by staff at the tables. Council member Baggett suggested Ms. Nolley run for a vacant Council seat this year.

Mr. Michael D. Jamison stated he is unable to produce his Juneteenth show as planned due to the noise restrictions in the Legion Field contract, and needs the City to relax some of the restrictions in the contract in order for his event to be successful. Council members Keck and Baggett stated unfortunately allowing a noise level increase is not possible due to the location of the venue to residential homes, the Council voted to approve the Legion Field contract, and the Council represents the community. Council member Davis suggested Mr. Jamison use another venue. Council member Morgan stated he would like more understanding of situation. Mayor Horton stated the Legion Field contract can be discussed at Strategic Planning meeting with GMA.

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

Penalties Bar & Grill 10205 Access Rd, Ste A

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:20 PM concerning a SUP and rezoning of 34.67 acres on Turner Lake Road to Town Center Residential (TCR), and allowing a multi-family development over 5 acres. Planning and Zoning Director Marc Beechuk gave a detailed report from staff and Planning Commission. Safety, schools, and infrastructure were concerns mentioned by Mr. Beechuk from the report. Mr. Kyle Brock with Crescent Communities located at 3340 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA was present to speak in favor. Mr. Jim Bryan of 4107 Hunt Street, Mr. Brion Frix of 130 Cornish Trace Drive, and Mrs. Mary Horton were present to speak against the development. Mrs. Callie Carter questioned fencing and security around the proposed 300-unit apartment development. Mayor Horton suggested tabling discussion until more information is received from City staff and engineering consultant.

6. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve SUP and rezoning of 34.67 acres on Turner Lake Road to Town Center Residential (TCR) and allow a multi-family development over 5 acres with conditions being:

- Developers must create a paved road and have it approved by the Fire Marshall for use of an emergency access only at the Turner Lake Road ingress/egress.
- Pitch roofs are required.

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

7. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a **first** 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 5 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 5.44.030 (LICENSE REQUIRED) OF CHAPTER 5.44 (MOBILE FOOD VENDORS) THERETO**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to adopt by resolution approving the City of Covington Comprehensive Plan update for 2023, as approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the best bid from Nexus Fiber Consulting Services, LLC for fiber consulting services.

Nexus Fiber Consulting Services, LLC

Network Operations Consulting	\$145/HR
Business Process Planning	\$145/HR
IP Planning	\$145/HR
Network Design/Equipment Selection	\$145/HR
Fiber Design w/GIS (GPON and Active Ethernet)	\$145/HR
Fiber Route Engineering	\$145/HR
Construction Drawings	\$145/HR
Permit Application	\$145/HR

RTC

Network Operations Consulting	\$150/HR, Advanced *\$225/HR
Business Process Planning	\$150/HR
IP Planning	\$150/HR

Network Design/Equipment Selection	\$150/HR
Fiber Design w/GIS (GPON and Active Ethernet)	\$150/HR
Fiber Route Engineering	\$125/HR
Construction Drawings	\$125/HR
Permit Application	\$95/HR

Motion carried unanimously.

- Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the lowest bid from Dusty Greer Roofing amounting to \$205,900.00 for the Covington Police Department roof replacement, contingent on review of contract by City Attorney.

Porter Roofing Contractors	\$414,854.00
Bone Dry Roofing	\$398,118.00
Rycars Construction, LLC	\$358,450.00
GMC Blue Services, Inc.	\$338,000.00
ARS	\$325,000.00
Integrated Building Services	\$321,000.00
Skyline Construction	\$318,640.00
ACR Commercial Roofing	\$291,798.00
Centimark Roofing	\$289,969.00
Georgia Veterans Roofing Contractors	\$261,984.73
Georgia Unlimited Roofing	\$259,292.00
Dusty Greer Roofing	\$205,900.00

Motion carried unanimously.

- Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the renewal of Annual Consultant Services Agreements for the Engineering Department with Barge Design Solutions, Inc., Carter & Sloope, Inc., Constantine Engineering, Inc., Georgia Water and Environmental Services (GWES), Jacobs Inc., and Precision Planning, Inc.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brion Frix stated his appreciation for all of the effort and resources that went into the City Comprehensive Plan and implored Council to abide by it when making plans for the community.

12. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve lowest bid from Ardurra regarding design work for the Alcovy Circle Water Main Replacement amounting to \$66,430.00.

Ardurra	\$66,430.00
Carter & Sloope	\$174,100.00
GWES	\$126,200.00
Precision Planning	\$70,170.00

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Keck to approve best bid from Ardurra regarding design work for the Dinah Pace Water Main Replacement amounting to \$63,500.00.

Ardurra	\$63,500.00
Carter & Sloope	\$138,100.00
GWES	\$118,180.00
Precision Planning	\$63,120.00

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson, to approve acceptance of an agreement with GDOT for grant funding totaling \$185,482.67 and a City match of \$13,154.46, along with budget amendment resolution, for the Taxiway A2 Improvement Project. The total project consists of \$153,589.90 for construction costs and \$45,047.23 of FAA costs amounting to \$198,637.13. The budget amendment resolution increases Federal grants account by \$153,502.83, State grants account by \$31,979.84, Fuel Sales account by \$13,154.46, and Infrastructure Expenses account by \$198,637.13.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve lowest bid from Precision Approach, LLC amounting to \$153,589.00 for construction of the Taxiway A2 Improvement Project.

Precision Approach, LLC	\$153,589.00
Pittman Construction Company	\$328,333.65

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve acceptance and participation of an Intergovernmental Contract with the Newton County Board of Commissioners and Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority regarding the Management of the Drinking Water Projects to Support Increased Populations Award for the Regional Infrastructure Resiliency Initiative for Newton County, GA in the amount of \$212,783,781.75.

Awarded amounts:

Newton County BOC	\$73,260,096.00
City of Covington	\$50,590,232.90 w/ match of \$1,688,000.00
Newton County WSA	\$88,933,452.85

Motion carried unanimously.

The project reimbursements supported by this grant in the City of Covington are the Eastside Basin Improvement Project- Alcovy River Extension Project and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.

17. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the sole bid from JDS, Inc. for the Eastside Sewer Improvements, with Contract A amounting to \$8,804,200.00 and Contract B amounting to \$30,854,910.00 totaling \$39,659,110.00, and project being funded by the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Drinking Water Projects to Support Increased Populations Award.

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the Service Delivery Strategy update and territory swap with the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to approve the best bid from VBH amounting to \$22,982.00, for administration of the Watershed Protection Plan biomonitoring and annual reporting as requested by the Water Reclamation Division. Half of the amount shall be paid from the 2022-2023 budget and the remaining half shall be paid from the 2023-2024 budget.

Other bidders included Ardurra, GMC, GWES, INTSE, Nutter, and Rindt.

Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy City Manager John King read a resolution regarding Civility.

19. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve a resolution pledging to practice and promote Civility in Covington, as recommended by GMA.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

- February 5, 2023 Award Ceremony held at the Newton Career Academy for the Covington Police Department, Police Chief Stacey Cotton was presented a proclamation recognizing his 25 years of service as Police Chief with the Covington Police Department
- Merchant's Meeting- Consensus from Council is to schedule for a day in March 2023 to be determined
- Bicentennial Time Capsule Ceremony to be rescheduled from the originally scheduled date of January 31, 2023 due to poor weather conditions, date to be determined

Deputy City Manager John King congratulated Police Chief Stacy Cotton for 25 years of service as Covington's Police Chief.

Council member Keck congratulated Police Chief Stacey Cotton and stated the City is blessed to have him. Council member Keck stated she loves this community, votes for what she thinks is best for Covington, and asked that the community vote for civility along with Council. Council member Keck asked citizens to meet with her to discuss matters instead of using Facebook.

Mayor Horton stated the Community Development Director Ken Malcom is working on ongoing requests for proposals regarding community events such as the Thanksgiving meal giveaway, Juneteenth parade, and 4th of July

fireworks/celebration. Mayor Horton further stated the Boards and Committees Banquet is scheduled for March 23, 2023 at Legion Field from 6-8 PM, and an Executive Session will be needed soon to discuss a future land acquisition in the process of being resolved.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk