

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL JULY 6, 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hawnethia Williams 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 June 15, 2009 and Called Meeting held on June 26, 2009.

Council member Howard informed the Mayor and Council that his appointment to the Urban Redevelopment Authority Organizing Committee, Sid Haggard will be able to serve on the committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Whatley, and seconded by Council member Howard 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 **CHAPTER 14.08 (PLATTING PROCEDURE)** OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING SECTION 14.08.110 (IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED) THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the following change to the agenda:

-Discussion/ approval of Warner Brothers filming location and proposed schedule for the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Location Manager Jonathon Jansen and Jessica Royal of Vampire Diaries, a new production in Georgia, were in attendance to discuss plans to film in Covington.

The production is a teen television show based on a set of books called Vampire Diaries. The stories take place in Mystic Falls, Virginia.

Mr. Jansen stated they would like to start filming July 21, 2009 in the downtown area and on Floyd Street.

Mayor Carter explained that there are City Ordinances that require Mayor and Council approval to close streets. Also, Mr. Jansen would need to coordinate dates and times of filming with the City's Public Safety, Public Works Department, Tourism and Main Street Directors.

City Manager Steve Horton explained the importance of adequate planning. Citizens and merchants must have advanced notice of street closings and blocked parking. Mr. Horton also stated the production company must be in compliance with GDOT rules and regulations.

Ms. Royal assured the Mayor and Council she would be available 24 hours a day for merchants, citizens, elected officials, etc. to call if there are any problems.

4. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the work Warner Brothers will be doing in the downtown area and on Floyd Street as long as there is adequate planning and compliance to GDOT rules and regulations.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve an application to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for:

**Quick Stop 81
8109 Washington Street**

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Covington Planning Commission

June 9, 2009 minutes

July 14, 2009 agenda

Tree Board

April 9, 2009 minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

June 3, 2009 minutes

July 1, 2009 agenda

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the low bid from Dekalb Pipeline to raise /lower manholes and valves on Highway 36 for upcoming GDOT resurfacing project.

Dekalb Pipeline Co. \$30,810.00

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the closing of Stone Mountain St at Spring St and West Streets on July 18, 2009 from 12:00PM-5:00PM for a church event.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a change in voting delegate for the GPW Board elections from Steve Horton to Mark Culbertson.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed a letter to GDOT Aviation Program regarding the Covington Municipal Airport's obstruction penetration.

Mr. Horton explained the letter was in response to the GDOT February 2009 inspection report concerning trees across the approach on Runways 10 and 28.

The letter stated the City of Covington has completed removal of all penetrations on Runways 10 and 28 that are located on property belonging to the City of Covington. Any remaining penetrations are located off airport property within the City of Oxford and can not be removed without the approval of the City of Oxford and property owners. Mr. Horton requested GDOT staff to meet on site with the City to identify any remaining obstructions.

10. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the following invoice:

STORMWATER

Manhard Consulting LTD

-Professional fees (7 invoices)

\$36,234.50

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed the traffic light at the intersection of Turner Lake Road and Washington Street. The traffic light will start on flash mode July 9, and full operation July 14 at 10AM.

Mr. Horton anticipates the start of the bidding process for the Round About Project on Turner Lake Road to begin in September 2009 pending final details and funding with GDOT.

Mr. Horton stated he received criticism for the lack of fireworks on July 4th. Mr. Horton also stated the Community Band was downtown July 4th and provided good entertainment.

The Covington Municipal Airport Rehabilitation Project will begin around the 3rd or 4th week of July. The runway will be closed for several weeks.

Mr. Horton updated the Mayor and Council on the much needed deep patch work done on American Way near Georgia Plating by the City and the County.

The Medical Helicopter Service that has been at the Covington Airport has elected to move back to Rockdale County. Mr. Horton stated this was a management decision and not due to the upcoming airport construction.

Council member Whatley expressed concern about the Pratt Dudley old property. He has been getting complaints about grass and trees growing up around the property.

Council member Whatley stated he has also received complaints about trees growing into the street on East Linwood Drive.

Planning and Zoning Director Randy Vinson was in attendance and commented on the old Pratt Dudley lumber yard property. Mr. Vinson stated he had spoken with the property owner about the trees and grass growing up on the property. The owner boarded up the building and fenced in the property for public safety. According to the City's ordinance, the owner has done all that is legally required.

Mr. Horton stated the City Ordinance has changed. There is now an International Property Maintenance Code.

Mr. Vinson stated he would review the ordinance.

Mayor Carter informed the public of the GMA Convention in Savannah last month, and congratulated Council member Williams on receiving a Certificate of Achievement for 72 hours of training and also being confirmed as the 3rd Vice President of the 5th District.

Mayor Carter discussed the letters of support to the State DCA regarding the 2 properties designated for affordable housing, the Harris Town area and the By-Pass. Mayor Carter recognized Council member Williams for getting letters of support in the Harris Town Community. The City should know around the 2nd week in October if the developer will receive tax credits. Mayor Carter stated this would be about a \$10 million investment in the City and fill a need for affordable housing, particularly for seniors.

Mayor Carter announced the Homeless Shelter received their Certificate of Occupancy and has moved into the new facility. There will be a Grand Opening Celebration July 25, 9AM-11AM on Turner Lake Road.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:08PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk