

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 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 Police Chief Tim Lentz.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Callahan. 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. 2015-05-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2015 Capital Budget for the Replacement of the Bridge on West 15th Avenue at Mile Branch (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-05-01.

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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-05-01, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-05-01. Item No. 2015-05-01 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-05-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Accepting the Alleys Located in the Dedicated Servitudes and Rights-of-way of The Village of Covington, Phase 1-A, for Routine and Regular Maintenance (Wright)

Councilman Wright led a discussion on Item No. 2015-05-02.

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

Councilman Alexius made a motion to amend Item No. 2015-05-02 as follows:

Page 2, lines 2 through 5:

“NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington that the 10 foot and 20 foot servitudes set forth in Servitude Instrument 1963060 of The Village of Covington, Phase 1-A, be accepted by the City of Covington for routine and regular road maintenance.”

Seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2015-05-02. Item No. 2015-05-02 was amended.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-05-02, as amended, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-05-02, as amended. Item No. 2015-05-02 was adopted, as amended.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-12 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Councilman at Large Reappointment of Keith Villere to the Covington Tree Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-12.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-12, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-12. Resolution No. 2015-12 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-13 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Accepting the 2014 Audit Report Issued by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-13.

Mr. Don Wheat, a partner with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, made a presentation to the Council to explain that the City had a perfectly clean audit with no deficiencies. Also, he commended the Mayor's administration for being one of the best and easiest municipalities to work with.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-13, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-13. Resolution No. 2015-13 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

- 1. District A – None.**
- 2. District B –**

Councilman Coner's quote for this evening was, “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity,” by President Nelson Mandela. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright thanked Champagne Beverage and its employees for their help with the recent cleanup at Hubie Gallagher Park. Also, he announced the members of the committee to discuss the formation of the Retirement Oversight Committee: Councilmen Rolling, Smith and Wright, Police Chief Tim Lentz, Fire Chief Richard Badon, Director of Administration Gina Hayes and Council Clerk Bonnie Champagne.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling gave an update on the St. Tammany Parish Hospital expansion project. Upcoming events: 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; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, July 17th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, July 29th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, July 31st from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; 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 commented that the recent Wounded War Heroes fundraiser was a touching event and many war veterans were in attendance. Also, he congratulated a local Covington resident, Brandon Pearce, for being a member of the LSU National Championship Golf Team. Also, he reminded everyone that the next CBA meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at the St. Tammany Art Association on North Columbia Street, social starts at 5:30, meeting at 6 P.M.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius mentioned that the HDC recently approved a certificate of appropriateness and sign permit for a new business on Lee Lane. Also, he mentioned that the P&Z recently tabled the Zaxby's overlay zoning district request until the July meeting and approved Mele Printing's request for a resubdivision of five lots into one lot. Also, he expressed his appreciation to Council President Sam O'Keefe for his leadership as Council President over the past year.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President O'Keefe commented that he is proud to be a part of this Council and commended the Administration and all of the other departments for their teamwork for the citizens of Covington. Also, he reminded everyone that there will be only one Council meeting in July, on July 14th, and the millage rates for 2015 will be adopted at that meeting.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He commented that the City received a great report from the auditors and is proud of the staff for all of their hard work.
- (b) He discussed the Open House recently hosted by the RPC, DOTD and the engineering consultants regarding the Collins Blvd. widening project.
- (c) He mentioned that the Downtown Traffic and Parking Study is almost completed and the final report should be received by the end of June.
- (d) He mentioned that the consultants are finalizing the Old Fire Station Feasibility Study and it should be presented by the end of June.
- (e) He reminded the public 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.

(f) He thanked the Champagne Beverage family and their employees for their time and efforts in sprucing up Gallagher Park.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

Council President O'Keefe mentioned that Champagne Beverage is a tremendous sponsor of City-wide events and expressed his sincere appreciation to them for their support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk