

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2015**

Council President O'Keefe called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Mark Wright, Rick Smith, Lee Alexius and Sam O'Keefe

ABSENT: Larry Rolling

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mike Curtis.

APPEARERS

1. Jan Butler gave a presentation regarding the preservation of Covington Cemetery No. 1.
2. Police Chief Tim Lentz introduced two new police officers to the Council, Administration and public: Officers Edwin Masters and Katy Hart.

Police Chief Lentz announced that by the end of this week, all Covington Police officers, detectives and administrative staff will be wearing body cameras.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Rolling) to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Informing the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of the Actions Regarding the Sewerage Treatment Facility (MWPP) (Alexius)

Mike Curtis from Curtis Environmental Services, Inc. led a discussion on the results of the 2014 MWPP Environmental Audit.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-05, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Rolling) to adopt Resolution No. 2015-05. Resolution No. 2015-05 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-07 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Establishing the City of Covington Cemetery Advisory Board (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-07.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-07, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Rolling) to adopt Resolution No. 2015-07. Resolution No. 2015-07 was adopted.

Council President O'Keefe announced the members of the City of Covington Cemetery Advisory Board:

Representative from Mayor's office:

Kelli Moore
City Cemetery Administrator

Two representatives from City Council:

John Callahan
Councilman, District A

Mark Wright
Councilman, District C

Representative from Covington Heritage Foundation:

Kathy Fielding-Smith

Two members to be appointed by the City Council:

Jan Butler
Lynne Moore

One member to be appointed by the Mayor:

Sharon Nunez

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A – None.
2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the April birthdays for City employees and stated: "An employee acknowledged the receipt of the birthday greeting and stated that after working for a former employer for 20 years, birthdays were not recognized. It is an honor and blessing to recognize the birthdays of the hard-working employees of the City of Covington." His quote for this evening was, "Chaos occurs when human rights are not respected," by Andrew Young, former Ambassador for the United States of America.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright welcomed the new police officers and commended Police Chief Lentz for his efforts to improve the Covington Police Department. Also, he mentioned that the residents of River Forest appreciate the recent and ongoing sewer repairs. Also, he announced some upcoming events: (1) Keep Covington Beautiful will sponsor a Paper Shredding Day on Saturday, April 25th, from 9 A.M. until noon at the Trailhead; (2) Hope House Child Advocacy Center is conducting an Adventure Quest on Saturday, April 25th from 2 P.M. until 4 P.M. at the

Trailhead; and (3) the Covington Rotary will host a new fundraiser, the Quack-a-Falaya Rubber Duck Rally, which will be a rubber duck race on the Bogue Falaya River on Saturday, May 9th at 11 A.M.

4. District D – Absent.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith announced some upcoming events: Rockin' the Rails concert series every Thursday in April from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party – Friday, April 24th; the Covington Recreation Department's little league baseball season begins on Saturday, May 2nd at 10 A.M.; Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, April 29th, at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius mentioned that BOA and P&Z had no cases in April. Also, he mentioned that HDC met recently and approved three items: (1) a sign for the Rapid Urgent Care Clinic on East Boston Street; and (2) a sign and Certificate of Appropriateness for a new doctors' office on East Gibson Street. He announced that the first Covington Heritage Foundation Antique Festival was held this past weekend and overall it was a success. Also, he mentioned that books on Covington's history were sold at the Antique Festival and extra copies of C. Howard Nichols' book are available for purchase at the Trailhead. Also, he commended Aimee Faucheux for her work on recent events including the Antique Festival.

7. At Large (President) – None.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He commended Aimee Faucheux and everyone who helped with all of the recent City events;
- (b) He mentioned that the work on the Peter Atkins' basketball court roof has begun and hopes to have it finished in time for another Hoops for Kids Basketball tournament;
- (c) He gave an update on the street improvement project;
- (d) He gave an update on the West 15th Avenue Bridge closure;
- (e) He mentioned that bids for repairs to the West 25th Avenue Bridge will be opened on April 23rd;
- (f) He mentioned that judging for the State competition in the Cleanest City Contest was held last week but the results have not been received yet;
- (g) He announced that a bid has been received for a new street sweeper and it should be delivered soon;
- (h) He issued a Proclamation declaring tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22nd, as Earth Day in the City of Covington; and
- (i) He announced that the City of Covington has been named the #1 place in the New Orleans area for young professionals.

Councilman Smith mentioned that the City of Covington has also been named as the #1 retirement community in Louisiana.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

Police Chief Lentz mentioned that he believes the Covington Police Department is the first law enforcement agency in St. Tammany Parish to fully implement the usage of body cameras and is proud of that distinction.

Council President O'Keefe thanked Police Chief Lentz for all of the improvements to the Covington Police Department over the past 18 months.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council