

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 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.

The Invocation was led by Mr. Charles Vandercook.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Sam O'Keefe.

APPEARERS

Elizabeth Van Sant, representing the Covington Rotary Club, discussed the Club's history and mission.

Rustin Legendre, Manager of Government Relations for Charter Communications, introduced himself to the Council, Administration and public.

OPEN THE AGENDA

Councilman Smith made a motion to open the agenda to add Beau Gast as an appearer. Mayor Cooper requested that Mr. Gast appear to introduce himself and give a brief overview of his upcoming seminar on the recent coyote sightings and encounters. Councilman Smith mentioned the decision to add this appearer came after the agenda deadline. Seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to open the agenda to add Beau Gast as an appearer. The agenda was opened and Beau Gast was added as an appearer.

Mr. Beau Gast from Humane Wildlife Control Solutions introduced himself to the Council, Administration and public and gave a brief overview of his seminar scheduled for November 10, 2014 regarding the recent coyote sightings and encounters.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Alexius. 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. 2014-09-03 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance**

of 2010, Part 2. Definitions and Rules of Interpretation, Part 3. Use Districts and Part 4. General Provisions (Zoning Case No. 14-10-04TXT) (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-03.

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

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-09-03, seconded by **Councilman Wright**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-09-03. Item No. 2014-09-03 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-09-04 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 54 Historic Preservation (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-04.

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

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-09-04, seconded by **Councilman Smith**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-09-04. Item No. 2014-09-04 was adopted.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-09-06 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 4. General Provisions, Sec. 4.2. Landscaping, Subsection 4.210. Buffer Planting Areas (Zoning Case No. 14-10-05TXT) (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-06.

Councilman Wright 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. 2014-09-06, as follows:

Page 1, lines 29-32, to read, "...different uses and/or districts in accordance with paragraph 9 and table 42.3. The table indicates the minimum width of required rear buffer zones between proposed development and existing development. The minimum width listed in the table indicates the minimum buffer required per lot. Provision..."

Page 1, lines 36-39, to read, "1. The buffer zone shall contain one Class A or B tree for each ten linear feet of buffer planting area, if the buffer planting area is greater than or equal to ten feet in width."

Page 1, lines 41-45, to read, "2. All buffer planting areas shall contain a minimum six-foot high visual screen of plant material and/or approved fencing material. Plantings shall be of a form, size and type that will provide a 70 percent or more opaque screen within 12 months of planting. Plantings shall be a minimum of four feet in height from the ground immediately after planting. Plantings shall contain a minimum of one shrub for every ten linear feet of buffer planting area."

Page 2, delete Buffer Planting Area diagram.

Page 2, lines 4-10, to read, "3. The remainder of the buffer planting area shall be landscaped with turf and/or vegetative or decorative ground covering materials."

Page 2, lines 20-24, to read, "6. The required width or depth of a buffer zone on a development site which is 150 feet or greater in width or depth, measured at right angles from the property line along which the buffer is required to be located, shall be expanded by an additional one foot for each additional 20 feet of site depth up to a maximum additional side buffer planting area of ten feet, and a maximum rear buffer planting area of 25 feet.

Page 3, insert Paragraph 9, to read as follows:

9. Side lot buffer zone planting area requirements are as follows:

(a) For all zoning classifications other than Industrial and Major Shopping Centers, the width of the side buffer planting area shall be five (5) feet for the first 150 feet of lot depth. The side buffer planting area need not exceed ten (10) feet.

Side buffer areas are not required when residential abuts residential or non-residential abuts non-residential.

(b) For Industrial and Major Shopping Centers, the width of the side buffer planting area shall be twenty-five (25) feet for the first 150 feet of lot depth.

(c) See Sec. 4.208 for flexibility in street planting requirements associated with street planting areas.

Page 3, Table 42.3, amend the title to read, "Buffer Zone Planting Requirements for Rear Lot Buffer Areas."

Page 3, Table 42.3, delete and replace with new table as set out in ordinance.

Seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2014-09-06. Item No. 2014-09-06 was amended.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-09-06, as amended, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-09-06, as amended. Item No. 2014-09-06 was adopted, as amended.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-24** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Reappointment of Annie Spell to the Covington Tree Board for a New Term Commencing November 1, 2014 (Smith)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-24.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-24, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-24. Resolution No. 2014-24 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-25** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Jim Lynch to the Covington Tree Board for a Term Commencing November 1, 2014 (Smith)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-25.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-25, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-25. Resolution No. 2014-25 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A -- None.
2. District B -- None.
3. District C -- None.
4. District D --

Councilman Rolling announced the next Covington Business Resource Workshop will be held in early 2015. Upcoming events: Rockin' the Rails concert series on October 23rd and 30th from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; Trickin' and Treatin' free kids event on October 25th from 10 A.M. until noon at the Trailhead; Lagniappe concert at the Landing on October 25th starting at 5 P.M.; Coffee with the Mayor on October 29th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on October 31st from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; the Art Market on November 1st from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. at the Trailhead; Three Rivers Art Festival on November 15th and 16th from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in downtown Covington; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local economy.

5. District E --

Councilman Smith thanked the residents in District E for their patience during the road improvement project. Also, he commended the Administration for their work on the road improvement project.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius mentioned that the CHDC recently approved the removal of the old paint shop associated with Covington Motors which will allow the City to recapture half of an ox lot for additional parking. Also, he reminded everyone the first budget workshop was held last week and the second workshop will be held tomorrow, October 22nd, at 5 P.M. Also, he gave a recap of the Planning and Zoning Commission held last night: Planning Commission gave final approval to Phase 6B of the Savannahs, which connects to River Road. Also, upon reconsideration, the Planning Commission allowed a parcel on Jahncke Avenue to

be re-subdivided into three lots so that each house sits on one lot. Zoning Commission approved two of the text changes which appeared on the Council's agenda tonight and also agreed to recommend the re-zoning of 12 commercial lots on Erin Drive, off of Ronald Reagan Highway, from RM-2 to CR, which ordinance will be introduced at the Council meeting on November 18th. Also, he reminded everyone there will be a work session on October 27th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers to discuss rental housing and landlord requirements.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President O'Keefe encouraged all landlords in Covington to attend the work session on rental housing and landlord requirements to be held on October 27th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

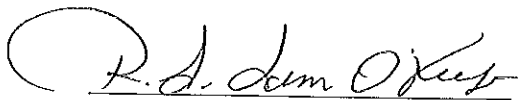
1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He thanked the appearers for attending tonight's meeting and updating the Council, Administration and public on the various issues.
- (b) He thanked Councilman Alexius and the staff for reviewing and amending the contradictions contained in the Code addressing buffers, landscaping and setbacks.
- (c) He gave an update on City street projects.
- (d) He reminded everyone to vote on November 4th and mentioned that early voting started today and continues through October 28th, excluding Sunday.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

Mrs. Hayes reminded everyone that October 31st will be a very busy night on the streets of Covington and encouraged everyone to be careful when driving.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council