

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith, Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Smith. 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. 2015-08-01** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages, Article II. Beverages of High Alcoholic Content and Article III. Beverages of Low Alcoholic Content, to Add Sections 6-46 and 6-86 Location Exemptions (Alexius)

**Director of Administration Gina Hayes** led a discussion on Item No. 2015-08-01.

**Councilman Smith 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 Wright made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-08-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-08-01. Item No. 2015-08-01 was adopted.**

**New Business**

**Items to be voted on:**

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-22** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Designating the Death of Lt. Douglas Wade Sharp as a "In the Line of Duty Death" (O'Keefe)

**Council President Alexius** read Resolution No. 2015-22 into the record.

**Councilman O’Keefe** commented on Lt. Douglas Wade Sharp’s service as a police officer.

**Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-22, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-22. Resolution No. 2015-22 was adopted.**

**Police Chief Tim Lentz** thanked the Council for its support in adopting this resolution and discussed the process involved to have the death of Lt. Sharp recognized as an “in the line of duty death” and his name placed on the Memorial Wall.

**2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-23 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council to Consider and Take Action With Respect to Adopting a Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Election to be Held in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, to Authorize the Levy of a Sales and Use Tax Therein; Making Application to the State Bond Commission in Connection Therewith; and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith (Alexius)**

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-23.

**Mayor Cooper** advised that the rededication of the one (1%) percent sales tax would allow broader use of the revenue and will provide city leaders with the flexibility to address current funding priorities without the restrictions imposed decades ago when the city’s needs were much different. The extension of the term of the sales tax will allow the city to fund long term projects through the purchase of bonds. He stated that more information will be provided to our citizens in advance of the election scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2015. He stressed that this was not a new tax, simply a request to allow the city to be responsive to changing budget demands while still providing adequate annual funding for city services and capital improvements.

**Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-23, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-23. Resolution No. 2015-23 was adopted.**

**3. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-24 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Reappointment of Seymon S. “Windy” Hartzog III to the Covington Historic District Commission (CHDC) for a Term of Four (4) Years (Alexius)**

**Mayor Cooper** recommended the reappointment of Seymon S. “Windy” Hartzog III to the Covington Historic District Commission for a term of four years.

**Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-24, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-24. Resolution No. 2015-24 was adopted.**

## **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

### **A. Council District and Committee Reports**

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

**Councilman Coner** recognized the birthdays for City employees for the month of September. Also, his quote for this evening was, "Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should." – Jean Toomer, African-American author-poet (1894-1967). Also, he encouraged the public to support our local businesses in the City of Covington.

**3. District C –**

**Councilman Wright** mentioned that he visited the Covington Food Bank recently and was very impressed with their operations. Also, he encouraged the public to contribute to the Food Bank and attend the upcoming fundraiser on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, he challenged the Council and Administration to participate in a team-building exercise at the Food Bank.

**4. District D –**

**Councilman Rolling** announced that 15 new businesses applied for occupational licenses in August. Upcoming events: Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; Covington Art Market on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. at the Trailhead; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Trickin' and Treatin' Kids Event on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 10 A.M. until 12 P.M. at the Trailhead; 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** mentioned that the recent Hoops for Kids 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament hosted by the Boys and Girls Club was a tremendous success. He thanked Chevron, the New Orleans Pelicans, Resource Bank and Domino's for their help in sponsoring the event. Also, he encouraged the kids to enjoy the new facility and help keep it clean. Also, he reminded the public that volunteers are needed for the Bogue Falaya River Sweep sponsored by Keep Covington Beautiful on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 A.M. at Menetre Park. He mentioned that after the river cleanup, there will be a picnic at Bogue Falaya Park.

**6. At Large (Vice President) –**

**Councilman O'Keefe** thanked the Public Works Department for the excellent job in preparing the facility and grounds for the Hoops for Kids Basketball Tournament. Also, he encouraged the public to keep law enforcement personnel and first responders in their prayers during these difficult times.

**7. At Large (President) –**

**Council President Alexius** reminded the public about the upcoming Rockin' the Rails concert series to be held every Thursday in October at the Trailhead. Also, he thanked Councilmen Coner, O'Keefe and Smith for attending the Planning and Zoning Work Session concerning the parking ordinance. Also, he announced that the 2016 Budget Work Sessions will be held on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Public Works and Administration; Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> for Police, Fire and Recreation; and Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> if needed to finish up the process. Also, he mentioned that the 2016 Budget should be adopted at the Council meeting on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, he mentioned that copies of the proposed budget will be available for inspection between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Council office at City Hall or on the City's website beginning on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

(Note: After the meeting, Council President Alexius was notified that the Recreation budget will be discussed on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> instead of Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.)

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

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

- (a) He announced the line-up for the Rockin' the Rails concert series;
- (b) He invited the public to participate in the "Conquer Chiari" Walk Across America event on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Trailhead, registration at 7:30 A.M. and the walk begins at 8:30 A.M. He mentioned that a local high school student, Amanda Haley, is afflicted with this neurological disease. Also, he mentioned that he issues a Proclamation annually in support of this event.
- (c) He reminded the public that the St. Tammany Parish Fair and Parade will be held on the first weekend in October. He mentioned that the parade will start at 10 A.M. on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the opening ceremony following the parade. Also, he mentioned that elected officials are invited to ride in the parade and encouraged the Council to participate in the parade;
- (d) He announced that the National Night Out Against Crime will be held on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and several local neighborhoods are planning to participate;
- (e) He mentioned that the minor renovations to the Council Chambers will start soon and should be completed within the next couple of months; and
- (f) He gave updates on three bridge projects: (1) West 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Mile Branch; (2) Gratitude Drive at the entrance to Covington Point; and (3) West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Mile Branch.

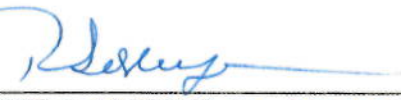
**Councilman Wright** requested regular updates on the bridge projects.

**Mayor Cooper** responded that he plans to provide at least monthly updates on the West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge project. Also, he stated that the other bridge projects are routine maintenance, but will give regular updates on them as well.

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

**Council President Alexius** mentioned that in the last several days, two local residents, Dennis Thompson and W. D. "Donice" Bulloch, Jr., passed away. He stated that both of these individuals were longtime contributors to the City of Covington. Also, he expressed his condolences to Councilman Sam O'Keefe as Mr. Bulloch was a relative of his. Also, he requested that everyone keep the Thompson and Bulloch families in their thoughts and prayers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

  
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LEE S. ALEXIUS R.S. "SAM" O'KEEFE  
Council President  
Vice

  
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BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Council Clerk