

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2015**

Council President Alexius 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, Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: Mark Wright

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Rob Mingo.

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

APPEARERS

1. Mayor Cooper introduced Mr. Jeff Stolier from WDG Architects Engineers, who gave a presentation on the Old Fire Station Feasibility Study. After the presentation, Mr. Stolier led a discussion on his firm's recommendations.
2. Mayor Cooper introduced Ms. Meredith Soniat from the Regional Planning Commission and Mr. Ross Liner from Digital Engineering, who gave a presentation on the Traffic Circulation, Parking, and Safety Study for Downtown Covington. After the presentation, Ms. Soniat and Mr. Liner led a discussion on their recommendations.

Mayor Cooper thanked the consultants for their presentations and discussions.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Wright) to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-19 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Reappointment of Ella D. Selmon to the City of Covington Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (O'Keefe)**

Councilman O'Keefe recommended the reappointment of Ella D. Selmon to the City of Covington Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-19, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-19. Resolution No. 2015-19 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-20 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Reappointment of William Courtney to the City of Covington Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe recommended the reappointment of William Courtney to the City of Covington Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-20, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-20. Resolution No. 2015-20 was adopted.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-21– A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Reappointment of Robert R. Barkerding, Jr. to the City of Covington Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe recommended the reappointment of Robert R. Barkerding, Jr. to the City of Covington Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-21, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-21. Resolution No. 2015-21 was adopted.

4. Appeal of Certificate of Appropriateness - Historic District Commission Case No. 15-08-15 regarding Application by Paul J. Blaum (Smith)

Council President Alexius gave a brief recap of the Historic District Commission's meeting held on August 11, 2015 in which the Commission voted to deny the application for a certificate of appropriateness for the material alteration (large format graphic attached to the wall depicting the painting of Artist Robert Cook) to the commercial property located at 221 N. New Hampshire Street, Lots 4, 5, 6 and 7, Square 5, in the Division of St. John, Covington, Louisiana.

Historic District Commissioner Peggy Schoen discussed the reasons for denial of Mr. Blaum's Application.

Commissioner Smith led a discussion on the Application by Paul J. Blaum to the Historic District Commission.

Councilman Smith made a motion to override the Historic District Commission's denial of Case No. 15-08-15, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to override the Historic District Commission's denial of Case No. 15-08-15.

Mayor Cooper mentioned that he is committed to implementing a Public Art Policy to address any future requests to install public artwork in the City.

Council President Alexius requested that the Council's Economic Development Committee review and possibly modify Chapter 54 with regard to Historic Preservation and the Historic District Commission.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced there will be a Fish Fry on Friday, September 4th starting at 11 A.M. at the VFW Hall on Ronald Reagan Highway.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses. Also, his quote for this evening was, "A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society" by Billy Graham.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright mentioned he saw an article that was published in the Toronto Sun newspaper in which there were a few paragraphs highlighting the City of Covington. Also, he mentioned that the first meeting of the Retirement Oversight Committee was held recently and he will present the Committee's plans at an upcoming Council meeting.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling reminded the citizens of Covington that we are in the midst of hurricane season and encouraged them to clean out the debris from the ditches in front of their homes. Also, he reminded the public that school is back in session and school zones are in effect. Also, he mentioned that the White Linen Night was a great success and the local businesses were pleased with the turnout. Upcoming events: Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, August 21st from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, August 28th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, September 18th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, September 25th 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 thanked Paul Blaum and Robert Cook for their contribution of the artwork to be installed in downtown Covington. Also, he reminded everyone that the next CBA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2nd at Covington Brewhouse on East Lockwood Street, social starts at 5:30, meeting at 6 P.M. Also, he commented that the White Linen Night was well-attended and was a wonderful event.

6. At Large (Vice President) – None.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President Alexius reminded the public that the Council will meet only once in September, on September 15th, in order to give the Administration additional time to prepare the 2016 Budget. Also, he mentioned that the HDC met recently and several items were on its agenda. Also, he mentioned that the P&Z met last night and tabled the recommended amendments to the parking ordinance, pending the public work session scheduled for September 1st at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

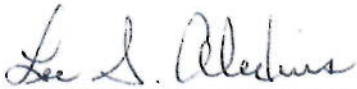
1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He thanked the consultants for their presentations tonight; the Council and public for their input; and Daniel Hill, City Engineer, for his work on both of these projects. Also, he mentioned there will be subsequent meetings on both projects for public input.
- (b) He mentioned that the White Linen Night was a very successful event, in which participating businesses donated 10% of their proceeds to the Public Art for Covington Fund.
- (c) He reminded everyone about the Ribbon Cutting for the new roof and re-finished courts to be held at Peter Atkins Park on Friday, September 4th at 9 A.M. Also, he reminded everyone about the Third Annual "3 on 3" Hoops for Kids Basketball Tournament Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, September 5th at 9 A.M. at Peter Atkins Park. He mentioned that the Covington Boys and Girls Club will receive the proceeds from this fundraiser. Also, he thanked Chevron, the New Orleans Pelicans, Northshore Community Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club and State Representative John Schroder for partnering with the City of Covington in this project. Also, he announced that the Patron Party will be held on Thursday, October 1st, with more information to be provided in the coming weeks.

Council President Alexius mentioned that the Boys and Girls Club of America presented their National Award of Merit to Chevron for its work with the Boys and Girls Club.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk