

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2018**

Council President McMath 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,
Sam O'Keefe and Patrick McMath

ABSENT: None

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Diane Weiss.

APPEARERS

Councilman Roberts introduced Mrs. Diane Weiss, who appeared on behalf of the 15th Street Flyers. She gave a brief history of the "4 on the 4th" Race and a recap of the 2018 "4 on the 4th" Race. She presented checks from the proceeds of the race to the Tammany Trace Foundation, Covington Recreation Department, Covington Firefighters Association, Covington Police Department – Wade Sharp FOP Lodge #43 and the West St. Tammany YMCA.

Councilman Roberts thanked Mrs. Weiss for her efforts in organizing and presenting the "4 on the 4th" Race.

Councilman O'Keefe presented Mrs. Weiss with a memento from the City Council and Administration for her service as Interim Councilwoman for District C. Mrs. Weiss thanked the Council and Administration for the guidance during her service on the City Council.

Mayor Cooper gave an update on the 15th Avenue trail resurfacing project, which extends from Gallagher Park to River Forest. The project was bid out earlier this year and only one response was received which exceeded the budgeted amount of \$220,000.00. In an attempt to reduce the cost, revised plans are currently being prepared. The project is scheduled to be readvertised next month and the entire project should be completed by the "4 on the 4th" Race in July 2019.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. 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. 2018-09-03 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Recognizing the Mayor’s Authority to Execute a Lease with the Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany, Inc. (O’Keefe)

Councilman O’Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2018-09-03.

Councilman Coner 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 Smith made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-09-03, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-09-03. Item No. 2018-09-03 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-09-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 42 Environment, to Add Article VI. Distribution of Printed Material (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion on Item No. 2018-09-04.

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 O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-09-04, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-09-04. Item No. 2018-09-04 was adopted.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-09-05 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Naming the Alley Connecting North Harrison Street and North Tyler Street Between West 22nd Avenue and West 23rd Avenue as Ross Alley (Rolling)

Councilman Rolling led a discussion on Item No. 2018-09-05.

Mr. Mark Johnson, who requested the naming of the Ross Alley, gave a brief history of the Ross family in Covington.

Councilman O’Keefe 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 O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-09-05, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-09-05. Item No. 2018-09-05 was adopted.

Mr. Louis Ross, Jr. thanked the Council and the City of Covington for the honor in naming an alley after his family.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-27** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of an Application to the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEBF) for the Purchase of New Water Meters and Related Equipment (O’Keefe)

Councilman O’Keefe led a discussion on Resolution No. 2018-27.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-27, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-27. Resolution No. 2018-27 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced that St. Peter’s School is hosting a dinner for all veterans on Saturday, November 10th from 11 A.M. until 1 P.M. at 2013 Ronald Reagan Highway.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner gave honor to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He recognized the October birthdays for City employees. He reminded everyone to shop locally to support our local businesses. He thanked all City employees for the excellent work they perform for the City of Covington. His quote for this evening was, “People know what you are by what they see, not by what they hear!”

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts commented that two years ago, the YMCA changed the name of its annual golf tournament to the “Lee Alexius Golf Tournament” to honor the memory of Mr. Lee Alexius and his contributions to the community.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that three new businesses applied for occupational licenses in September 2018. Also, he reminded everyone that the St. Tammany Parish Library on West 21st Avenue will be closed for several months due to renovations. Upcoming events: Thursday, October 25th from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead – Rockin’ the Rails concert series; Friday, October 26th at 6:30 P.M. – the final Columbia Street Block Party for this year; Saturday, October 27th from 10 A.M. until noon – Trickin’ and Treatin’ Children’s event at the Trailhead; Wednesday, October 31st from 9 A.M. until 10 A.M. – Coffee with the Mayor at the Trailhead; Thursday, November 8th at 7 P.M. – OnStage presents, “Letters Home” in the Fuhrmann Auditorium; Saturday, November 10th and Sunday, November 11th – Three Rivers Art Festival in Downtown Covington; and the Farmer’s Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he mentioned that the “Field of Screams” was held on Saturday, October 13th at the Covington Recreation Complex and it was a well-attended, fun event. Also, he reminded everyone to support our local businesses and shop local.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith commended the Public Works Department for its professionalism in dealing with the public. Also, he congratulated the Covington Police Department for presenting its first inaugural golf tournament fundraiser to honor the late Caroline Darby, who worked for the Police Department for many years. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to continue the Christmas wish program organized by Ms. Darby in which Christmas toys are distributed to needy children. Also, he reminded everyone that early voting has started for the November 6th election.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O’Keefe thanked the Public Works, Fire Department and Police Department personnel and their families for volunteering to help with the free events sponsored by the City.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath reminded everyone about the public work session scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, October 24th, to discuss the 2019 budget. Also, he expressed his appreciation to the Council and Administration for working diligently during the budget process.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

(a) He mentioned that there are several infrastructure projects, including numerous street, sidewalk, drainage, water and sewer system projects, that are either underway or about to begin across the City;

(b) He mentioned that there are several building, facility and construction projects that are either underway or about to begin which include:

(1) A new Public Works Operations and Maintenance facility;

(2) The expansion of the Ernest J. Cooper Memorial Fire Station to include two additional bays for fire trucks and other apparatus;

(3) A new restroom facility at the swimming pool at Peter Atkins Park;

(4) The renovation of the historic, former fire station on Theard Street;

and

(5) Construction of the bulkhead and boardwalk including ADA kayak and canoe launch at the Bogue Palaya Park will begin in early December.

Also, he stated that all of the projects listed above are on schedule according to their respective contracts.

(c) He reminded everyone that the Covington branch of the St. Tammany Parish Library has moved to its temporary location at 1200 Business Hwy. 190 during the renovation to the library on West 21st Avenue. This parish project should take between nine and twelve months.

(d) He discussed the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 6th and reminded the public that early voting has started and will be open until Tuesday, October 30th. He encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote.

(e) He mentioned that Tuesday, November 6th is a state holiday and will be observed as a City holiday as well.

(f) He acknowledged that Priscilla Floca and Keep Covington Beautiful were recently presented with the 2018 Outstanding Affiliate in the State of Louisiana award, which was awarded by Keep Louisiana Beautiful. He congratulated Priscilla and Keep Covington Beautiful for receiving this outstanding award and for their efforts in keeping our city beautiful.

(g) He reminded everyone about the public work session tomorrow at 5 P.M. to discuss the 2019 budget.

Councilman Rolling inquired as to the new garbage pickup schedule and the process for reporting calls from citizens about missed garbage pickup.

Mayor Cooper responded that the garbage company has begun the routine of the Monday, Wednesday and Friday pickup schedule and maps are available on the City's website and at City Hall. In addition, citizens should make a report if their garbage and/or recyclables are not picked up according to the schedule.

Chief Administrative Officer Gina Hayes announced that a surplus sale was held recently and the City received \$21,720.05 in proceeds from the sale.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk