

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, FEBRUARY 21, 2011 6:30 PM.**

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Ocie Franklin opened the meeting with prayer.

Mayor Carter acknowledged Holly Croom, a member of Youth Leadership Newton County, in attendance to observe a government meeting.

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1. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 7, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Goodman 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 SECTION 8.24.020 OF THE SAID CODE RELATING TO THE **REMEDICATION OF UNFIT DWELLINGS** WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Discussion of reimbursement from GDOT and FAA for previous purchase of land at the airport.
- Discussion of an electrical service proposal from Electric Cities of Georgia for the Newton College and Career Academy.
- Discussion of appointments to various boards and commissions.
- Discussion of entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding appointments to the Airport Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Carter recognized Georgia Congressman John Lewis for earning the Medal of Freedom.

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Senior Planner Scott Gaither presented the draft of an ordinance change regarding the raising of fowl in the city limits. The amended ordinance would allow the raising of female fowl, excluding geese and guineas, on lots inside the city not less than 1000sq ft, one per lot with a maximum of 12.

4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Smith to approve the revision and **first** reading of Zoning Ordinance regarding the keeping and raising of fowl in NR1 and NR2 residential districts.

"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 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTION 16.20.390 (**KEEPING AND RAISING OF FARM ANIMALS**) OF CHAPTER 16.20, (**SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS**) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

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5. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve rebates for "Energy Star" appliances as part of the stimulus funding through the GEFA grant/ Electric Cities program.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Grant Writer Randy Conner discussed and requested authorization to apply for the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program and the New Freedom Program grants.

Mr. Connor explained the possibility of providing transportation services to Covington's senior and disable residents through grants.

6. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to proceed with the application for the JARC Program Grant.

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

7. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to proceed with the application for the New Freedom Program Grant.

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

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8. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a resolution and contract with GMA for leased telephone system.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Information System Manager Bobby Johnson discussed the advantages and disadvantages of budget and levelized billing. Mr. Johnson explained that the fluctuation in the PCA charge and multiple services on a bill makes it difficult for the City of Covington to offer budget or levelized billing.

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City Manager Steve Horton discussed potential payment from *Vampire Diaries* for recent use of the Southview Cemetery. Mr. Horton recommended not accepting payment for recent use, but possibly establishing an agreement for future use.

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9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve an invoice in the amount of \$21,560.00 payable to B & B Electrical & Utility Contractors, Inc.

Motion carried unanimously.

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10. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve a proposal from Electric Cities of Georgia to provide electrical service for Newton College and Career Academy.

Motion carried unanimously.

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11. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve a reimbursement contract from GDOT and the FAA in the amount of \$811,081.00 for previous purchase of land at the airport.

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

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City Manager Steve Horton discussed requests for public restrooms in the Downtown Square area.

Mr. Horton gave an airport update.

Mr. Horton discussed paper work required to be completed for the Transportation Investment Act and the decision to contract former County Engineer Kelvin Walter.

Mr. Horton asked the Council for a consensus of a time for a work session scheduled for March 5th regarding the Strategic Plan.

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A Black History Celebration organized by Mayor Carter, Council member Goodman and Main Street will be held on Saturday March 5th on the Square starting at 3PM.

Mayor Carter reminded everyone of the State of the City Address on Thursday, February 24th at 5PM in the Frank Turner Banquet Center at the Turner Lake Center. The theme will be **“Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Present, and Creating the Future”**.

Mayor Carter also reminded the Council of the registration deadline for the annual GMA convention.

Mayor Carter extended condolences to the family of former Council member Bertha Goss.

Mayor Carter acknowledged a successful Arbor Day Celebration.

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Council member Smith thanked everyone for honoring his grandfather at the Arbor Day Celebration.

Council member Smith discussed his recent airport tour and encouraged the Council and the public to do the same.

Council member Smith recommended advertising on the PEG channels road closures due to filming.

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12. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding appointments to the Airport Authority. 8:05PM

Motion carried unanimously.

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13. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve entering back into Regular Session. 8:35PM

Motion carried unanimously.

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14. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the following appointments to the Airport Authority:

Wayne Digby	4 year term
John Howard	4 year term
Tereta Johnson	4 year term
James Knight	4 year term
Charles Hill Morris	3 year term
Jared Rutberg	3 year term
Art Schlueter	3 year term

Motion carried unanimously.

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Council member Dalton recommended that in the future, for appointments that are not required to be made by the Mayor, each Council member should offer names for appointments to various boards and commissions.

Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the following appointments:

**Board of Appeals and Adjustments**

Fred Harwell

**Historic Preservation**

Jennifer Long

Judy Hooten

Jonathan Paschal

Lisa Hansen

**Planning Commission**

Lee Aldridge

Ruel Parker

Paul Oeland

John Travis

Ray McFadden

**Parking Authority**

Denise Spires  
Rosie Crawford  
Charles Wilborn  
Frank Kelton

**Covington Redevelopment Authority**

Camie Meeler  
Matt Harris  
Roselyn Osuagwu

Motion carried unanimously.

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Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.

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Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

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Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk