

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, FEBRUARY 7, 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.

Deacon Jimmy Tanner of the First Baptist Church opened the meeting with prayer.

Mayor Carter and Covington Police Chief Stacey Cotton introduced new Covington Police Officer Robert Yarbrough.

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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 January 20, 2011 as amended:

Page 3, para 8: NAACP swearing in of new officers held on **Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Discussion of a request from Vampire Diaries to film in Southview Cemetery.
- Discussion of a **first** reading of City Ordinance section 8.24.020 amending the remediation of unfit dwellings.
- Discussion of a potential ordinance change for fowl in the city limits of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

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3. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve an application to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption only for:

**Burrito Loco  
4139 Highway 278**

Motion carried unanimously.

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4. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve an application to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for:

**Express Food Mart  
6229 Turner Lake Road**

Motion carried unanimously.

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Senior Planner Scott Gaither presented the staff report and recommendations of the Planning Commission regarding applications for 14450, 14470 and 14480 Paras Drive, 11220 and 11140 Highway 142 North, and 10180 Highway 142 requesting removal of the following conditions of zoning:

- All conditions and requirements of the By-Pass Corridor Overlay District must be met unless otherwise granted variance.
- The 10' wide multi-use path shall be constructed along Highway 142.

5. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Smith to follow the recommendations of the Planning Commission to approve removal of the conditions of zoning for 14450, 14470 and 14480 Paras Drive, 11220 and 11140 Highway 142 North, and 10180 Highway 142 North.

Motion carried unanimously.

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6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the transfer of stormwater write-off accounts in the amount of \$24,587.21 to bad debt and turn them over to Darnel Quick Recovery.

Motion carried unanimously.

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7. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve acceptance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$443,00.00 for the Geiger Street Waterline Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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8. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the sole bid from Designed Installations in the amount of \$15,330.00 for the replacement of tree wells around the square.

Motion carried unanimously.

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9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Smith to approve a right-of-way easement request from AT&T to place a uverse cabinet and service lines at Legion Drive and Conyers Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

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10. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the potential sale of a portion of the 72 plus acre tract south of Nisshinbo for \$27,500.00 per acre.

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

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Mayor Carter discussed recommendations for citizen appointments to various City boards, commissions, and authorities.

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11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to acknowledge the Mayor's appointment of Camie Meeler and Matt Harris to the Covington Redevelopment Authority.

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

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12. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve a request from Vampire Diaries to film inside the Southview Cemetery on the east side of East Street Friday, February 11, 2011.

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

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13. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance change 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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City Manager Steve Horton discussed a request for a potential ordinance change for fowl in the city limits of Covington.

Hartsook Drive resident David Corley discussed a warning he received from the City of Covington regarding raising chickens on his property.

14. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Dalton to suspend enforcement of the ordinance pending Mayor and Council review.

Motion carried unanimously.

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City Pond Road resident Josie Cook inquired about the location of the 72 plus acre tract south of Nisshinbo.

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Mr. Horton scheduled the February 21<sup>st</sup> work session for 5PM to update the Mayor and Council on the progress of the strategic plan.

Mr. Horton passed out a SPLOST fact sheet.

Mr. Horton thanked everyone who attended and helped with the employee Retirement Reception.

Mr. Horton announced funeral arrangements for former City Clerk Betty Schell.

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Mayor Carter reminded everyone that February is Black History Month and local artist Ernie Callaway has his sculptures on display in the lobby at City Hall along with pictures and art work of Mary Thompson.

Mayor Carter reminded the Council to submit their recommendations of citizens for the various committees.

Mayor Carter announced that the DCA is coming to Covington Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for a Main Street One on One Class at 5PM at the Turner Lake Complex.

Mayor Carter will deliver the State of the City Address on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5PM at the Turner Lake Complex.

Mayor Carter thanked Randy Vinson and staff for participating in the GICH conference this year in Savannah.

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Council member Williams expressed displeasure and questioned the criteria being used to select citizens for various boards, commissions, and authorities.

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Council member Smith thanked Mr. Horton and staff for the Retirement Reception.

Council member Smith discussed the Leadership Collaborative meeting and commended Mayor Carter's representation of the City, but was concerned about comments made regarding Newton County's unpaid stormwater bills.

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Council member Dalton apologized for not being able to attend the Retirement Reception due to illness.

Council member Dalton expressed condolences to Betty Schell's family.

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Council member Franklin shared her Emergency Management Certificate she received from the Mayors Day Conference.

Council member Franklin enjoyed the Retirement Reception, but had concerns regarding comments made about some of the retirees.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.

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Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

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Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk