

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 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, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith, Lee Alexius and Sam O'Keefe

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President O'Keefe.

APPEARERS

1. Ms. Sandy Hughes and Mr. Mack Deloney discussed the free and confidential assistance offered to business owners and future business owners by SCORE.
2. Ms. Mary Baham discussed her concerns about speeding near her home at the intersection of West 24th Avenue and North Buchanan Street and requested the installation of a stop sign at the intersection. Mayor Cooper responded that a stop sign is not appropriate at this intersection and has discussed the enforcement of speed limits throughout the City with Police Chief Lentz.
3. Messrs. John Scallan, Sr. and Richard Reeves were recognized for their talents and accomplishments as Master Carvers/Artists in the Ward World Wildfowl Championship (duck-carving competition).

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-09** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Re-Appointing Bert Duvic as the District E Appointment to the Covington Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-09.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-09, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-09. Resolution No. 2015-09 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-10** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Appointing Trustees of the St. Tammany Public Trust Financing Authority and Designating Their Terms of Office (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-10.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-10, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Abstain – 1 (Alexius) to adopt Resolution No. 2015-10. Resolution No. 2015-10 was adopted.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-11** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Councilman at Large Appointment of Ella Mae Selmon to the Covington Tree Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-11.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-11, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-11. Resolution No. 2015-11 was adopted.

4. Naming the Official Journal for the City of Covington (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on this matter.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt The St. Tammany Farmer as the Official Journal for the City of Covington for a term of one year, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt The St. Tammany Farmer as the Official Journal for the City of Covington for a term of one year.

Items for discussion:

(a) Concerns regarding The St. Tammany Farmer (Coner)

Councilman Coner stated that after the discussion led by Councilman Alexius, the matter has been cleared up.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced there will be a fish dinner on Friday, June 5th starting at 11 A.M. at the VFW Hall on Ronald Reagan Highway. Also, he invited the public to attend the Juneteenth Celebration sponsored by the Greater Covington Branch of the NAACP on Saturday, June 13th starting at 11 A.M. at Peter Atkins Park.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the June birthdays for City employees. Also, he announced a book-signing event by Dr. Eva Baham for her book entitled, "African Americans in Covington" on Saturday, June 13th at Greater Starlight Missionary Baptist Church from 1 P.M. until 4 P.M. He mentioned this event will coincide with the annual Juneteenth Celebration held at Peter Atkins Park. Also, he thanked the organizers, volunteers and supporters for their work on the Veterans Appreciation Reception held on Memorial Day. Also, his quote for this evening

was, "Wisdom is better than weapons of war." Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright mentioned he recently had the pleasure to attend a community forum of law enforcement officials at Faith Bible Church. He congratulated Reverend Young for presenting the forum and commended Police Chief Lentz and the other law enforcement officials who participated in the forum. Also, he mentioned that the RPC and DOTD are sponsoring an open house on June 11th from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. in the Council Chambers to receive public input on the US 190/Collins Blvd. widening and bridge project.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling welcomed 10 new businesses who applied for occupational licenses in May. Upcoming events: The New Orleans Bicycle Club is sponsoring the Tour de Louisiane Bike Race on Sunday, June 14th beginning at 7 A.M.; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, June 19th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, June 26th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; Sparks in the Park on Thursday, July 2nd from 7 P.M. until 9 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Park; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith reminded everyone about the CBA meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, June 3rd, at Heritage Bank on North Columbia Street, reception at 5:30 and meeting at 6 P.M. Also, he announced there will be a fundraiser to benefit the Wounded War Heroes on Friday, June 5th from 5:30 P.M. until 11 P.M. at the Castine Center in Mandeville.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius mentioned that recently a horse and carriage company was issued a special event permit for carriage rides and the event was well-received by the local merchants. Also, he announced that approximately 230 people attend the Veterans Appreciation Reception on Memorial Day, of which approximately 95 were veterans. Also, he recognized some of the sponsors of the event – Progressive Waste, Gallagher's Restaurant, Champagne Beverage and Zoe's Bakery. Also, he announced two future events sponsored by the Covington Heritage Foundation: A Candlelight Home Tour on December 6th in the West 20s neighborhood; and the annual meeting and a presentation by Mark Johnson on Tuesday, December 8th at the Southern Hotel. Also, he mentioned that Zaxby's will be on the P&Z's agenda this month. Also, he mentioned that the Oak Alley Meadows annexation request is scheduled for introduction in July.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President O'Keefe thanked Progressive Waste and Clay Richardson for their help with the Veterans Appreciation Reception on Memorial Day.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He commented that the Veterans Appreciation Reception was a great event and thanked all who participated in the event.
- (b) He gave an update on the Square 709 environmental issue and mentioned that an application has been submitted to the Brownfield Program through the RPC. Also, he stated there will be no activity on the property pending a response from the RPC.
- (c) He reminded the public about the Open House scheduled for June 11th from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. in the Council Chambers at which time the RPC, DOTD and

St. Tammany Parish officials will present conceptual plans for the US 190/Collins Blvd. widening and bridge project. He urged the public to attend to offer their comments and questions.

(d) He mentioned there was a great turnout at the recent public meeting regarding the Old Fire Station Feasibility Study. The consultants will review the input from the public and submit their final report by June 30th. Also, he thanked Kelli Moore, Grants Coordinator, and Daniel Hill, City Engineer, for their work on project.

(e) He announced that the Champagne Beverage "Giveback Day" has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 13th from 8 A.M. until noon. He thanked the Champagne Beverage family and their employees for their commitment to the City of Covington.

(f) He reminded everyone that the Inauguration for the Second Term of the Mayor and Council will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at 10 A.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Bogue Falaya Hall.

(g) He gave an update on the West 15th Avenue Bridge replacement project.

(h) He mentioned there are vacancies on the Tree Board and encouraged anyone who lives in the City of Covington or who owns property in the City of Covington and who would like to serve on the Tree Board to submit his or her name for consideration.

Councilman Rolling requested information on the Tree Board and the board vacancies to disseminate to his constituents.

Councilman Rolling expressed his appreciation to the Mayor for his work on the Square 709 environmental issue.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

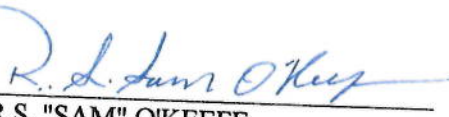
(a) She mentioned that the Hurricane Incident Plan and the Debris Management Plan have been updated and copies will be made available to the Council.


(b) She encouraged residents to sign up for the "Alert St. Tammany" emergency notification system which is offered on St. Tammany Parish Government's website.

(c) She mentioned that the Covington sign has been stolen from the Trailhead and stated if the sign is returned in the next couple of weeks, no charges will be filed.

Council President O'Keefe announced that during the Council meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 222 East Kirkland Street, Covington, Louisiana, the Council intends to levy, impose and adopt the current millage rates on all property subject to taxation in the City of Covington for the Year 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.


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


BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk