

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2015**

**Council Vice 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 and Sam O'Keefe

**ABSENT:** Lee Alexius

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Rod Rodrigue.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Councilman Smith** made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Alexius) 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. 2015-09-04** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute All Legal Documents Necessary to Accept a Donation of Immovable Property, Said Immovable Property Being Described as Lot 7, Square 1910, Division of New Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Which Square is Bounded by West 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Filmore Street, West 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South Pierce Street (Alexius)

**Mayor Cooper** led a discussion on Item No. 2015-09-04.

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

**Councilman Coner** made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-09-04, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Alexius) to adopt Item No. 2015-09-04. Item No. 2015-09-04 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 October. Also, his quote for this evening was, “A man who was incarcerated for years before he became president of his country said, ‘to be free is not to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others’” by President Nelson Mandela. Also, he encouraged the public to shop locally and support our local businesses.

**3. District C –**

**Councilman Wright** announced that the Covington Rotary Club will sponsor a luncheon on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Benedict’s Plantation in Mandeville to benefit the “Feed the Needy” project. He mentioned that LSU Baseball Coach Paul Mainieri will be the guest speaker and tickets are available.

**4. District D –**

**Councilman Rolling** announced that five new businesses applied for occupational licenses in September. Upcoming events: Rockin’ the Rails concert series on Thursdays in October from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; Fall for Art on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. in downtown Covington; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.; 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. Also, he mentioned that Keep Covington Beautiful has announced a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M. on Koop Drive.

**5. District E –**

**Councilman Smith** reminded everyone that the next CBA meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Rock N Blues on North Columbia Street, social starts at 5:30, meeting at 6 P.M. Also, he mentioned there will be a public unveiling of the ox and cart artwork donated by Covington resident Paul Blaum on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. Also, he announced there will be a fundraiser on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 A.M. until 4 P.M. at the Tap Room for one of our Public Works employees, LeeRoy Bickham, who is battling a difficult diagnosis. He mentioned that the Tap Room will donate a percentage of all food and beverage sales to help LeeRoy with his medical expenses.

**6. At Large (Vice President) –**

**Council Vice President O’Keefe** read a resolution issued by the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce on September 29, 2015 into the record, which resolution was in recognition of the actions by the City Councils of both Covington and Mandeville for fairly reducing millages, enabling property owners a fair amount of savings in their family budgets, and overall practicing good and fair government.

**7. At Large (President) – Absent.**

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

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

- (a) He appreciated the resolution from the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce recognizing the City for reducing the millages;
- (b) He mentioned that he, along with Councilmen O’Keefe and Smith, Police Chief Lentz and some members of the Covington Police Department, participated at a law enforcement appreciation luncheon hosted by St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister in recognition of the hard work and dedication of our law enforcement officers in St. Tammany Parish;

- (c) He mentioned that the annual football game between Covington High School and St. Paul's will be played on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7 P.M. at St. Paul's;
- (d) He reminded everyone that next Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, is the National Night Out Against Crime and several local neighborhoods are planning to participate;
- (e) He encouraged everyone to get out and vote on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and mentioned that early voting will be held from Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, excluding Sunday;
- (f) He announced that the 1982 sales tax rededication and extension proposition will be on the ballot on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and information will be distributed to the public prior to the election.

**Councilman Rolling** requested a list of the locations for the Night Out Against Crime events scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Cooper** responded that the events usually begin around 6 P.M. and the locations are: (1) 20<sup>th</sup> and Madison; (2) The Savannahs; (3) Barkley Parc; and (4) The Groves.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 P.M.

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

  
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Council Clerk