

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 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 Mr. Cecil Hudson.

APPEARER

Councilman Coner announced that Ms. Barbara Strain, representing START Community Health Center, was scheduled to appear this evening but was unable to attend the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe 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. 2018-09-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Adopting the 2019 Operating Budget and the Five Year Capital Outlay Budget for the Years 2019-2023 for the City of Covington (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on **Item No. 2018-09-01**.

Councilman Smith 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 Callahan made a motion to amend **Item No. 2018-09-01** as reflected in the printout dated November 7, 2018, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to amend **Item No. 2018-09-01** as reflected in the printout dated November 7, 2018. **Item No. 2018-09-01** was amended as reflected in the printout dated November 7, 2018.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt **Item No. 2018-09-01** as amended, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call was unanimous to

adopt Item No. 2018-09-01 as amended. Item No. 2018-09-01 was adopted as amended.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-09-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Setting the Compensation for the Mayor of the City of Covington for the Year 2019 (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on Item No. 2018-09-02.

Councilman Rolling 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 O’Keefe made a motion to amend Item No. 2018-09-02 as follows: Page 1, line 23, shall read, "Annual salary of \$90,700.00 representing a 2% increase..."

Seconded by Council President McMath. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2018-09-02 as set out above. Item No. 2018-09-02 was amended as set out above.

Councilman Callahan made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-09-02 as amended, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-09-02 as amended. Item No. 2018-09-02 was adopted as amended.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-10-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to Lease with Douglas Draper, as Successor in Title to GIL (1995) Investment Limited Partnership, for the Use of a Portion of Square 4, Division of St. John, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion on Item No. 2018-10-01.

Councilman Smith 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. 2018-10-01, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-10-01. Item No. 2018-10-01 was adopted.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-10-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Covington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 Businesses, to Add Article VI. Short-Term Rentals (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion on Item No. 2018-10-02.

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

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-10-02, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-10-02. Item No. 2018-10-02 was adopted.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-10-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2018 Operating and Capital Budget to Establish the OPEB Trust Fund (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on Item No. 2018-10-04.

Mayor Cooper stated that this budget amendment involves the transfer of funds that have been placed in the General Fund for the past three years to establish the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Trust Fund. Also, he mentioned that a resolution will be discussed later this evening which will further detail the establishment of the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Trust Fund.

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

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-10-04, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-10-04. Item No. 2018-10-04 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

Mayor Cooper requested that Resolution No. 2018-29 regarding the OPEB Trust Fund be addressed at this time.

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2018-29 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Recognizing the Authority of the Mayor to Sign and Authorizing the Signatures of the Board of Trustees on the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust (McMath)

Mayor Cooper read Resolution No. 2018-29 into the record. Also, he stated that the trust documents have been prepared by a trust attorney and are ready to be executed.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-29, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-29. Resolution No. 2018-29 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2018-28 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of the City of Covington Flood Response Plan Prepared by the Water Institute of the Gulf (O'Keefe)

Mayor Cooper stated that Chris Brown, City Building Official, recommended this project last year and the City received a 100% grant for the preparation of the plan. The plan was developed by the Water Institute of the Gulf and several other consultants. The Permit Department, along with other City departments, worked with and provided information to the consultants during the plan development.

Chris Brown, City Building Official, gave a brief overview of the Flood Response Plan.

Councilman Rolling inquired as to whether or not the Flood Response Plan would be available on the City's website.

Chief Administrative Officer Gina Hayes responded that this information is not typically provided to the public since it is more of an internal plan used by City departments.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-28, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-28. Resolution No. 2018-28 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. 2019 Council Meeting Schedule (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on the Council meeting schedule for 2019.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the 2019 Council meeting schedule, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the 2019 Council meeting schedule. The 2019 Council meeting schedule was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving from the Callahan Family.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner gave honor to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He recognized the November birthdays for City employees. He extended his prayers and condolences to all of the people in the State of California who have been affected by the wild fires and who have lost their lives. He wished everyone a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. His quote for this evening was, "The hardest secret for a man to keep is his opinion of himself."

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts mentioned that the Mayor's Council on Healthy Lifestyles was formed a few years ago and more recently, the Mayor's Council on Youth Leadership was formed, which is comprised of local high school students who would like to make a difference in their community. He commented that the Youth Leadership Council is sponsoring a "Friendsgiving" event tonight and encouraged the public to support this group of young people. Also, he wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that five new businesses applied for occupational licenses in October 2018. Also, he mentioned that the 8th Annual Feeding the Needy fundraiser luncheon hosted by the Covington Rotary Club was held today and Ms. Gayle Benson was the guest speaker. Upcoming events: Christmas in the Country in Downtown Covington – November 23rd through December 22nd; Holiday Festival of Art – December 2nd through December 8th; Deck the Rails Children's event – Saturday, December 8th from 4 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; History and Holly Home Tour presented by the Covington Heritage

Foundation – Sunday, December 9th from 2:30 P.M. until 5 P.M.; Christmas Caroling at the Trailhead – Thursday, December 13th from 7 P.M. until 8:30 P.M.; and the Farmer’s Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he mentioned that the Three Rivers Art Festival was held last weekend and was well-attended. Also, he wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving and Happy “Saintsgiving.”

5. District E –

Councilman Smith commended the Police, Fire and Public Works departments for their hard work and expressed his appreciation to them. Also, he announced that Small Business Saturday will be held on Saturday, November 24th and encouraged the public to shop locally. Also, he announced that National Artists’ Week which recognizes local artists will be held on Sunday, December 2nd from 12 P.M. until 5 P.M. in the 300 and 400 blocks of North Columbia Street.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O’Keefe thanked the Public Works, Fire and Police departments for their work on the special events sponsored by the City. He wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath thanked the Administration and City Building Official Chris Brown for their work on the Flood Response Plan. He wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper’s comments:

- (a) He thanked the Council for its actions this evening on the ordinances and resolutions which will allow the City to move forward.
- (b) He mentioned that several projects are underway and are in different stages of completion. He plans to give an update on the projects at the next Council meeting.
- (c) He mentioned that St. Tammany Corp., which is the economic development organization for St. Tammany Parish, is hosting a Town Hall Forum on Tuesday, November 27th from 11:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium. The public is invited to attend and he urged citizens and business owners to participate in the forum.
- (d) He reminded everyone about the runoff election on Saturday, December 8th for the Louisiana Secretary of State position and also a parish wide proposition to renew funding for parish animal services. He mentioned that early voting begins on Saturday, November 24th and ends on Saturday, December 1st, excluding Sunday, November 25th. He urged everyone to exercise their right to vote.
- (e) He reminded everyone that the “Friendsgiving” fundraising event hosted by the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council is tonight at Pepe’s Restaurant and will benefit abandoned teens in St. Tammany Parish.

Councilman Coner inquired as to what services are provided to the City of Covington by St. Tammany Parish Animal Services.

Mayor Cooper responded that when citizens call in to report stray animals, St. Tammany Parish Animal Services responds to their calls.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk