

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, MARCH 1, 2010, 6:30 PM.**

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

Reverend Rob Rienstra of Trinity Presbyterian Church opened the meeting with prayer.

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1. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Smith to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 15, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to remove from the agenda the **final** reading of an ordinance for the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously.

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3. Motion made by Council member Goodman, 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 16 OF THE SAID CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING SECTION 16.48.030 THEREOF RELATING TO **SIGNS PERMITTED IN CORRIDOR MIXED USE ZONING DISTRICTS**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

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4. Motion made by Council member Franklin, 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 TITLES 14 AND 15 OF THE SAID CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING SECTIONS 14.08.110 AND 15.30.050 SO AS TO **CLARIFY SECURITY PROVISIONS FOR REQUIRED DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES**, THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

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City of Covington utility customer Latisha McClure was in attendance to inquire about high utility bills and options for customers. Other utility customers were also in attendance to express their concerns regarding rising utility costs.

Utility Director Bill Meecham explained the different factors that have contributed to this winter's higher utility consumption and cost.

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

**Amici Italian Café  
1116 College Ave**

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 6. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the **first** 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 15 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTION 15.36.030 (**EXEMPTIONS**) OF CHAPTER 15.36 (**SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL**) THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING MINOR LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 7. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Goodman to acknowledge receipt of the following:

**Covington Planning Commission**  
February 9, 2010 agenda-revised  
February 10, 2010 minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

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Planning and Zoning Director Randy Vinson presented the recommendations of the Planning Commission for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for A&G Moseley Properties for Ray Edward Auto Repair at 7187-M Washington Street.

- 8. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the Planning Commission's recommendations and stipulations for a SUP for Ray Edward Auto Repair at 7187-M Washington Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the City of Covington to participate in the LCI Grant Award Program, \$160,000.00 grant with a \$40,000.00 match.

Motion carried unanimously.

City of Covington Grant Writer Randy Conner presented seven potential grants the City is eligible to apply for.

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10. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Whatley to authorize the City to participate in the GEFA Residential Efficiency Grant Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

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11. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to authorize the City to participate in the Geiger Street Water Lines Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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12. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to authorize the City to participate in the Elizabeth/Dearing Street Water Lines Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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13. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to authorize the City to participate in the Corley Street Water Lines Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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14. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Goodman to authorize the City participate in a \$1.2 million Water Security Project requiring a \$50,000 in-kind match and \$50,000 cash match.

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

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15. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to authorize the City to participate in the Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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16. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to authorize the City to participate in the Corridor Preservation Project.

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

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17. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Smith to approve the proposed Electric Economic Development rates.

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

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Clarks Grove resident Clay Newman was in attendance to discuss a grant which would allow customers to generate electricity through solar energy.

- 18. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize the City to draft an Electric Customer Generation Policy.

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

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Utility Director Bill Meecham explained the proposed MGAG Gas Industrial Hedge Service.

- 19. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the Gas Industrial Hedge Service.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 20. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a request to seek bids for qualified contractors and materials for the installation of City fiber optics projects under the FY 2010 Budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 21. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the low bid from Robert M. Anderson, Inc. in the amount of \$39, 973.00 for the Elizabeth Street Drainage Project.

Robert M. Anderson, Inc.	\$39,973.00
Jerome Bradford Enterprises, LLC	\$56,251.00
Cumming Site Development, Inc.	\$63,903.00

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 22. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve a request to seek bids for the Emory Street Waterline Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Covington Police Chief Stacey Cotton updated the Mayor Council on recent traffic studies conducted on Crestview Drive at its intersection with Farmington Lane.

- 23. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve recommendations for a three way stop sign on Crestview Drive at its intersection with Farmington Lane.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Farmington Lane residents Nat and Fred Harwell thanked the Mayor, Council, police and transportation department for their time and research.

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Public Works Director Billy Bouchillon presented a proposal from the City of Porterdale to purchase an out of service City of Covington Police vehicle.

24. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to deny a request from Porterdale Police Department to purchase an *out of service* City of Covington Police vehicle and to continue with the current auction process.

Motion carried unanimously.

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25. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve a Mutual Assistance Agreement with the City of Porterdale.

Motion carried unanimously.

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26. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the submission of the Southeast Apron Phase II, Site Preparation Project for FY2011 airport appropriations in the amount of \$1,078,250.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

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27. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the adoption of a resolution for recertification of participation in GMA's "Certified City of Ethics" Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

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City Manager Steve Horton informed everyone of the revised Strategic Planning Retreat dates March 17-19.

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28. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Smith to approve drafting of plans and estimating costs for a proposed July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration on the Downtown Square.

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

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29. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve transferring of uncollected utility bills receivable to bad debt expense.

October	\$28,914.65
November	\$51,046.42
December	\$46,521.01
January	\$49,675.38

Motion carried unanimously.

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Nat Harwell questioned the 2.95% convenience fee for credit and debit card payments to the City.

Covington resident Rosie Crawford requested a copy of the proposed Electric Generation Policy.

Greg Shy was also in attendance and inquired about grants that would benefit citizens.

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City Manager Steve Horton discussed the new signs for the Cemetery reminding people to clean up behind their pets.

Mr. Horton discussed Walkers Bend's property closings.

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Mayor Carter discussed the Georgia Investment for Community Housing technical assistance program.

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Council member Chris Smith attended GMA training.

Council member Smith also discussed a \$2.1 million grant awarded to Dekalb Tech for EMS.

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Council member Franklin expressed concerns regarding parking on South Emory Street.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:42PM.

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Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

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Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk