

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON,
GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024, 6:30 PM.**

Mayor Fleeta Baggett presided with Mayor Pro-tem Susie Keck, Council members: Anthony Henderson, Charika Davis, Kimberly Johnson, Travis Moore, and Jared Rutberg, Deputy City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. City Manager Tres Thomas was absent.

Dr. Royeese Stowe gave the invocation.

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

1. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on September 3, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Moore, 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 PROVISION OF TITLE 13 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 13.08.380 (RIDERS AND ADJUSTMENTS)** OF CHAPTER 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the launch of fireworks at the Christmas Tree Lighting and any expenses for the implementation of increased security and/or safety measures must come from the existing Community Development budget.

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

4. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Keck to amend the agenda:

- Remove items 18 & 24
- AA1 Discussion of Personnel Policy.
- Table item 11 until 10/7 meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an application to sell alcoholic beverages for **on-premises consumption** only for:

Shotz Bar and Grill

10205 Access Road Suite A

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve execution of a MEAG Telecom Project Preliminary Final Settlement in the amount of \$14,759.00, ex post facto.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 6:46 PM regarding a request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow structure to be used as a Single-family home. Applicants James and Kim Johnson were in attendance to answer questions if needed.

7. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve a SUP for 3156 Spring Street to be used as a Single-family home.

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 6:55 PM regarding the **first reading** of a text amendment to Sec. 16.12.020 Planning Commission & Sec. 16.12.160 Board of appeals & adjustments.

8. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington, with corrections:

“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 16.12.020 (PLANNING COMMISSION) AND SECTION 16.12.160 (BOARD OF APPEALS AND ADJUSTMENTS)** OF CHAPTER 16.12 (PROCEDURES) THEREOF 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.

A public hearing was held at 6:57 PM regarding the **first reading** of a text amendment to Sec. 16.04.050 - Relationship to Comp Plan.

9. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Moore 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 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 16.04.050 (RELATIONSHIP TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN) OF CHAPTER 16.04 (ADMINISTRATION)** THEREOF TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 7:10 PM regarding the **first reading** of a text amendment to Sec. 16.20.235 – Dwelling, single-family detached and Sec. 16.08.010 – Definitions.

10. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Moore to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington, as amended:

“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) AND SECTION 16.20.235 (DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED) OF CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS)** THEREOF TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Keck, 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 5 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING SECTION 5.12.100 (LICENSE FEES) OF CHAPTER 5.12 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES)** THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Johnson, seconded by Council member Moore to approve a Commercial Lease with East Metro Holdings, LLC in the amount of \$5,000.00 per month, for the Gas Department to lease warehousing space for the AMI Meter Change-out Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Keck to approve an Agreement for Installation of Natural Gas Mains for Grove Park located in Walton County.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Johnson, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve the best RFP from RDJE, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for the Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehab/Replacement Project.

RDJE Inc.
US Infra Rehab
HK Solutions Group
Gulf Coast
K & E Group

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Johnson, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the low bid from East Coast Grading, LLC in the amount of \$590,636.84, for the 2024/2025 LMIG Paving Project.

A & S Paving	\$744,970.15
Backbone Infrastructure LLC	\$653,056.00
East Coast Grading	\$590,636.84
Blount Construction Co	\$620,919.96
Stewart Brothers Inc.	\$676,539.94
Vertical Earth, Inc.	\$595,661.08

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve modification to Personnel Policy 306 – Sick Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Davis to approve a Budget Amendment Resolution for Property & Liability insurance in the amount of \$194,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Keck to approve a Budget Amendment Resolution for proposed GEFA Grant for EV Chargers in the amount of \$150,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion ensued regarding City Personnel policies and equal enforcement of said policies. Mayor Baggett stated the city recently had a couple incidents of sexual misconduct along with social media issues.

It was the consensus of the Council to have the City Attorney evaluate the City's current personnel policy, department specific standard operating procedures (SOPs), and ordinances and bring any necessary changes to council for review.

Public Comments:

Ms. Thelma S. Nolley asked if she could address Council member Moore directly and Mayor Baggett stated she could set up an appointment.

Comments from the Deputy City Manager:

Asked Mayor & Council to save the dates:

9/30 @ 5:30 PM for One Newton document discussion

10/22 @ 5:30 PM for One Newton document Q & A

Both meetings will be held at the Scott Emmons WRF Facility in Stanton Springs.

Comments from Mayor & Council:

Council member Rutberg commended the Electric Department for their efforts in restoring power just south of the square.

Council member Moore praised the Covington Police Department for addressing the downtown tractor trailer issue and for the increased police presence.

Mayor Baggett stated the Fuzz Run raised a lot of money and thanked Ocho for the use of their facility for the concert Friday night. Mayor Baggett acknowledged Scout Troop 222G was in attendance with regards to the Citizenship in the Community Badge.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Fleeta Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk