

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, JUNE 7, 2010 6:30 PM.

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

Reverend Dr. Robert Peay of Covington Seventh Day Adventist Church opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Smith to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 17, 2010 and the Called Meeting held on May 20, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Whatley, 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 CHAPTER 5.12 OF THE SAID CODE **RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Whatley, 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 CORRECT CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5.20.010 OF THE SAID CODE **RELATING TO IMPOSITION OF BUSINESS LICENSE TAX**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Council member Smith, 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 13.12.090 THEREOF **TO REVISE**

**WATER SERVICE RATES, TO AMEND SECTION 13.16.030
THEREOF TO REVISE SEWER SERVICE RATES, TO REPEAL
CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."**

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

5. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a request by the First United Methodist Church to use City greenspace for multiple "Screen on the Green" events with the caveat that a member of the church will evaluate each event and notify the City Police Department if crowd control will be needed.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton explained a request from Donald Monroe, a member of the Newton Paranormal Society. Mr. Monroe wants to investigate paranormal activity in the Covington Cemetery located off Davis Street. Mr. Monroe believes there have been sightings of ghosts of Confederate Soldiers.

6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve a request from Donald Monroe to investigate paranormal activity inside the City Cemetery located off Davis Street.

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

City Manager Steve Horton and the Mayor and Council thanked and congratulated Public Works Director Billy Bouchillon and Accreditation Manager Tim Smith for the re-accreditation of the City's Public Works Department.

Mr. Horton acknowledged that the City of Covington is one of three cities nationwide to have four accredited agencies.

7. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the best bid from Infratec Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$9,200.00 for Industrial Pre-treatment Program Local Limits Revision.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to authorize the Covington Re-Development Authority to purchase nine lots with a total purchase price of \$45,000.00 plus closing costs.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the Electric Cities of Georgia Contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor and Council discussed the voting delegate for the MEAG Annual Meeting. Consensus of the Council was to continue with Utility Director Bill Meecham as the City's voting delegate and City Manager Steve Horton as alternate.

- 10. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the **first** reading of an ordinance changing the residential water and sewer tap fee structure to allow for the calculation of tap fees based upon used gallons per day where actual or historical demand exists.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the bid from Robert M. Anderson in the amount of \$ 38,065.00 for additional drainage work in connection with the School Street Project.

Council member Williams expressed concerns regarding exposed pipe after the work is completed.

Transportation Manager Billy Skinner assured the Mayor and Council the pipe would be covered.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Whatley left the Council Meeting at 7:03PM.

- 12. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Smith to approve the low bid from Robert M. Anderson in the amount of \$11,871.10 for the Melody Court Drainage Project.

Robert M. Anderson	\$11,871.10
D&J Trenching Services, Inc.	\$12,034.00
Cumming Site Development, Inc.	Did not submit

Motion carried unanimously.

- 13. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the low bid from D&J Trenching Services, Inc. in the amount of \$23,809.75 for the Emory Street Water Project.

D&J Trenching Services, Inc.	\$23,809.75
Dekalb Pipeline Company	\$74,017.00
Bray Pipeline Company	Declined

Motion carried unanimously.

- 14. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve a proposal from Patrick and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$9,800.00 to perform the Engineering and office work for the West Street Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 15. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Williams to approve requests for road closures for the Square/Downtown area.

-Homecoming Celebration for the National Guard Bravo Company 1-21 held Sunday June 6, 2010 on State Route 36 from 1:15PM until 2:00PM
 -July 4th Celebration & Concert hosted by Main Street Covington and the City of Covington to be held Saturday July 3, 2010 on State Route 36 from 4:30PM until 10:30PM
 -2010 Back to School Downtown Block Party hosted by Main Street Covington to be held Sunday August 1, 2010 on State Route 36 from 2:00PM until 7:00PM

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Horton and Council member Smith discussed the possibility of building a Public Safety Training Center on Alcovy Road across from Dekalb Tech. It was discussed that if the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) would donate the land Dekalb Tech would build the facility. Training usage would be shared between Newton County and the City of Covington public safety personnel.

Council member Smith will reconvene with the Dekalb Tech Advisory Board regarding being placed on the IDA agenda.

- 16. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Smith to approve the low bid from Communications Systems Services, Inc. in the amount of \$35,500.00 for structural modifications of the City of Covington Communications Tower and execute a resolution to amend the current year's Budget increasing account 1510-54.1200 by \$40,500.00 for site improvements and increasing account 1510-34.4216 by \$40,500.00 for reimbursements.

Communications Systems Services, Inc.	\$35,500.00
Harrington Tower Services	\$39,000.00
Preferred Tank & Tower	\$42,500.00
OTB Contracting	\$52,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

- 17. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve a request to permit vending by downtown food purveyors on July 3, 2010 for the July 4th celebration and concert.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 18. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Williams to authorize the City to allow qualified retirees with less than 25 years service involved in the most recent Retirement Incentive Package to use sick leave in order to retire early.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the following invoice:

ELECTRIC

GRESKO Utility Supply, Inc
-Power poles \$37,134.50

Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Steve Horton discussed the City's Airport Project which has been delayed due to the amount of rock in the area.

Mr. Horton informed everyone of the Budget and Tax Hearing held at 10AM.

The City's Budget will be presented for approval during the June 21st Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Horton requested a consensus from the Mayor and Council to ask the Main Street Board to revise by laws to provide personnel policies, guidance and direction for the Main Street Program.

Mayor Carter congratulated Council member Williams for becoming 2nd Vice President for GMA District 5.

Mayor Carter reminded everyone of the annual GMA Convention June 26 – 29 in Savannah.

Mayor Carter discussed some of the accomplishments of the City in the last two and a half years:

- 2011 Budget surplus is over \$1 million
- employees declined without layoffs and furloughs
- no tax increase since year 2000
- Property Tax Digest indicates that City should receive approximately \$4.9 million in property taxes about a million dollar decline from last year, however residents, business and corporate citizens receive a good value in services based on taxes.
- \$8 million in airport improvements
- 35 ordinance changes to modernized the City
- stormwater bills lowered
- increased Hotel Motel Tax from 5% to 8%
- Urban Redevelopment Plan has lead to a \$9 million investment
- in the last 2 years the City has improved electric utility rates by purchasing more base power
- developed a strategic plan for the City of Covington
- perfect financial audit this year
- investment in radio read for utility meters

Council member Smith congratulated Billy Bouchillon and staff for re-accreditation.

Council member Dalton thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager, and staff for work on the budget.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:39PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk