

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL JULY 20, 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 Doug Parham of the Newton Baptist Church 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 6, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the following changes to the agenda:
 - a. Discussion/approval of an easement with AT&T for the Turner Lake Road Round-A-Bout.
 - b. Discussion/approval of an engagement letter and additional procedures for the City's 2008-2009 Audit.
 - c. Discussion/approval of Notice to Proceed with the Covington Municipal Airport Rehabilitation and Notice of Intent for Land Disturbance at the airport.

Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Manager Billy Skinner was in attendance to open bids for resurfacing Alcovy Road from Highway 278 to Agnew Way.

3. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Howard to approve the sole bid from Pittman Construction for resurfacing Alcovy Road from Highway 278 to Agnew Way.

\$83,401.05

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Franklin to give City Manager Steve Horton the ability to approve contracts on home purchases acquired with the DCA's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and in Mr. Horton's absence, Finance Director Leigh Anne Knight would approve the contracts.

Council member Howard agreed with the stipulation that copies of the contracts are brought to the Council after they have been approved for informational purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed the need to amend a City Ordinance to allow for squirrel permits.

For years the City has issued permits allowing people to shoot squirrels on their property or with permission, property of others as long as a 410 shot gun or 22 rifle with rat shot is used.

The current City Ordinance only allows the discharge of firearms by Law Enforcement Officers carrying out their duties, in recreational facilities, such as gun ranges, and in defense of one's self or property.

Therefore, the current ordinance is in conflict with the permits the City has issued for many years.

At this time squirrel permits have been suspended until the City Ordinance is amended.

5. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to authorize the City Attorney Edward A. Crudup to proceed with drafting an ordinance to amend the current Firearm Ordinance to allow for squirrel permits.

Council member Dalton suggested the permit also include ground squirrels and snakes.

City Attorney Edward Crudup informed the Mayor and Council that some snakes are protected species.

Council member Goodman disagreed with adding snakes to the permit.

Council members Goodman and Whatley withdrew their motion to have the City Attorney proceed with drafting an ordinance to amend the current Firearm Ordinance to allow for squirrel permits.

6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Howard to authorize City Attorney Edward A. Crudup to draft an ordinance for the eradication of pests using a 410 shot gun or 22 rifle with rat shot and a \$15 permit processing fee valid for one year.

Council member Williams expressed concern of the broad definition of "pests."

Mr. Crudup suggested changing "pests" to "rodents."

Motion amended to change **"pests"** to **"rodents."**

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

7. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Howard to approve the E911 Dispatch Services Agreement with the City of Porterdale and allowing Mayor Carter to sign the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Carter discussed the recommendation by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) regarding the recertification resolution for the Certified City of Ethics Program.

GMA recommended adopting the resolution in March 2010 due to the City of Covington having an election in November and some of the council members may change.

8. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to suspend a resolution for Certified City of Ethics Recertification until March 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed street closings around the Downtown Square.

Filming for Vampire Diaries will begin Thursday and Friday. Main Street Director Josephine Kelly will be the contact person.

General Mills will host a charity concert on the Square Friday, September 4 at 7PM the public is invited. The concert is part of their 20 year celebration.

9. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve street closings for film crew and General Mill sponsored concert and allowing Mayor Carter to approve future street closings for film crew in the event there is not a regular scheduled council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Carter recognized General Mills as a great corporate partner in the community celebrating their 20 year anniversary. They will be sponsoring a free concert September 4 as a way of giving back to the community. In addition, General Mills regularly donates goods and services to local nonprofit organizations in the community.

Council member Goodman also acknowledged General Mills for giving \$30,000 in scholarships each year to Newton High School.

Mayor Carter discussed the Local Area Resurfacing Program (LARP). The City of Covington receives state funds to help resurface streets. Transportation Manager Billy Skinner annually submits a list of streets that are in need of repair and the State decides which streets to resurface.

There are three streets on the list for next year that the State has decided to resurface this year. They are Moon Circle, Lee Street, and Brown Street.

10. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the 2011 LARP list.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the following invoice:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ThoughtBridge Consulting, LLC

-Sharepoint Website design and implementation \$54,650.31

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an easement with AT&T for the Turner Lake Road Round-A-Bout.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed arrangements regarding the City's Auditors, Mauldin & Jenkins' engagement letter. In addition to examining the City of Covington's financials, Mr. Horton wants Mauldin & Jenkins to come several times a year to review records and ensure the City is in compliance.

13. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve an engagement letter and additional procedures for the City's 2008-2009 Audit.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Goodman to acknowledge a Notice to Proceed with the Covington Municipal Airport Rehabilitation and a Notice of Intent for Land Disturbance at the airport.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton informed the Mayor and Council that the City sent out letters to customers regarding delinquent stormwater bills. Customers had until July 18th to pay without fees and penalties. Customers that have not paid will have a lien placed on their property.

Mayor Carter congratulated Chief Cotton on becoming Chairperson of the Georgia Association of Police Chiefs.

Mayor Carter extended condolences to the family of Carl Smith. Mr. Smith passed away last week. He was a City of Covington Council member from 1953 to 1956.

Mayor Carter also extended condolences to former Council member Mr. Charles Wilborn. His father passed away.

Mayor Carter reminded everyone of the Back to School Block Party being held Sunday on the Downtown Square from 3PM-5PM.

Mayor Carter also mentioned the City of Covington was an active employer in the Workforce Investment Act. Stimulus money from the federal government provided jobs for people ages 16 to 24. The program was coordinated locally by Bea Jackson of the Washington Street Community Center.

The Urban Redevelopment Plan Organizing Committee has met 3 times and will meet again to come up with the by-laws and list of members for the Covington Redevelopment Authority. Recommendations from the committee will be brought back to the Council. The first meeting will be held in August.

A letter of intent went to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The City will apply for a GICH grant. The grant would provide 3 years technical assistance.

Mayor Carter discussed future development of property adjacent and around the Covington Airport.

Council member Howard informed the Mayor and Council that he and Council member Goodman represented the City at the Dixie Youth State Tournament on Saturday. Council member Howard stated he gave the welcoming speech and Council member Goodman threw out the first pitch.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk