

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, 6:30 PM.

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

Reverend Scott Moore of East Ridge Community Church opened the meeting with prayer.

Census Specialist Gloria Solomon discussed the importance of the 2010 Census that will begin mid March.

1. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 20, 2010.

Page 3, Motion 12; reflect that the Mayor and Council would return to next Council Meeting with suggestions regarding use of Council Chambers.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Williams 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 TITLE 13 OF THE SAID CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING SECTION 13.12.090 THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley 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 TITLE 13 OF THE SAID CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING SECTION 13.16.040 THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams 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 TITLE 3 OF THE SAID CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING SECTION 3.16.020 THEREOF RELATING TO **LODGING TAX RATE**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Discussion/approval an invoice from Pittman Construction Company for the work to complete the poor subgrade conditions on the Covington Municipal Airport runway and taxiway.

Motion carried unanimously.

Wade Sansbury of Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs, LLC. presented the City's Fiscal Year 2008-09 Audit.

6. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the adoption of a resolution in support of "Creating a Sustainable Future for Newton County".

Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Clara Lett was in attendance to discuss payment options for a \$5000.00 utility deposit for the Rainbow Community Center.

The Mayor and Council discussed policies and procedures regarding utility deposits.

7. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to authorize the City Clerk to extend a 6 month utility deposit agreement to 12 months.

After further discussion, City Attorney Edward Crudup Jr., suggested that the agreement start with a payment of \$100 the first month and increase by \$100 each month until the utility deposit is paid in full.

Council member Goodman withdrew the motion, Council member Whatley withdrew the second.

8. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to authorize the City Clerk to establish a 10 month agreement with Rainbow Community Center to pay a \$5000.00 utility deposit starting with \$100 the first month, with successive payments increasing \$100 each month.

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

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

Covington Planning Commission

February 9, 2010 agenda

Tree Board

January 14, 2010 minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Smith to table the discussion regarding the purchase of Community Development Software for the Planning and Zoning Department until the next Council meeting allowing review of Planning and Zoning staff and budgeted funds for the software.

Council members Whatley, Smith, and Dalton voting for. Council members Goodman, Williams, and Franklin voting against. Motion carried with Mayor Carter voting for, breaking 3-3 tie.

City of Covington Utilities Director Bill Meecham and rate consultant Charlie Parmelee discussed proposed adjustments to utility rates to reflect changes in the cost of service. These adjustments would not result in revenue increase for the City of Covington.

11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman 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 13.08 (ELECTRIC SYSTEM) OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING ELECTRIC RATES, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

Utilities Director Bill Meecham discussed a proposed increase in security light rates. Meecham explained that there has not been a security light rate change since 1994.

12. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve proposed security light rates.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the low bid from Robert Anderson, Inc. in the amount of \$85,342.00 for the Starr Street Drainage Project and amend the budget if needed.

Robert Anderson, Inc.	\$85,342.00
Cumming Site Development, Inc.	\$91,346.00
D&J Pipeline Company	\$91,800.00

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a request to interrupt traffic February 1, 2010 on State Route 36 for the filming of Vampire Diaries.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Carter announced the appointment of Hugh Burnett as the City representative to the Recreation Board.

15. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an invoice from Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs, LLC in the amount of \$28,700.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve an invoice from Pittman Construction Company in the amount of \$155,501.49 to dry out and complete the poor subgrade conditions associated with the Covington Airport runway and taxiway construction.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton informed everyone that Mr. Howard wanted them to know he appreciated the retirement reception held in his honor.

Mr. Horton also discussed distribution of funds from Partnership for Community Action.

Mayor Carter and Council members discussed acceptable use of Council Chambers.

The Council Chambers can not be used by political candidates, but can be used for City elections, referendums or open forums for City business, and assisting governmental agencies.

Council member Williams informed everyone of job opportunities with the Census.

Council member Smith questioned wording on the agenda. Discussion/approval should be changed to discussion/vote.

Council member Franklin announced that she has completed 42 hours of GMA training.

Mayor Carter will attend the Georgia Academy for Economic Development February 11.

Mayor Carter reminded everyone of the Arbor Day Celebration February 19, 11AM at Turner Lake Park.

Mayor Carter discussed SGD Glass's ownership change.

Mayor Carter also informed the Council that the airport FBO is delinquent on their rent again.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk