

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, COUNCIL ROOM, OCTOBER 7, 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, City Manager Tres Thomas, Deputy City Manager John King, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present.

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 Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on September 16, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Johnson 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 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, Rutberg, and Henderson voting in favor. Council member Davis voting in opposition.

3. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the **final** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington with the addition to 3(a) “or façade:”

“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.

4. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson 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 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.

5. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Davis 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 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.

6. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve licenses to sell alcoholic beverages for **on-premises consumption** only for:

Brew Pointe 2, LLC dba The Bistro	11500 Foxfield Way
Elea J's Southern Table	6265 Hwy 278, NE

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve best bid from consultant Keck & Wood to perform the 2024 Revenue Audit for the Covington Utilities Water/Sewer System in the amount of \$96,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Rutberg to approve the low bid from Triple R Paving for the repaving of the Covington Police Department headquarters parking lot located at 13183 Harland Drive amounting to a total cost of \$92,459.25, with a contingency of \$13,688.85.

Triple R Paving	\$92,459.25
Georgia Paving	\$94,042.00
Stewart Brothers	\$94,142.50
East Coast Grading	\$95,231.50
Magnum Paving LLC	\$98,308.89
The Surface Masters	\$114,600.25
A & S Paving	\$115,625.00

Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing was held at 6:43 PM regarding adding 16.20.440 - Life Coach to the Covington Municipal Code.

9. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Johnson to **deny** the **first** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington adding 16.20.440 - Life Coach to the Covington Municipal Code.

Motion carried with Council members Johnson, Moore, and Rutberg voting in favor of denial. Council members Keck, Davis, and Henderson voting in opposition of denial. Mayor Baggett voting in favor of denial, breaking 3-3 tie.

10. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a resolution adopting a proposed new fee schedule and charges for the City's alcohol licenses and permits.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's placement of GPS antenna equipment at the Covington Municipal Airport.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve the low bid from Pittman Construction in the amount of \$1,308,466.15 for the Archer/B-1 taxiway and public use Compass Rose construction.

Pittman Construction \$1,308,466.15
ER Snell \$1,424,223.55

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Johnson to approve an Airport Access Agreement with Archer Aviation, Inc.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Henderson, seconded by Council member Moore to approve a FY 2025 GDOT Tentative Allocation for project reimbursement at 95%.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Moore, seconded by Council member Davis to approve the Federal Aviation Administration and Georgia Department of Transportation five-year CIP for their grant/reimbursement program for the Covington Municipal Airport.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Newton County regarding construction of the Washington Street Community Center basketball court.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to approve a resolution to adopt policy for the indemnification and defense of elected officials, appointed officials, and employees of the City sued for actions taken in the course and scope of employment/office, and to establish parameters where indemnity/defense will apply.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments:

Ms. Thelma Nolley expressed concerns regarding a conference that was held near her neighborhood that caused issues with parking and local residents were not notified in advance.

Chamber President Debbie Harper thanked City staff for help in sorting and loading two tractor trailers with hurricane relief donations.

Comments from the City Manager:

- applauded staff for all of their help during Hurricane Helene
- Utility staff was sent to Quitman to help

Comments from Council:

Council member Moore thanked all essential employees.

Council member Rutberg commended staff for storm preparation, linemen for their support with other agencies, and CFD for supporting Rockdale during the recent BioLab fire. Council member Rutberg congratulated Council member Moore for being chosen one of the Chamber's 2024 Faces of Newton County.

Mayor Baggett stated she made good on a bet with Council member Henderson regarding the Georgia/Florida Game. Mayor Baggett stated we are monitoring the air quality.

The City Manager gave an update on air quality monitoring by GA Tech.

Mayor Baggett thanked the Chamber and the IDA for their efforts regarding hurricane relief. Mayor Baggett stated there is another hurricane in the gulf and the City is sending linemen to Florida to help. Mayor Baggett informed everyone of the upcoming Job Fair at Newton High School on October 29th from 4 PM – 6 PM.

18. Motion made by Council member Davis, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter into Executive Session at 7:23 PM for the purpose of discussing litigation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Davis left the meeting at 8:58 PM.

19. Motion made by Council member Rutberg, seconded by Council member Henderson to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Fleeta Baggett, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk