

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 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 Diane Weiss.

**Council President Alexius** recognized Captain Kenny Sanders from Caddo Parish as a special guest this evening. Captain Sanders is in town conducting "Use of Force" training classes for law enforcement officers.

**APPEARERS**

Diane Weiss, on behalf of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Flyers, presented checks to Kakki Taliacich for the YMCA; Police Chief Lentz for the Covington Police Department; and Mayor Cooper for the Covington Recreation Department and the Covington Fire Department.

**Mayor Cooper and Council President Alexius** thanked the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Flyers for their contributions to the City and the YMCA.

**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**

**Unfinished Business**

**Items to be voted on:**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-09-03** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Certain Christmas Decorations Owned by the City of Covington as Not Needed for Public Purposes (O'Keefe)

**Councilman O'Keefe** led a discussion on Item No. 2015-09-03.

**Councilman O'Keefe** 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 O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-09-03, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-09-03. Item No. 2015-09-03 was adopted.**

## **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

#### **1. District A –**

**Councilman Callahan** announced that the VFW on Ronald Reagan Highway will host a fish dinner on November 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11 A.M. with the proceeds being used for a flag pole.

#### **2. District B –**

**Councilman Coner's** quote for this evening was, "Know who you are, and be it. Know what you want, and go out and get it." Also, he commended the Public Works Department for keeping the grass cut around the sidewalks and ditches. 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 some upcoming events: Rockin' the Rails concert series on Thursdays in October from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; 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; St. Tammany Art Association will present the Covington Art Market on November 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. at the Trailhead; Three Rivers Art Festival will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>; 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 – None.**

#### **6. At Large (Vice President) – None.**

#### **7. At Large (President) –**

**Council President Alexius** announced that the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting has been cancelled due to a light agenda and the renovations to the Council Chambers. He mentioned that the only meeting in November will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at which time the 2016 budgets, Mayor's compensation and parking ordinance will be acted upon. Also, he reminded the public that the next 2016 Budget Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2016 budgets for the Police and Fire Departments, along with any other unresolved items. Also, he mentioned that the P&Z meeting was held last night and two issues involving the Oak Alley Subdivision were unanimously approved: (1) the revision of the plat involving Phase 4; and (2) final subdivision approval of Phase 4B. Also, he announced that the Covington Heritage Foundation and City of Covington will present the "History and Holly Home Tours" event on December 6<sup>th</sup> in the West 23<sup>rd</sup>/West 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue area. Also, he announced that the annual meeting for members only of the Covington Heritage Foundation will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Southern Hotel, with Mark Johnson presenting an historical aspect of the City of Covington.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

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

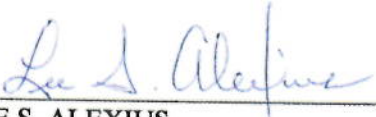
- (a) He reminded the public that Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> is Election Day and encouraged everyone to get out and vote;
- (b) He mentioned that the 1982 sales tax rededication and extension proposition will be on the ballot on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. He commented that by rededicating and extending the sales tax, it will allow broader use of the one cent sales tax that is now dedicated and restricted to certain uses and will extend the term in order to fund long term capital improvements. He announced that more information will be provided to the citizens following this week's election; and
- (c) He gave an update on the West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge project.

**Council President Alexius** announced that the next 2016 Budget Work Session on October 27<sup>th</sup> will be held in the Conference Room in the rear of the Council Chambers.

**Councilman O'Keefe** reminded the Council that tomorrow night is the St. Tammany Municipal Association meeting in Folsom.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 P.M.

  
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LEE S. ALEXIUS  
Council President

  
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BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Council Clerk