

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2015**

**Council President O'Keefe** called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

**PRESENT:** John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith, Lee Alexius and Sam O'Keefe

**ABSENT:** Mark Wright

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister.

Councilman Mark Wright arrived at 6:01 P.M.

**APPEARERS**

1. St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister updated the Council, Administration and public on the "State of the Parish."
2. Becky Gelatt, Chairperson of the Mayor's Council on Healthy Lifestyles, discussed the mission and vision of the Mayor's Council on Healthy Lifestyles.
3. Joey Roberts, Executive Director of the West St. Tammany YMCA, discussed the services and programs offered by the West St. Tammany YMCA.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Unfinished Business**

**Items to be voted on:**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-03-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Act of Lease With James Michalopoulos D/B/A Vermont Mandeville LLC for the Use of His Properties for Public Parking (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Item No. 2015-03-01.

**Councilman Alexius made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Callahan. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.**

**Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-03-01, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-03-01. Item No. 2015-03-01 was adopted.**

**New Business**

**Items to be voted on:**

**1. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-06** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Acknowledging Receipt and Compliance With the Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire From the Legislative Auditor's Office (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-06.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-06, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-06. Resolution No. 2015-06 was adopted.

**COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

**A. Council District and Committee Reports**

**1. District A --**

**Councilman Callahan** congratulated Councilmen Coner and Smith on their recent re-election for another term.

**2. District B --**

**Councilman Coner's** quote for this evening was, "One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, indignation and compassion," by Simone De Beauvoir.

**3. District C --**

**Councilman Wright** congratulated his colleagues for their re-election and stated that he looks forward to working with them for another term. Also, he requested an update from the Mayor on some City projects.

**4. District D --**

**Councilman Rolling** announced that four new businesses applied for occupational licenses in March. Upcoming events: Rockin' the Rails concert series every Thursday in April from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; A Taste of Covington -- April 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>; Spring for Art -- April 11<sup>th</sup> from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M. in downtown Covington; Lions Club Car Show -- Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 8 A.M. until 3 P.M. at the Trailhead; Sunset at the Landing concert -- Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>; Covington Heritage Antique Festival -- April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party -- Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>; Coffee with the Mayor -- April 29<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to support our local businesses.

**5. District E --**

**Councilman Smith** stated that he is very happy and humbled that the voters in District E re-elected him to another term as their councilman. Also, he looks forward to the next four years representing the citizens of District E and to narrow any divisions within the district.

**6. At Large (Vice President) --**

**Councilman Alexius** congratulated Councilmen Coner and Smith for their re-election and looks forward to the next four years working with the Council and Mayor. Also, he reminded everyone that the next HDC meeting will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the next BOA/P&Z meetings will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, he mentioned that a committee is in the process of being formed to oversee issues concerning the City cemeteries and a resolution will be on the next agenda setting out the details of the committee. Also, he thanked the members of the committee who worked on the horse and carriage ordinance and encouraged the public to review the ordinance which was introduced this evening. Also, he mentioned that

due to a delay in shipment, the official book-signing event for Professor Howard Nichols' book on the history of Covington has been postponed; however, if the books are received prior to April 10<sup>th</sup>, Professor Nichols will be available to sign them on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. at the Southern Hotel.

**7. At Large (President) –**

**Council President O'Keefe** reminded the Council that the next St. Tammany Municipal Association quarterly dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> in Madisonville.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

**1. Mayor Cooper's comments:**

- (a) He mentioned that Dr. William Wainwright, Chancellor of Northshore Technical Community College, will be the guest speaker at the St. Tammany Municipal Association dinner meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (b) He thanked the appearers who attended tonight's meeting and for their presentations;
- (c) He announced that in conjunction with the upcoming State Legislative Session, Rep. John Schroder will present a pre-session discussion on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 7 P.M. until 8 P.M. at the Fuhrmann Auditorium in the Greater Covington Center.
- (d) He welcomed several new businesses that have recently opened or will be opening soon within city limits.
- (e) He presented an update on capital improvement projects.
- (f) He announced that the City won the district competition for the Cleanest City Contest and thanked all those who participated. Also, he announced that the judging for the state competition will be on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and asked the public to help with the preparation.
- (g) He announced that in observance of Earth Day, Keep Covington Beautiful is sponsoring a paper-shredding event on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. until noon at the Trailhead.
- (h) He reminded everyone that he and his wife, Catherine, are co-hosting a complimentary community leaders' breakfast on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 A.M. until 9 A.M. at Benedict's Plantation in Mandeville, to benefit Special Olympics Louisiana.

**Councilman Coner** requested a completion date for the construction of the northbound, right turning lane on Collins Boulevard from the Bogue Falaya Bridge to Lee Road.

**Mayor Cooper** responded that the project was on schedule but does not have a completion date.

**Councilman Rolling** mentioned that some of his constituents have requested a bike/pedestrian path to be included as part of the repairs to the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge.

**2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.**

**Police Chief Lentz** mentioned that he would like to introduce two new recruits at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.

**Councilman Coner** encouraged the public to shop at our local businesses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.



R.S. "SAM" O'KEEFE  
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Clerk to the Council

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7