

**REGULAR MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, CITY HALL, OCTOBER 4, 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 Gail Thompson Associate Pastor of the First United Methodist Church opened the meeting with prayer.

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1. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on September 20, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

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2. 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING A NEW SECTION 16.24.030 (**WALKER’S BEND OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT**) OF CHAPTER 16.24 (OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICTS) THEREOF TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

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3. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Whatley to amend the agenda to add the following:

- Discussion of a request from Bridgestone for a tax refund on incorrect property values submitted by the Company to the Newton County Tax Commissioner.
- Discussion of a letter in support of Newton County’s request to the North East Georgia Regional Commission for a grant for assistance to develop a local agricultural guide.
- Discussion of acknowledging receipt of an annexation request from the Newton County Industrial Development Authority for property in the area of HWY 142 and Airport Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

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City of Covington property owner Curtis Goss discussed concerns in the Nelson Height Community and asked for an apology for a statement that was made in the newspaper about him.

Mrs. Jackson discussed a car accident she had on King Street.

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Forest Drive resident Virginia Hoffman was in attendance to express concerns regarding the parking ordinance. Mrs. Hoffman explained that nothing has been done with her complaints. Residents are still parking heavy equipment in their yards and neighbors are still allegedly buying and selling cars at their residence.

City Manager Steve Horton asked Planning and Zoning Director Randy Vinson to follow up on the complaints and take violators of the current ordinance to court.

Conyers Street resident Jonathan Pascal expressed his concerns regarding the parking ordinance.

Michael McGiboney thanked the Council for the recent vote allowing 1900 lb capacity trucks to be parked in residential areas and discussed the importance of being able to drive home and park his truck.

Martha McGiboney was also in attendance to oppose restrictions on work vehicles parked in residential areas.

After further discussion it was determined that until the new parking ordinances are adopted the City needed to suspend enforcement of the current ordinance.

- 4. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Smith to suspend enforcement of the current parking ordinances 16.20.520 and 16.20.530 until new ordinances are adopted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lunsford also expressed concerns with heavy equipment and car sales in the neighborhood.

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- 5. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the UGA Metropolitan Design Studio Project with the TSW-Dried Indian Creek Greenway from Pace Street to Washington Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 6. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve the low bid from GCA in the amount of \$6,722.49 for the Pace Street Traffic Impact Analysis Study prior to the LCA funding for the Pace Street Corridor Project.

GCA	\$6,722.49
URS	\$13,247.00

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 7. Motion made by Council member Smith, 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTION 16.12.020 (**PLANNING COMMISSION**) OF CHAPTER 16.12 (**PROCEDURES**) THEREOF TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 8. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Smith to table the discussion of a City ordinance allowing outdoor burning with permission of the Covington Fire Department

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 9. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the low bid from Hall’s Trenching, Inc. in the amount of \$20,587.98 for airport hangar drainage.

-Hall’s Trenching, Inc.	\$20,587.98
-Robert M. Anderson	\$34,973.00

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 10. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve the ARMC Group as the engineer for Clark Street TE Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 11. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve \$1,257,252.96 in requested resurfacing projects using SPLOST funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 12. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve installation of “Slow-Watch for Children Playing” signs on Locust Circle.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 13. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member smith to authorize MEAG Power to execute refunding of the Combined Cycle Project debt.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 14. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Williams to approve an Electric Cities invoice in the amount of \$48,968.00 for GEFA Grant Participation.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 15. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize MEAG to apply \$2,383,233.00 credit from the Municipal Competitive Trust for Power Supply Year 2011 to the New Generation Funding Account.

Motion carried unanimously.

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City Manager Steve Horton informed the Mayor and Council that MEAG has advised there will be prolonged generation plant closures in calendar year 2011. This will result in an estimated 6%-7% increase in electric cost to customers, which the City plans to recover through PCA adjustments.

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- 16. Motion made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Franklin to table the discussion regarding the City's participation in the Electric Cities of Georgia On-Bill Finance Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 17. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve a road closure for the First Baptist Church to include the Downtown Square and one block off the Square for the Harvest for Hungry Festival on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3PM-6:30PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 18. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Dalton to approve the best bid from Lewis Banks in the amount of \$26.00 per acre for three years for the lease of 38 acres at the LAS.

-B&J Farms	\$ 9.25 per acre for three years
-Lewis Banks	\$26.00 per acre for three years

Motion carried unanimously.

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- 19. Motion made by Council member Franklin, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize execution of a replacement Limited Warranty Deed for 4113 Briscoe Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

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City Manager Steve Horton discussed tax assessments and billing changes that will take place in 2011.

It is anticipated that tax collections will be 12%-15% less than estimated for this year.

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Mayor Carter discussed proposed 2011 SPLOST Projects. The City of Covington must have the final project list submitted prior to December 3, 2010.

Former Council member Bobby Sigman was in attendance and asked if citizens would have any involvement developing the proposed list of SPLOST projects.

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20. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Franklin to approve modification of the City of Covington's Defined Benefits Retirement Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan as of January 1, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

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City Manager Steve Horton discussed a request for a tax refund from Bridgestone Golf Inc.

Bridgestone submitted incorrect property values to the Newton County Tax Commissioner for tax years 2006 and 2007. They are requesting a refund of \$10,795.85 for 2006 and \$12,293.10 for 2007.

21. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to approve a property tax refund to Bridgestone Golf, Inc. for tax year 2006 in the amount of \$10,795.85 and tax year 2007 in the amount of \$12,293.10.

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

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22. Motion made by Council member Smith, seconded by Council member Dalton to authorize the Mayor to execute a letter of support for Newton County to the North East Georgia Regional Commission for a grant for technical assistance to develop a local agricultural guide.

Motion carried unanimously.

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23. Motion made by Council member Dalton, seconded by Council member Williams to acknowledge receipt of an annexation request from the Newton County Industrial Development Authority regarding property in the area of HWY 142 and Airport Road.

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City Manager informed everyone of Customer Appreciation Day on October 6<sup>th</sup> and Employee Appreciation Day October 8<sup>th</sup>.

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Council member Smith announced that the First Methodist Church will have the *Pumpkin Patch* this year.

Council member Smith asked to put the speed trailer on Martin Street between Floyd Street and Hazelbrand Road he has noticed people driving over the speed limit.

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Council member Dalton stated he had received complaints about people speeding on Legion Drive.

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Council member Franklin discussed the nuisance ordinance.

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Council member Whatley expressed concern regarding comments made by a citizen in the local newspaper criticizing Covington Police Officers.

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Mayor Carter announced receipt of the \$299,000.00 CHIP Grant from the Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor Carter informed the Council of and Economic Development breakfast on October 8<sup>th</sup> with Beaver Manufacturing.

Mayor Carter discussed a Transportation SPLOST round table meeting October 12th with the North East Georgia Regional Commission.

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Council member Dalton left the Council Room. 8:35PM

24. Motion made by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Whatley to enter into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss the future acquisition of real estate. 8:37PM

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Dalton returned to the Council Room. 8:39PM

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25. Motion made by Council member Whatley, seconded by Council member Goodman to enter back into Regular Session. 9:07PM

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:08PM.

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Kimberly C. Carter, Mayor

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Tonya R. Grier, City Clerk