

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, MAY 18, 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 Curtis Wilson, Associate Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

Appointment/swearing in of City Clerk, Tonya R Grier, by City Manager Steve Horton

1. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 4, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman 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 13.20.050 THEREOF TO **REVISE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE**, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the adoption of a resolution providing the adjustment of Garbage Collection Fees in the City of Covington. Raising the City's solid waste fees \$1.00 per month for residential, \$.30 per month for senior citizen, and commercial and industrial rates 5% per month.

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

4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton 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 REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

5. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the following changes to the agenda:

- a. Discussion/approval of changes to the City's Golf Cart Ordinance
- b. Discussion/approval of Newton County GIS Department's proposal to Participate in a 20 County Atlanta Regional Imagery and LIDAR Acquisition project.
- c. Move agenda item # 11 to the first item under New Business.

Motion carried unanimously.

Consultant John W. Cheek was in attendance to present the City's Urban Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Cheek stated the General Assembly of Georgia created the Urban Development Plan for local governments to combat and correct conditions of blight, decline, and disinvestment.

Covington resident Jerry Bouchillon was in attendance in opposition of the afore-mentioned plan.

6. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the adoption of the Urban Redevelopment Plan.

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

7. 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:

**Carniceria La Bonita
6223 Highway 278
Suite B**

Motion carried unanimously.

Main Street Manager, Josephine Kelly presented a program update to the Mayor and Council regarding the Downtown District Development.

Herring Street resident Vickie Beam was in attendance to oppose increases in utility rates and to discuss utility deregulation.

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

Covington Planning Commission
June 2, 2009 Works Session agenda
June 9, 2009 Public Hearing agenda

Covington Parking Authority
April 27, 2009 minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Howard to accept the following property donation to the City from Mr. Sam Hay, Jr. and Mr. John Dearing containing .522 acres.

District 9; Land Lot 240
Newton County, Georgia
South Dearing Street
Covington, Georgia 30014

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve a service contract with the Newton Chamber for Tourism with the following addition:

To add a clause to modify expiration date and provisions for renewal.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Goodman for approval to seek bids for a forebay and dredging for Alexander Lake.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve refunding of Equity Call Advances to the City's Short Term Flexible Trust Account.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve The City's participation in 2010 US Census Project.

Motion carried unanimously

City Manager Steve Horton discussed the adoption of the City's budget and millage rate including relevant dates:

- Newton County Tax Commission will have the digest and roll back information to the City by May 27th or 28th
- Advertising in the newspaper by June 1, 2009.
- Public Hearing for budget and millage rate June 8, 2009, 10 a.m. at City Hall
- Adoption of City budget and millage rate at the June 15, 2009 Council meeting

Mr. Horton anticipates a roll back increase causing the millage rate to stay the same or go down from last year.

14. Motion made by Council member Goodman, and seconded by Council member Dalton 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 10 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING CHAPTER 10.18 (MOTORIZED CARTS) THERETO, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Council member Whatley, and seconded by Williams to support notice of intent to participate in a 20 County Atlanta Imagery and LIDAR Acquisition Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion made by Whatley, and seconded by Goodman to approve the following invoices:

WATER & SEWER

United Utilities, Inc.	
-ERTs (500)	\$28,250.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Goodman suggested the City obtain a portable microphone to improve sound during presentations.

Mayor Carter discussed new state legislation requirements by the RDC which will change the composition of the Board starting July 1st.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk