

REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, MAY 4, 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, Acting City Clerk Tonya R. Grier, and City Attorney E. A. Crudup, Jr., present.

Rainbow Covenant Ministries' Pastor Clara Lett opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 20, 2009, as amended:

Para. between Motions 3 & 4, change name to "Jonathan".

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. JaNice VanNess of Peachtree Academy Private School, LLC was in attendance to appeal a prior imposed SUP extension requirement for Peachtree Academy.

McGuirts Bridge Road resident Olin Webb and Mason Drive resident Wayne Digby were in attendance in opposition of Peachtree Academy being located on McGuirts Bridge Road.

2. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Franklin to accept the Planning Commission's following recommendations to approve an amendment to the conditions of a SUP, issued in February 2009, for Peachtree Academy:

- a) The condition of a five (5) year renewal be stricken as a condition with the SUP to remain in affect in perpetuity for the use of a private school.
- b) Have the applicant follow the intent of the ordinance as it is written and be allowed to have the maximum number of students allowed by the ordinance.
- c) Allow the applicant to follow the ordinance on the use of modular buildings and to follow staff's interpretation.

Council members Howard, Franklin, and Goodman voting for. Council members Whatley, Williams, and Dalton voting against. Motion carried with Mayor Carter voting for, breaking 3-3 tie.

Floyd Street resident Maurice Carter was in attendance to ask the council to recognize several individuals in the audience who are supporters working to advocate trails, greenways, and appropriate use of rail road right-of-ways.

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

Covington Planning Commission

April 28, 2009 agenda

May 12, 2009 agenda

Covington Parking Authority

April 27, 2009 agenda

Historic Preservation Committee

April 1, 2009 minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Carter publically acknowledged the following retired Planning Commission members for their service to the City:

Ms. Zelma Stewart – 25 years of service
Mr. Rucker Ginn – 25 years of service
Mr. Walker Campbell – 8 years of service

4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Howard to authorize the City to contract with Habitat for Humanity of Newton County as for handling the needs for the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program through the Covington Housing Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Williams to appoint Mayor Carter as Parking Authority Chairman.

Mayor Carter stated Mr. Lee Mayfield has served dutifully as the Chairman of the Parking Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve allowing Whetstone Consulting to provide a bid for the sanitary sewer stabilization work at Alexander Lake, contingent upon receiving a reasonable bid.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the low bid from Stokes Construction Company in the amount of \$26,100.00, to relocate and repair a 24" sanitary sewer at Dried Indian Creek/Indian Creek Circle.

Stokes Construction Company	\$26,100.00
Hall's Trenching, Inc.	\$26,470.00
D & J's Trenching Services, Inc.	\$30,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the 14th Equity Call from MEAG Power in accordance with the Vogtle Development Contract in the amount of \$116,984.47, to be paid out of the City's short term flexible operating account of the Municipal Competitive Trust.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve placing the City's MEAG FY 2008 Year-end Settlement Refund in the amount of \$647,819.00 into the Flexible Operating Account-Short Term Portfolio.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve crediting the City's MEAG FY 2008 Year-end Settlement Refund for the Telecom Project in the amount of \$7,510.93 to the monthly MEAG Telecom Bill.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize the Utility Director to look into the City participating with other city and county entities with regards to a fuel co-op.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion made by Council member Howard, seconded by Council member Williams 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 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.

13. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve the following:

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.

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 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, Goodman, Williams, and Dalton voting for. Council members Howard and Franklin voting against.

Mayor Carter stated the City had hoped to decrease its solid waste charges with Newton County but the subject was not negotiable and the county increased their price. Mayor Carter further stated the City is not pleased about that and there should have been some consideration given since the City is the largest landfill customer. Mayor Carter stated the City could take the garbage somewhere else but we have made the conscious decision at this point in time not to jeopardize our county's economy further and continue to pay the tipping fees and keep it local because it is a business to the county. Mayor Carter further stated whether we can continue to do that in the long run at this time we do not know and we may have to look at alternatives such as a different landfill site or privatization of garbage service. Mayor Carter stated private garbage services have a myriad of places that they haul to.

Nelson Heights resident Greg Shy was in attendance to thank the City regarding how the Nelson Heights Community Center is progressing.

The City Manager commented on the following;

- MEAG Marketing Services 2008 Year-end refund may need to be changed from the Local Economic Development Fund to the Short Term Flexible Operating Account.
- BARD Urological Division on Harland Drive will close by June 22nd at a loss of 98 local jobs.
- A minimum of three Budget Work Sessions will be needed

It was the consensus of the council to schedule Budget Work Sessions for Monday, May 11th and Monday, May 25th from 5:30 PM until 9:30 PM.

Mayor Carter congratulated Council member Williams as one of Covington News's Women of the Year.

Mayor Carter stated the City's ballot for GMA's District 5 Officers for 2009-2010 came in and the following city officials have been nominated:

President: Ronnie Maxwell, Mayor, Nicholson
1st Vice President: Greg Thompson, Mayor, Monroe
2nd Vice President: Mark Fitzpatrick, Council member, Commerce
3rd Vice President: Hawnethia Williams, Council member, Covington

Mayor Carter further stated she has already signed the ballot and it has been faxed to GMA.

Council member Howard wanted to know if there is anything that can be done to attract more businesses to the Square.

The City Manager stated the City is looking into creating a Community/Economic Development Engine. The City Manager further stated the matter will be discussed in the Budget Work Session.

Council member Dalton stated the Elks Lodge is doing a benefit spaghetti dinner for life long resident Joe Hughes, who has lung cancer, on Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

Tonya R. Grier, Acting City Clerk