

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 15, 2014**

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,  
Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None

The Invocation was led by Rev. Nathan Young.

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

**APPEARER**

Donna O'Daniels, CEO and President of St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission, gave a presentation on the services provided to promote Covington as a tourist destination.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilman Alexius 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. 2014-06-01** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Levying, Imposing and Adopting the Current Millage Rates on all Property Subject to Taxation in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, for the Year 2014 (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-06-01.

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 Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-06-01, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-06-01. Item No. 2014-06-01 was adopted.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-06-02** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring a Portion of West 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Formerly Ninth Street - Not Constructed), Situated Between U.S. Highway 190 (Collins Boulevard) and North Florida Street, Located in Second Connely Addition to the Town of Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish,

Louisiana, Abandoned, Vacated, Closed and Not Needed for Public Purposes  
(Planning Case No. 14-05-01Street/Alley Revocation) (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Item No. 2014-06-02.

**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. 2014-06-02, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-06-02. Item No. 2014-06-02 was adopted.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-06-03** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Covington, Louisiana, to Reclassify Lot 8, Square 2604, Division of New Covington, Covington, Louisiana (Which Property is Located at the Corner of West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North Jackson Street), From CO (Commercial Office/Professional) to ML (Light Industrial/Manufacturing) (Zoning Case No. 14-05-01Rezoning) (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Item No. 2014-06-03.

**Councilman Rolling** 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. 2014-06-03, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call: Yeas - 4; Nays - 3 (Callahan, Coner and Rolling). Item No. 2014-06-03 was adopted.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-06-05** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 98 Utilities, Article IV. Rates and Charges, Sec. 98-122. Water Rates, Subsection (c); Sec. 98-123. Sewerage Rates, Subsection (c); and Sec. 98-133. Reduction of Certain Fees for the Elderly and Disabled (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Item No. 2014-06-05.

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

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to amend Item No. 2014-06-05 as follows:

Page 2, lines 10, 11 and 12, to read as follows:

"(a) Citizens of the city, who are disabled heads of households or who are 65 years of age or older and the head of household; and whose total household income is less than \$20,000.00 ~~\$15,000.00~~ per year shall be..."

**Seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2014-06-05. Item No. 2014-06-05 was amended.**

**Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-06-05 as amended, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-06-05 as amended. Item No. 2014-06-05 was adopted as amended.**

### **New Business**

#### **Items to be voted on:**

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-21 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Annie Spell to the Covington Tree Board to Fill an Unexpired Term (Smith)**

**Mayor Cooper** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-21.

**Councilman Alexius made a motion to confirm the mayoral appointment of Annie Spell to the Covington Tree Board to fill an unexpired term, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to confirm the mayoral appointment of Annie Spell to the Covington Tree Board to fill an unexpired term.**

**Mrs. Spell was sworn in by City Attorney Rod Rodrigue.**

#### **Items for discussion:**

1. Rental housing and landlord requirements (Callahan)

**Councilman Callahan** led a discussion on rental housing and landlord requirements. He mentioned there have been two workshops to date and there will be discussions with the public before action is taken by the Council. Also, Councilman Alexius mentioned that the ordinance will probably be introduced in late August or early September.

Mr. Addison Ellis, who lives on River Road, voiced his concerns about a new culvert that was installed at the entrance to the Savannahs Subdivision. Mayor Cooper replied that he will have the City investigate the issue.

### **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

##### **1. District A --**

**Councilman Callahan** reminded the public about the Hoops for Kids annual basketball tournament on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> at Peter Atkins Park and mentioned that sponsors are needed.

##### **2. District B --**

**Councilman Coner's** quote for this evening was, "Beauty awakens the soul to act" by Dante Alighieri.

##### **3. District C --**

**Councilman Wright** commended Wayne Mayberry, Code Enforcement officer, for his patience and diplomacy in dealing with a recent issue in District C. Also, he announced that Mayor Cooper and Daniel Hill, City Engineer, will give a presentation on traffic and transportation projects at the August 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. He encouraged the public to attend and voice their comments and concerns.

**4. District D --**

**Councilman Rolling** requested some information to forward to his constituents with regard to the traffic and transportation presentation on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Also, he announced that the fourth Business Resource Workshop will be held on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Hall. The workshop is entitled, "Workforce Development, Retention, and the Future" and the guest speakers will be Senator David Vitter and other state, parish and local officials. Upcoming events: Sunset at the Landing on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 P.M. at the Columbia Street Landing; Columbia Street Block Party on July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 until 9:30 P.M.; Coffee with the Mayor on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Sunset at the Landing on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 P.M. at the Columbia Street Landing; Hoops for Kids on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M. at Peter Atkins Park; Columbia Street Block Party on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 until 9:30 P.M.; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to support their local businesses and buy local.

**5. District E --**

**Councilman Smith** mentioned that the United Way will sponsor the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Beans 'N Rice Cook-off fundraiser to support the St. Tammany Suicide Prevention Support Program on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the St. Tammany Parish School Board building on N. Theard Street.

**6. At Large (Vice President) --**

**Councilman Alexius** mentioned that the HDC recently approved three items: Southern Hotel facade grant; Southern Hotel door signage for the Ox Lot 9 Restaurant; and alterations to the Junior League building. Also, the next BOA meeting is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> with only one item on its agenda -- a residential lot setback issue.

**7. At Large (President) --**

**Council President O'Keefe** reminded the Council and Administration that the St. Tammany Municipal Association quarterly dinner/meeting will be held tomorrow night, July 16<sup>th</sup>, in Slidell. Also, he requested that Police Chief Tim Lentz comment on the newly-formed "Citizen's Police Academy."

**Police Chief Tim Lentz** discussed the kids' camp that the Police Department is hosting next week. Also, he discussed the formation of the "Citizen's Police Academy."

Frances Dunn thanked Chief Lentz for the support he has given to the Boys and Girls Club.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

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

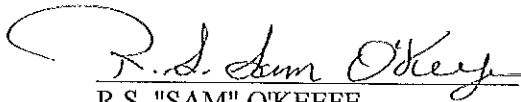
- (a) He thanked Donna O'Daniels for appearing this evening and discussing the services provided to the City of Covington by the St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission;
- (b) He commented that the traffic and transportation presentation scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> will bring the public up to date on projects in and around our city and will also allow for questions and input from the public;
- (c) He discussed the Hwy. 21/Tyler Street widening project; and
- (d) He commented that the contractor is in the process of installing culverts on West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Tyler Street and Jefferson Avenue in preparation for the widening of West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Councilman Coner** requested that an update on the sidewalks project be given at the presentation on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Cooper agreed to include sidewalks in the presentation.

**Councilman Rolling** requested that a reminder be placed on the utility bills to remind citizens to bring in their garbage cans after garbage pick-up. Mayor Cooper replied that a reminder appeared on last month's utility bills.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Clerk to the Council