

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, APRIL 20, 2009, 6:30 PM.

Mayor Kimberly C. Carter presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Hawnethia Williams, Council members: Janet A. Goodman, John A. Howard, Mike Whatley, Ocie Franklin, and Keith Dalton, City Manager Steve Horton, Acting City Clerk Tonya R. Grier, and City Attorney E. A. Crudup, Jr., present.

First Baptist Church of Covington's Church Administrator Paul Robins opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 6, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Franklin 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 **CHAPTER 2.12** OF THE SAID CODE RELATING TO THE **OFFICE OF CITY CLERK**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to amend the agenda to add the following:

- a) Discussion/approval to vary from the City's Purchasing Policy relative to the Local Urban Redevelopment Plan.
- b) MEAG Marketing Services 2008 year-end settlement election.
- c) Approval of a purchase order for electrical work necessary for the new Hampton Inn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Smart Growth Newton County President John Paschal was in attendance to present the council with zoning information prepared by the Livable Communities Coalition.

4. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the adoption of a resolution in support of the construction of 80+ units of affordable senior housing to be located on the Covington Bypass and send a letter of support to the DCA.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for:

Aldi, Inc. Store #48
11152 Highway 142 NE

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Williams to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City, the City of Social Circle, and Atlanta Gas Light for a Countywide Natural Gas Safety Plan with accompanying map.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the 13th Equity Call from MEAG Power in accordance with the Vogtle Development Contract in the amount of \$491,334.77, to be paid out of the City’s short term flexible operating account of the Municipal Competitive Trust.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize the City to apply for a joint request to EPD to reduce water restrictions inside Newton County under the following Drought Response Modification:

Level IVc – Odd/even watering 3 days per week between midnight and 10:00 AM: Odd on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, even on Mondays, Wednesday, and Saturdays.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 9. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to authorize the City to move forward with sewer participation with the Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority for property owned by the Newton County Industrial Authority located north of the Covington Municipal Airport for up to ¼ the cost or an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 10. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the following two invoices from the Newton County BOC with regards to the Library to Eastside Trail:

1571-525-19	\$19,985.03
1571-525-20	\$10,169.14

Motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve a proposal from Trident Insurance Services in the amount of \$296,081.00, for the City’s liability insurance renewal.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve varying from the City's Purchasing Policy to select a contractor to create the Local Urban Redevelopment Plan without adhering to the identified bid process.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve placing the City's MEAG Marketing Services 2008 Year-End Settlement in the amount of \$22,626.91 into the Local Economic Development Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the following purchase order:

ELECTRIC

Equity-Irby	
-Hampton Inn equipment	\$27,880.00

Motion carried unanimously.

The City Manager commented on the following:

- Mr. Noel Smith in the audience
- Atlanta Gas Light made offer to purchase the City's gas system

It was the consensus of the council to decline AGL's offer and to have the Mayor draft a letter stating such.

- No July 4th fireworks display
- Covington Police to apply for the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to purchase digital video equipment for police vehicles.

Mayor Carter extended condolences to the family of Mr. Otis Spillers who passed away last Tuesday. Mayor Carter asked everyone to hold Mr. Eddie Phillips in their thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery from his recent heart attack.

Mayor Carter reminded everyone of the following:

- Great American Clean-up on Saturday April 25th
- Mr. T. K. Adams and the Community Band will be performing at Eastside High School on Monday, April 27th at 7:00 PM.
- Council member Williams has been nominated unanimously to be the 5th District 3rd Vice President for GMA.

The City Manager stated a dilapidated house located at the end of Laseter Street was scheduled to be on this past Wednesday's court docket but due to a conflict in the presiding judge's schedule it was not heard. The City Manager further stated it will be put back on the docket for May 20th.

Council member Williams stated she was again chosen to judge the "If I were Mayor" essays. Council member Williams further stated the winner will be named on Wednesday at Turner Field.

Council member Dalton reminded everyone that the Relay-for Life is this Friday night at The Church At Covington.

State Senator John Douglas gave a brief summary of this year's State Legislation.

15. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Dalton to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to enter back into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

17. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to purchase the following three parcels of land west of the Covington Municipal Airport at the price offered by the owners:

Parcel 1 XO01O-00000-071-000

Parcels 2 & 3 XO01O-00000-069-070

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, Acting City Clerk