

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2018**

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, Joey Roberts, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith,
Patrick McMath and Sam O'Keefe

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Polly Greene.

Council President O'Keefe announced that Joey Roberts, the new Councilman for District C, was sworn in earlier this evening and welcomed him to the Council.

APPEARERS

1. Police Chief Lentz introduced four new police officers to the Council, Administration and public: Officers George Crater, Blain Morgan, Keith Talley and Joe Way, all of whom have graduated from the POST Academy.

Mayor Cooper welcomed the new police officers to the Covington Police Department and presented each officer with a certificate of commendation for completion of the POST Academy.

2. **Mayor Cooper** introduced Mr. Jeff Marshall and Mr. Ed Lewis, who presented an update on Camp NORA, which is a program and facility to assist our Veterans who are experiencing homelessness and to provide a transition/resource center.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman McMath 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. 2018-04-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2018 Operating Budget for Electricity for Water Administration, Health Insurance, Police and Fire Accrual Payouts, Cooper Memorial Fire Station (Mold Remediation), Information Technology Assistant, Part-time Meter Technician, Covington Fire House Renovation Project, and Geographic Computer Technologies, LLC (Geographical Information Systems Parcel Work) (O'Keefe)

Council President O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2018-04-01.

Councilman Coner 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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-04-01, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-04-01. Item No. 2018-04-01 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-09** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Approving the Application of Fern Hill Investments, LLC (406 E. Boston Street, Covington, LA) for Participation in the Restoration Tax Abatement Program Application Number 20170589 (O'Keefe)

Council President O'Keefe led a discussion regarding Resolution No. 2018-09.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-09, seconded by **Councilman McMath**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-09. Resolution No. 2018-09 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Informing the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of the Actions Regarding the Sewerage Treatment Facility (MWPP) (O'Keefe)

Mike Curtis from Curtis Environmental Services, Inc. led a discussion on the results of the 2017 MWPP Environmental Audit.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-10, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-10. Resolution No. 2018-10 was adopted.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-11** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Councilman at Large Appointment of Jim LaCroix to the Covington Tree Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (McMath)

Councilman McMath led a discussion regarding Resolution No. 2018-11.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-11, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-11. Resolution No. 2018-11 was adopted.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-12** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Use of a Portion of the Unconstructed Right of Way on South Jackson Street Between West 13th Avenue and West 14th Avenue as a Driveway (Rolling)

Councilman Rolling led a discussion regarding Resolution No. 2018-12.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-12, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-12. Resolution No. 2018-12 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan invited the public to attend the annual Juneteenth Celebration sponsored by the Covington branch of the NAACP to be held on Saturday, June 16th at 1 P.M. at Peter Atkins Park and mentioned that refreshments will be served.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner gave honor to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He recognized the May birthdays for City employees. He reminded everyone to shop locally to support our local businesses. His quote for this evening was, "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts announced three upcoming events: (1) the Covington Family Bike Ride on Saturday, May 19th from 10 A.M. until 12 P.M. at Peter Atkins Park; (2) Live Oak Preservation Project, Tree Inventory Training, on Tuesday, May 22nd at 6 P.M. in the Council Conference Room; and (3) Spring Beautification Day on Saturday, May 26th from 9:30 A.M. until noon to replant the downtown planters.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling read an update from St. Tammany Parish Hospital regarding the status on the construction of its parking areas. Upcoming events: Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, May 18th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Jumpin' into Summer kids' event on Saturday, May 19th from 10 A.M. until noon at the Trailhead; and Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, May 25th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M. Also, he announced that nine new businesses applied for occupational licenses in May 2018. Also, he congratulated Joey Roberts on his election to the Council District C seat.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith welcomed Councilman Roberts to the Council. Also, he announced that Lisa Condrey Ward, owner of the Southern Hotel, is hosting an informal meeting on Sunday, May 20th at 4 P.M. in the Southern Hotel to discuss the recent survey and recommendations regarding the preservation of buildings in the Historic District and the Division of Spring. Upcoming events: the St. Tammany Art Association's fundraiser, "Seersucker and Sazeracs", on Wednesday, May 16th at the Southern Hotel; the Covington Business Association is sponsoring its second annual "Kokomo Stroll" on Saturday, June 2nd from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. in Downtown Covington; the "Tour de Louisiane" cycling race on Sunday, June 10th in Downtown Covington; OnStage presents, "The Second City", on Tuesday, June 12th at 7 P.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman McMath mentioned that the EOC Facility Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet with representatives of St. Tammany Parish Government but due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting was cancelled. He will update the Council once the meeting has been rescheduled. Also, he mentioned that the contractor has completed the first phase of the foundation work for the Walker

Percy statue and the project should be completed within the next few weeks. Also, he mentioned that the Boys and Girls Club fundraiser was held recently and was a great success in which over \$80,000 was raised for the Club. He thanked Molly Smith and Debbie Schoen for their help in organizing and presenting the event. Also, he welcomed Councilman Roberts to the Council and looks forward to serving with him.

7. At Large (President) – None.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

(a) He acknowledged that earlier this month, he issued a Proclamation designating May 3rd as National Day of Prayer in the City of Covington and read the Proclamation into the record;

(b) He announced that the sixth annual Covington Community Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington, Life Resources and the Christian Businessmen's Connection will be held on Friday, June 15th from 7 A.M. until 8:30 A.M. at the Briggs' Assembly Center at St. Paul's.

(c) He gave updates on some high-profile projects that are currently underway:

(1) Safe Routes to School – This is a state project and currently under advertisement with DOTD. Bid letting will occur on June 13th. The project includes the sidewalk on North Filmore Street from Columbia Street to West 28th Avenue with connection to Pine View Middle School.

(2) Reverend Peter Atkins Park Restrooms – The architect is working on the project drawings and specs for the current restroom removal and the replacement project. The first advertisement will run on May 30th and bids will be due on June 28th.

(3) River Forest Paving and Drainage, Willow Drive, Phase 1 – This section of Willow Drive is basically between Lurline Drive and just south of where Karen Drive intersects Willow Drive. The project is underway and includes full replacement of drainage and concrete pavement. Completion date is early to mid-September.

(4) Roadway Improvement Program – This program has basically been concrete panel replacement. Work has been completed in the Ozone area, Oak Alley and the Savannahs. Work is currently underway on West 15th Avenue, Michelle Drive and Karen Drive in River Forest. Upon completion, work will begin in the area bounded by Menetre Drive, West 21st Avenue, South Tyler Street and West 11th Avenue.

(5) West 29th Avenue Bridge at Mile Branch – The bridge is nearly completed with the contractor finishing up with the installation of the guardrails, signage and other safety features. The bridge should be open by the end of the week or early next week, pending final inspections.

(6) Two sidewalk programs are underway and one of them is nearing completion. The contractor is working on the first task order of the second program which includes the sidewalk near the First Presbyterian Church on South Jefferson Avenue along with sections on East 20th Avenue near SSA, West 21st Avenue near the library and West 25th Avenue near Tyler Street.

(7) West 15th Avenue Trail (from River Forest to Gallagher Park) – Funds are included in the 2018 budget to make improvements to this eight foot wide asphalt trail which is approximately 20 years old. In addition to the replacement of the asphalt, drainage features will be included. Advertisement for the project begins on June 13th and bids will be received in mid-July.

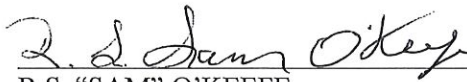
(8) Bogue Falaya Park Bulkhead – Final permit approval has been received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of the bulkhead, the ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch and boardwalk. This project is currently undergoing a final engineering review and bid advertisements will begin on May 30th with the bids being received at the end of June.

(9) Projects in the permitting stages with regard to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Scenic Rivers:

- (i) Blue Swamp Creek cleaning and grading;
- (ii) Patricia Ditch cleaning and grading;
- (iii) Cleveland Street bridge replacement; and
- (iv) West 15th Avenue at Simpson Creek bridge replacement.

(d) He congratulated the graduating seniors from our local high schools and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk