

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, AUGUST 3, 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, City Clerk Tonya R. Grier, and City Attorney E. A. Crudup, Jr., present.

Reverend Kenneth Morgan of Times of Refreshing Ministries opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 20, 2009.

Motion # 4, add: **with the stipulation that copies of the contracts are furnished to the Council after they have been approved for informational purposes.**

Pg. 4, para. 2: change to **“President”** of the Georgia Association of Police Chiefs

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the following change to the agenda:

Discussion/approval of working with Electric Cities of Georgia on a joint Energy Efficiency Grant Program along with amending the City’s budget up to \$21,300 for the grant work.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Whatley to acknowledge receipt of the following:

Covington Planning Commission
July 14, 2009 minutes
August 11, 2009 agenda

Historic Preservation Commission
July 1, 2009 minutes
August 5, 2009 agenda

Motion carried unanimously.

Senior Planner Michelle Larsen presented a presentation and staff report for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Jobe House Transitional Center located at 5129 Washington Street on the corner of Washington and Avery Streets. Mr. David Hart is the applicant and House Director and Mr. Aaron Raatz is the property owner.

Ms. Larsen stated that after reviewing the staff report and supporting documents the Planning Commission recommended the SUP be denied.

4. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Williams to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation to deny the SUP for the Jobe House Transitional Center.

Motion carried unanimously.

Senior Planner Michelle Larsen presented a presentation and staff report for a SUP to operate a Personal Care Home at 4196 Monticello Street (Jackson Hwy) on the corner of Pinecrest Drive and Monticello Street. The applicant is Richard Moore and Geneva Moore is the owner.

Ms. Larsen stated that after reviewing the staff report and supporting documents the Planning Commission recommended approval for the SUP with conditions.

5. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the SUP for a Personal Care Home with the conditions specified.

Richard Moore was in attendance to answer any questions.

Council member Howard asked if anyone had come to the Planning Commission to disagree with the Personal Care Home.

Ms Larsen stated that there had not been any complaints regarding the Personal Care Home.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Carter acknowledged the Organizing Committee for their hard work drafting and approving the By-Laws along with developing membership for the Covington Redevelopment Authority.

Council member Howard made changes to the By-Laws.

Mayor Carter and Michelle Larsen noted the changes. The By-Laws will be amended and brought back to the Council for approval.

Council member Dalton asked how long would this Authority be in existence.

Mayor Carter anticipates this Authority to be on going considering the amount of redevelopment needed in Covington's communities.

Mayor Carter discussed the Covington Redevelopment Authority Organizing Committee recommendations and Mayoral appointments for Covington Redevelopment Authority membership. The members are:

3 year term

Frank Turner Jr. - Chairperson
Juanita Thompson - Vice Chairperson
Scott Cole

2 year term

Charles Skrobot
Clay Neumann
Rasti Hollingsworth

1 year term

Tony Ramsey
Roger Smith
Michelle Cunniffe

Mayor Carter expressed appreciation to the Mayoral appointments to the Covington Planning Commission.

Mr. John Travis will serve in the unexpired term of the late Mr. Otis Spiller, term ending December 31, 2010.

Mr. Michael Geoffroy will serve in the unexpired term of Mr. Bob Fanard, term ending December 31, 2011.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed the Livable Cities Initiative (LCI) Pre-Qualification Evaluation Log and Staff Comments. Mr. Horton explained that a response was required from the City to the Atlanta Regional Commission regarding questions concerning projects submitted for LCI Pre-Qualification.

6. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Howard to authorize City Manager Steve Horton to respond back to the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton 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 AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 9.12 (**WEAPONS**) OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING SECTION 9.12.025 (**USE OF FIREARMS FOR ELIMINATION OF RODENTS**) THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Council member Whatley stated that he had received numerous complaints concerning the ordinance.

Council member Whatley suggested not to amend the current ordinance which does not allow the discharge of firearms in the City limits.

Council member Dalton stated that there was a need for the ordinance, but expressed concern regarding the 22 rifle. The 410 six shot or 38 handgun with rat should be permitted.

Council member Williams and Mayor Carter expressed safety concerns.

Motion denied with Council member Dalton voting for, and Council members, Whatley, Goodman, Williams, and Franklin voting against and Council member Howard abstained.

Covington Fire Chief Don Floyd was in attendance to discuss donation of a retired Grumman Pumper to Dekalb Tech for instruction and training in the Fire Science program. Chief Floyd stated that Dekalb Technical College would provide educational services to the City in return for the amount of the value of pumper.

8. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve donation of retired Grumman Pumper to Dekalb Tech contingent on City Attorney Edward Crudup drafting a contract that includes documentation of the educational services provided to the City by Dekalb Tech in return for the donation of the Grumman Pumper and authorizing Mayor Carter to sign the contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Director Billy Bouchillon and Cintas Representative Alan Blalock were in attendance to discuss early renewal of the City's uniform contract. According to Cintas, early renewal of the five year contract will save the City approximately \$11,000 the first year with a 5% cap the remaining four years.

9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve renewal of the City uniform contract with Cintas.

Motion carried with Council members Whatley, Williams, Howard, and Franklin voting for and Council members Goodman and Dalton voting against.

10. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to authorize the Street Department to seek bids to purchase a commercial mower.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve to approve the sole bid to purchase a Mobile Collection Unit used to read utility meters.

\$32,000.00 with a \$5000.00 trade in credit - **sole bid total \$27,000.00**

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) awarded to the Covington Police Department by the Department of Justice. The grant award is for \$37,787.00 which, along with confiscated funds, will assist the police department in the purchase and installation of digital video equipment in police vehicles.

12. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the Covington Police Department's acceptance of the Byrne Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) and to amend the budget up to \$125,000.00 for the project.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve contracts, based on City Attorney review and approval, with Pittman Construction for airport work and Alcovy Road resurfacing and authorize Mayor Carter to sign the contracts.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Carter discussed the Energy Efficiency Program for Georgia Public Power. The joint program with the Electric Cities of Georgia, will allow participants to apply for grant funds for energy efficiency programs in residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

14. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve working with Electric Cities of Georgia on a joint Energy Efficiency Grant Program and amending the City's budget up to \$21,300 for the grant work.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton stated that the Downtown paving project had been delayed due to the weather. Weather permitting GDOT will began paving Saturday at 9PM until 1PM Sunday.

Mr. Horton announced that Partnership for Community Action now has weatherization assistance.

Council member Whatley stated he had calls regarding the need for handicap parking on Pace Street near the County offices.

Mayor Carter explained that although there is a need for handicap parking on Pace Street, there is not proper road width to comply with State code for handicap parking.

Mr. Horton stated there is handicap parking in the County lot behind the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Horton also anticipates more space for handicap parking when the AT&T lot across the street from the County offices becomes available.

Council member Goodman inquired about the liens placed on the properties of delinquent storm water customers. She had not received any complaints.

Mr. Horton explained that the City extended the deadline for delinquent storm water payment. Liens were placed last week.

Mayor Carter discussed Legislative Agenda for 2010 Legislative Session in Atlanta.

Mayor Carter asked the Council to be prepared to submit suggestions at the next work session.

Mayor Carter reminded the Council the fall GMA training.

Mayor Carter mentioned the 3rd annual Back to School Block party. It was a great success with the largest attendance of the three. There were 1200 book bags filled with school supplies handed out at the event, remaining book bags were given to DFACS to distribute.

There were about fifty four community partners that participated in the Block Party. Mayor Carter also recognized the Census Bureau for providing some funding for the event.

Mayor Carter announced that the 26th annual Fuzz Run and the Literacy Festival will be Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Council member Williams stated that since the paving of the Downtown Square, dump trucks have been driving down the streets in the Harris Town Community.

City Manager Steve Horton stated that the dump trucks had not been routed through Harris Town and Covington Police would be citing drivers caught driving through the community.

Council member Franklin informed the Mayor and Council of a neighborhood watch meeting with West Street residents at Saint Paul AME Church Friday at 7PM.

Mayor Carter expressed appreciation to the Council for their guidance and nominations for appointments.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk

