

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, DECEMBER 21, 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 James Russell of Rising Son Christian Church opened the meeting with prayer.

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1. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 7, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Hanger lease holder Mr. Geiger was attendance to discuss lease rates and stormwater utility costs.

2. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve hanger ground lease rate increase to \$.05 per square foot as set by Dixie Jet Services, Inc. plus reimbursement on a monthly basis for the prorated share of the stormwater utility along with ensuring rules and regulations are applied equally and fairly to all tenants present and in the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Administrative Services Director Ronnie Cowan presented the Mayor and Council with recommendations and costs for Management/Elected Officials Retreat.

3. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the Management/Elected Officials Strategic Planning Retreat to be held March 18-20, 2010 at Brasstown Valley.

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

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Safety Risk Manager John Copeland reported further comparison to the Mayor and Council between Penn Credit and the City's current local utility debt collector Darnell. Mr. Copeland recommended the City continue to work with Darnell.

Darnell representative Mr. Hall discussed the success rate Darnell has had collecting the City's utility debt and future collection goals.

4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve continuing to work with the City's current utility debt collector Darnell.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Carter administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Jonathan Williams.

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Senator Douglas was in attendance to say goodbye and express thanks to Council member Howard and wish everyone Merry Christmas.

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Former Mayor Sam Ramsey expressed thanks to Council member Howard for his service to the City.

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Porterdale Council member Mr. Foxworth wished retiring Council member John Howard well, congratulated re-elected and newly elected officials and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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Washington Street business owner Mr. Jim Wyatt was in attendance to discuss an alleged violation of the City's Sign Ordinance.

Planning and Zoning Director Randy Vinson explained the City's Sign Ordinance and concluded that the ordinance had not been violated.

After further discussion Mayor Carter requested research and recommendations from Mr. Vinson to be brought back to Council.

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5. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Dalton to acknowledge receipt of the following:

**Covington Planning Commission**

December 8, 2009 minutes

**Historic Preservation Commission**

December 2, 2009 minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

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6. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Whatley to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve a Special Use Permit for an art studio/school to be located at 5176 Newton Drive, without time constraints or conditions.

Motion carried unanimously.

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7. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to accept the City Attorney's draft agreement for the creation of an Airport Authority and have the Council submit comments by the first regular Council Meeting in January.

Motion carried unanimously.

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8. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Goodman to authorize the Mayor to execute a resolution adopting the Newton County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

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9. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to transfer Off-System Energy Sales Margins for FY 2010 to the short term Flexible Trust Account.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 10. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a No Cost Letter to the GDOT regarding the relocation of utilities for the Turner Lake Road Round-A-Bout.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve transferring uncollected utility bills receivable to bad debt expense.

\$78,813.62

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 12. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Whatley to select Council member Ocie Franklin as Mayor Pro-tem Elect for calendar year 2010 and follow the recommendation of the City Manager to rotate Mayor Pro-tem and Pro-tem Elect each year by Posts and Wards.

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

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Mayor and Council acknowledged receipt of the City Manager’s 2010 appointments:

- 1. In accordance with section 2.12.010 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Covington, I have appointed **Tonya Grier as City Clerk.**
- 2. In accordance with section 2.32.010 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Covington, I have appointed **Stacey Cotton as Police Chief** and will maintain a force of **at least fifty (50) sworn officers.** Stacey Cotton will also serve as Public Safety Director over Police, Fire, and E911 services.
- 3. I have also made the following appointments:  
**Bill Meecham** – Utilities Director and Public Services Director over Utilities, Public Works, and Safety/Risk Management and Environmental Compliance operations.  
**Ronnie Cowan** – Personnel Director and Administrative Services Director over Personnel, Administration, Planning and Zoning, Finance, and IT operations.
- 4. The managers below will also serves as follows:  
**Billy Bouchillon** – Public Works Director and Assistant Public Services Director  
**John Copeland** – Safety/Risk and Environmental Compliance Manager  
**Don T. Floyd** – Fire Chief and Assistant Public Safety Director  
**Leigh Ann Knight** – Finance Director  
**Mike Smith** – E 911 Director  
**Randy Vinson** – Planning and Zoning Director

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- 13. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Williams to approve three invoices payable to Pittman Construction for the Airport Runway 10-28 Rehabilitation Project.

\$1,325,145.31

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**BILLING/METER READERS**

Advanced Utility Systems, Corp.

-Annual Software Support for 2010

\$66,351.63

Motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. Geiger questioned the opening of the Covington Airport.

City Manager Steve Horton advised that the Airport is schedule to open for daylight operations on December 23, 2009 if weather permits.

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Mr. Horton reminded the Mayor and Council that he will be making City appointments during the next Council Meeting on January 4, 2010.

Mr. Horton wished everyone Merry Christmas.

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Mayor Carter wished Council member Howard well and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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Council member Dalton thanked Council member Howard for his guidance during the years and stated he will truly be missed.

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Council member Howard reflected on his 16 years of service with the City and expressed thanks and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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15. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and to discuss a personnel issue. 8:02PM

Motion carried unanimously.

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16. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to enter back into Regular Session. 8:54PM

Motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:54PM.

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Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

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Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk