

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, JUNE 5, 2023, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-tem Anthony Henderson, Council members: Susie Keck, Charika Davis, Fleeta Baggett, 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, and explained the process for public comments, including filling out public comment cards and three-minute time limit for each person.

1. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 15, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve **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 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.08.010 (DEFINITIONS) OF CHAPTER 16.08 (INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS), SECTION 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) OF CHAPTER 16.16 (STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS), AND SECTION 16.20.020 (ACCESSORY USES) OF CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS) AND ADOPTING SECTION 16.20.260 (ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS) AT CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”**

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve adding “Discussion of a letter of support for A Child’s Voice

Child Advocacy Center, Inc. regarding their pursuing of grant funds through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program.” to the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the designation of Council member Anthony Henderson as 2023 GMA Convention Voting Delegate, to replace prior designation of City Manager Tres Thomas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Electric Director Joel Smith was present to discuss a proposed EV fast charging tariff and stated ECG recommends a charge rate of \$0.35/kWh. City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. stated future rate changes require an ordinance amendment, or creation of a formula for a floating benchmark in the ordinance is possible.

5. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the **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 13 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **ADOPTING SECTION 13.08.340 (ELECTRIC VEHICLE FAST CHARGING TARIFF) OF CHAPTER 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM) THEREOF**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to approve Electric Director Joel Smith as voting delegate and City Manager Tres Thomas as alternate voting delegate on the MEAG Power Election Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the Second Amendment for the Solar Power Purchase Contract (PPC) between the City of Covington and MEAG.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the right of way contract renewal with Burford Trees, LLC through June 30, 2024, including a 6.5% increase amounting to \$6,195.11 per linear mile and an annual increase total of \$41,592.10, as requested by Burford Trees, LLC.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Baggett, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the lowest bid from Global Rental Co. regarding a new bucket truck for the Electric Department amounting to \$193,605.00.

Terex	\$253,347.00	2024/2025 model year Est. delivery date Q2-2025
Altec	\$212,858.00	2026 model year Est. delivery date 27 months ARO
Global Rental Co.	\$193,605.00	Altec- F-550 2023 model year Est. delivery date Sept. 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the CSX Facility Encroachment Agreement permitting work over the trestle bridge on Alcovy Road, along with a \$5,100.00 encroachment fee.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Morgan to approve the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan modification Amendment Three.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Baggett to approve the lowest bid from Hi Tech regarding the hiring of a fiber

construction Crew for construction and installation to provide internet service to the Ashford Park subdivision amounting to \$257,416.61.

Hi Tech	Labor = \$183,997.60 Materials = \$73,419.61	\$257,416.61
Comtrac Services	Labor = \$222,058.50 Materials = \$63,221.93	\$285,280.43
Cable East	Labor = \$199,254.44 Materials = \$105,995.22	\$305,249.66
Hyper Networks (NC)	Labor = \$220,237.81 Materials = \$96,128.20	\$316,366.00

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the Mayor’s signature of the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the 2023-2027 permit cycle, ex post facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion ensued regarding the Mayor and Council’s annual salary, and a proposed increase. Council member Keck stated the last salary increase for Mayor and Council occurred in the year 2016, and now is a good time to for the increases. Council member Keck stated the amount of growth and meetings occurring, along with the amount of time spent in communicating with everyone justifies the request. City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. stated if approved, the salary increases will not take effect until the swearing in of new Council next year, by Georgia state law. Mayor Horton stated there is a public advertising process required as well by the Clerk’s office in order to comply. Council member Floyd stated budget work sessions recently discussed City department heads cutting their budgets 10%, and reducing travel and training costs 25%. Council member Floyd stated a cost of living adjustment is needed for City retirees and this is poor timing. Council member Baggett stated she agrees with Council member Floyd, the benefit package given to Mayor and Council factor in to compensation, and being an elected official is a choice to serve as public servants. Council member Morgan stated he appreciates Council member Keck for the initiative to raise salaries, agrees retirees need a cost of living adjustment, and finding people to run for the positions is difficult.

14. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a **first** reading of and ordinance regarding an increase of annual salary for Council members to \$12,000.00 from \$9,000.00 and to \$24,000.00 from \$12,000.00 for the Mayor, in accordance with State Law.

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

15. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck, to approve the Truist Master Resolution for Deposit Account, with an addendum requiring two signatures of approval instead of one signature of approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Floyd, seconded by Council member Davis to approve a letter of support for A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center, Inc. regarding pursuit of grant funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the City Manager:

-Alcovy Rd closing in front of Fibervision to begin June 20, 2023 in the evening for approximately three days to repair railroad tracks, public safety will have a special entry and exit.

-Deputy City Manager John King introduced new Planning and Zoning Director Mr. Ralph Moore.

Council member Floyd stated he will not seek re-election for his seat on Council in the upcoming November election.

Council member Davis stated she received calls from citizens residing on Hendricks Circle asking why trash is to be place on Ivy St for pick-up and when paving will occur on Hendricks Circle.

Deputy City Manager John King stated he is waiting on a response regarding Hendricks Circle trash pick-up and a paving timeline for Hendricks Circle.

Council member Morgan thanked Council for accomplishments and wanted to address a cost of living increase for retirees before Council member Floyd's term ends.

Council member Keck stated a cost of living increase discussion occurred in the Retirement Committee and the City cannot afford it. Council member Keck suggested conferring with Human Resources for a full explanation.

Mayor Horton thanked Council and City staff for all the work done during the budget work sessions last week.

17. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Davis to enter into Executive Session at 7:25 PM for the purpose of discussing land.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Henderson left at 7:50 PM and returned at 7:58 PM.

18. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to enter into Regular Session at 7:52 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend agenda to add AA2, "Discussion of various sewer easements between the City of Covington and land owners, as discussed, for the Eastside Sewer Line Project."

Motion carried unanimously.

20. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend agenda to approve the following Eastside Sewer Line Easement purchases and adjustments:

- James Righetti regarding wording adjustments only for parcel number C082006
- LPC Covington, LP regarding wording adjustments only for parcel numbers C081027W and C099044
- EMP Enterprises, LLP and Nathan Pulliam for \$50,000.00 regarding parcel number 0097036
- Pactiv Corporation for \$71,000.00 regarding parcel number C081027K

Motion carried unanimously.

21. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Keck to amend agenda to add AA3, "Discussion of contract amendments with Newton

Land Investments regarding 11 acres and 3.6 acres to extend closing date to February 15, 2024 and to remove construction requirement.”

Motion carried unanimously.

22. Motion made by Council member Morgan, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve two contract amendments with Newton Land Investments, one regarding 11 acres and one regarding 3.6 acres, to extend closing date on both to February 15, 2024, and to remove construction requirement from the contract regarding 11 acres.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk