

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,  
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, JUNE 3, 2024, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Fleeta Baggett presided with Council members: Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis, Kimberly Johnson, Travis Moore, and Jared Rutberg, 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 Pro-tem Susie Keck joined the meeting via teleconference with two-way video and audio.

Ms. Rosie Crawford gave the invocation.

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

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1. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 20, 2024, with correction to the spelling of "STEM" to "STEAM" in comments made by Council member Rutberg.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Rutberg 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF CHAPTER 8.04 (GARBAGE, YARD TRIMMINGS AND WEEDS) OF TITLE 8 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES (HEALTH AND SAFETY) FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 8.04.090 (GARBAGE COLLECTION – COLLECTION POLICIES, COLLECTION FEES AND FRANCHISE FEES)**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Johnson, Moore, Davis, and Rutberg voting in favor. Council member Henderson voting in opposition.

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3. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Davis to remove Item 9 from the agenda, "Discussion of appointments/re-appointments to the Covington Development Authority."

Motion carried unanimously.

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4. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve best bid and recommendation by consultant Georgia Water & Environmental Services (GWES) from Goldie & Associates to perform the 2024 City of Covington Industrial Pretreatment Program Technical Evaluation and Update, with an agreement negotiated on scope and fee after selection by the City's Selection Committee, amounting to \$98,140.00.

Goldie and Associates
Keck & Wood

Motion carried unanimously.

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5. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the sole bid from the Covington YMCA to continue its partnership with City of Covington from 2024-2027 in providing various recreational programming activities at Legion Field and other locations throughout the city.

Motion carried unanimously.

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6. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve sole bid for the City to partner with Piedmont Newton in providing health screening services and wellness education at various City of Covington sponsored events throughout the year beginning in 2024 through 2027 and to include an emphasis on nutrition, stroke, heart, diabetes, breast cancer, and other health topics along with quarterly visits to various locations in the City to serve citizens with limited access to healthcare.

Motion carried unanimously.

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7. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve best bid for an annual on-call contractor for the City's stormwater infrastructure from A&S Paving, Inc., as recommended by staff and consultant GWES, with a one-year contract and option to renew for up to five years based on the performance of the contract and the City's best interest

Motion carried unanimously.

A&S Paving, Inc.
Civil Works
Paul Ellard and Company
Site Engineering, Inc.

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- Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve "Option 3" as recommended by Engineering Manager Mike Willis, staff, and consultants to increase the current fee per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) from \$3.00 to \$5.25 and obtain \$6,000,000.00 in financial funding.

<b>Option 1</b> - Increase current stormwater fee per ERU from \$3.00 to \$6.00
<b>Option 2</b> - Increase current stormwater fee per ERU from \$3.00 to \$4.75 and obtain \$6,000,000.00 in financial funding
<b>Option 3</b> - Increase current stormwater fee per ERU from \$3.00 to \$5.25 and obtain \$6,000,000.00 in financial funding

Motion carried with Council members Keck, Johnson, Moore, and Rutberg voting in favor. Council members Davis and Henderson voting in opposition.

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- Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve an amended agreement with the Newton County Historical Committee on Black Heritage Preservation, Corp. regarding Juneteenth events, with budget amendment resolution amounting to \$10,150.00 increasing PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES account 100-1301-57.2000 by \$10,150.00 and decreasing account 100-1301-57.9000 CONTINGENCIES by \$10,150.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Davis to approve amendments to the Water Resource Facility Evaluation and Implementation agreement with Carter & Sloope labeled Task Order 8, Task Order 10, and Task Order 11, as requested by staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Tony Powell, representing Newton Land Investments, LLC, stated his client is still very interested in some property zoned Industrial near the Covington Municipal Airport, two tracts amounting to approximately eleven acres. Mr. Powell further

stated his client could close on the property in a week, and there are plans already made by Jay Williams for the property. Mr. Powell stated the appraisal of the property is a minimal dollar value and rezoning of the property to Commercial that is likely and mentioned in the appraisal creates a flaw. Mr. Powell stated the appraisal should reflect the property zoned as Industrial.

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Comments from the City Manager:

- Happy birthday to Mayor Baggett
- EPIC Event attendees will be arriving Wednesday through the weekend for various activities at OCHO, Legion Field, and businesses around the Square, Police Chief and Fire Chief are very prepared for a successful and eventful week

Council member Henderson reminded everyone there is a Town Hall Meeting on June 11, 2024 from 6:30-7:30 PM at Flat Rock Baptist Church to discuss the Spring Street property.

Council member Rutberg stated he wanted to thank staff for their great job in preparing the fiscal year 2025 budget and in explaining things well at the budget work sessions. Council member Rutberg encouraged everyone to get ready for the Vampire Diaries weekend ahead.

Council member Moore thanked staff and department heads for their work during the budget work sessions.

Council member Johnson thanked everyone for helping make her first budget work sessions flow smoothly.

Mayor Baggett stated there were 4,200 line-items to review for the budget and it is still a work in progress. Mayor Baggett asked for a little more time and some grace as work continues and the budget deadline approaches, as several have called her since the budget work sessions. Mayor Baggett thanked everyone for their hard work in preparing for the budget work sessions. Mayor Baggett stated there was an elderly lady that locked her keys in her car in the Mayfield Hardware parking lot and although the city does not typically unlock cars presently due to increased technology in automobiles, one of our Covington Police Officers came and unlocked the door. Mayor Baggett thanked the officer and everyone that assisted the elderly lady. Mayor Baggett encouraged citizens to go by the Welcome Center to pick up maps to pass out to our many visitors this weekend that look lost, as well as offering to take photos. Mayor Baggett asked everyone to be safe and watch out for people on the roads.

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11. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter into Executive Session at 7:20 PM for the purpose of discussing land.

Motion carried unanimously.

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12. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter into Regular Session at 7:49 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

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Fleeta Baggett, Mayor

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Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk