

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 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,
Lee Alexius and Sam O'Keefe

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Police Chief Doug Arrowood.

APPEARERS

Police Chief Tim Lentz introduced five new police officers to the Council, Administration and public: Brandon Crain, Mark Dugas, John Dupuy, Timothy McJunkin and Bret Miller.

Police Chief Tim Lentz recognized retired Deputy Police Chief Chris Lang for his thirty-three years of service to the City of Covington.

Judge Dawn Amacker, candidate for Judge, 22nd JDC, appeared to introduce herself to the Council, Administration and public.

Roy Burns, candidate for St. Tammany Parish District Attorney, appeared to introduce himself to the Council, Administration and public.

Brian Trainor, candidate for St. Tammany Parish District Attorney, appeared to introduce himself to the Council, Administration and public.

Diane Weiss, on behalf of the 15th Street Flyers, presented checks to Mayor Cooper for several City of Covington departments: \$600 donation for the Recreation Department, \$250 donation for the Police Department and \$250 donation for the Fire Department.

(The remaining two candidates for St. Tammany Parish District Attorney appeared later in the meeting.)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Wright moved that Item Nos. 2014-09-05 and 2014-09-07 be moved from the Consent Calendar to New Business for discussion.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt the Consent Calendar excluding Item Nos. 2014-09-05 and 2014-09-07, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar was adopted excluding Item Nos. 2014-09-05 and 2014-09-07.

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items removed from Consent Calendar:

1. INTRODUCTION OF ITEM NO. 2014-09-05 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 18 Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II. Codes, Division 2. Uniform Construction Code, Sec. 18-56. Schedule of Permit and Inspection Fees (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-05.

Councilman Coner made a motion to withdraw Item No. 2014-09-05, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to withdraw Item No. 2014-09-05. Item No. 2014-09-05 was withdrawn.

2. INTRODUCTION OF ITEM NO. 2014-09-07 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 18 Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II. Codes, Division 5. Minimum Housing Standards, to Add a New Sec. 18-101. Registration of Landlords Letting Residential Dwellings (Callahan)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-07.

Councilman Coner made a motion to withdraw Item No. 2014-09-07, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to withdraw Item No. 2014-09-07. Item No. 2014-09-07 was withdrawn.

Councilman Alexius requested that the Community Housing Committee schedule a public work session to be held no later than October 31st to discuss this issue.

Council President O'Keefe stated that the public work session will be scheduled during the month of October at which time the Council, Administration, property owners, rental housing landlords, West 30s residents, real estate agents and brokers, and any concerned citizens, will be invited to attend and voice their comments on this issue.

APPEARERS (cont'd)

Alan Black, candidate for St. Tammany Parish District Attorney, appeared to introduce himself to the Council, Administration and public.

Warren Montgomery, candidate for St. Tammany Parish District Attorney, appeared to introduce himself to the Council, Administration and public.

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-22 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Use of a Portion of the Unconstructed East 8th Avenue and Hebert Lane, Connected by South Louisiana and East Guidry Streets, as a Driveway (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-22.

Councilman Alexius recommended revising Resolution No. 2014-22 as follows:

A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Use of a Portion of the Unconstructed East 8th Avenue, connected to South Louisiana Street, as a Driveway.

WHEREAS, East 8th Avenue, connected to South Louisiana Street, is a dedicated but unopened street; and

WHEREAS, the City of Covington has received the attached letter from Mr. and Mrs. Randy Meyer in which they have requested permission to use a portion of the unconstructed East 8th Avenue, connected to South Louisiana Street, as a driveway entrance to access their landlocked property; and

WHEREAS, any improvements to the above described portion of the unconstructed street, such as gravel, drainage, grading, removal of trees, etc., must be approved by the Tree Board, City Engineer, Code Enforcement Officer, Covington Fire Department and Permits Department, before any work is performed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Covington has no objection to the use of a portion of the unconstructed street as a driveway entrance, said portion measuring approximately 20 feet by 120 feet on the unconstructed East 8th Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Covington in due, regular and legal session convened, that the City Council hereby grants permission to Mr. and Mrs. Randy Meyer to use approximately 20 feet by 120 feet on the unconstructed East 8th Avenue as a driveway entrance to access their property, with the concurrence and direction of the Tree Board, City Engineer, Code Enforcement Officer, Covington Fire Department and Permits Department.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-22 as set forth above, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-22 as set forth above. Resolution No. 2014-22 was adopted as set forth above.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

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

Councilman Coner's quote for this evening was, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth" by Shirley Chisholm.

- 3. District C --**

Councilman Wright expressed his appreciation to the Administration for keeping the Council informed about the chlorinator issue with the water system. Also, he mentioned that the Covington Rotary is now meeting in the Seiler Bar every other Tuesday and invited the public to attend the meetings.

- 4. District D --**

Councilman Rolling mentioned that five new businesses applied for occupational licenses in August. Upcoming events: Sunset at the Landing on September 19th from 6 to 9 P.M. at the Columbia Street Landing; Columbia Street Block Party on September 26th from 6:30 until 9:30 P.M.; the St. Tammany Parish Fair from October 3-5; Covington Art Market on October 4th at the Trailhead from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.; Rockin' the Rails concert series every Thursday in October from 5 to 7 P.M. at the Trailhead; Sunset at the Landing on October 17th; and Coffee with the Mayor on October 29th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead.

5. **District E – None.**

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

Councilman Alexius gave recaps of the recent CHDC and BOA meetings. Also, he gave a recap of the recent P&Z meeting and mentioned the SSA case was tabled until November. Also, he announced that the Covington Heritage Foundation will host its annual meeting and membership renewal drive on December 11th at the Southern Hotel. Also, he announced that the Covington Heritage Foundation will host an event in October entitled, "Bits and Pieces", where the public is invited to bring in old photos, letters and memorabilia on Covington, to either donate or loan for display at the museum.

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

Council President O'Keefe reminded the public that the 2015 budget work sessions will be held on October 14th and October 22nd, and October 29th if needed. Also, he will check the availability of the Council Chambers and the work session on the rental housing and landlord requirements will be scheduled in October.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports


1. Mayor Cooper's comments:


- (a) He was pleased to have the four candidates for St. Tammany Parish District Attorney appear at the meeting tonight to introduce themselves.
- (b) He reminded the public that tomorrow night, September 17th, at 6:30 P.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium, there will be a forum hosted by the Alliance for Good Government for the District Attorney candidates as well as some of the candidates for other local offices.
- (c) He encouraged the Council to review the 2015 budget and budget message which was introduced tonight in preparation for the work sessions in October.
- (d) He commented that it became apparent to him there had been a lot of internal contributions to the rental housing and landlord registration ordinance, but little to no external input. For that reason, he recommended that the ordinance be withdrawn and public input requested before introduction of the ordinance.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

Mrs. Hayes gave an update on the recent problem with the chlorinators in the water system.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.


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


BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council