

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 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. Ella Mae Selmon.

APPEARER

Councilman Coner introduced Ms. Barbara Strain, representing START Community Health Center, who discussed the primary health care, WIC and behavioral health services offered to the public by START Community Health Center.

Council President McMath mentioned that the public may contact the START Community Health Center by calling (985) 900-1626 or by visiting its website at startcorp.org.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe withdrew Item (E) entitled, "Introduction of Item No. 2018-12-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B—Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 3. Use Districts, Section 3.16. CN Neighborhood Commercial, Section 3.1602. Permitted Uses (Zoning Case #18-11-08TXT)," from the consent calendar.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar with the exception of Item (E) which has been withdrawn, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar with the exception of Item (E) which has been withdrawn. The consent calendar was adopted with the exception of Item (E) which has been withdrawn.

REGULAR AGENDA

Unfinished Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2018-10-03** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Donation of Equipment (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2018-10-03.

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 O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2018-10-03, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2018-10-03. Item No. 2018-10-03 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2018-30 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Approving Mele Printing, Inc. for Participation in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program at 619 North Tyler Street, Covington, LA 70433 (McMath)

Mr. Jason Ambeau, representing Mele Printing, Inc., gave a presentation and led a discussion on the request by Mele Printing, Inc. for an Industrial Tax Exemption.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-30, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2018-30. Resolution No. 2018-30 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner gave honor to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He presented a tribute to the late Isiah Robertson, Jr.: Mr. Isiah Robertson, Jr., Covington native and former professional football player, was severely injured in a car crash on Thursday, December 6, 2018 near Maybank, Texas. He passed away at a hospital located in Athens, Texas. Some of Mr. Robertson's accomplishments were:

- First round draft choice for Los Angeles Rams in 1971
- Rams team member from 1971-1978
- Buffalo Bills team member from 1979-1982
- Named first team All-Pro in 1973 and 1976
- Chosen as Pro-Bowl Rookie in 1971 Season as well as 1973-1977
- Founded the House of Isiah Recovery Center in Texas

He mentioned that our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time. Also, he recognized the December birthdays for City employees. He reminded everyone to shop locally to support our local businesses. His quote for this evening was, "Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm," by President Abraham Lincoln. He wished everyone on earth a blessed and safe holiday season. Also, he encouraged every citizen to watch the YouTube video named, "Why Louisiana Stays Poor," which is informative and enlightening.

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts recognized the Public Works Department for the quick response to a resident's report of leaves and pine straw in the streets. He commended the crews for working with rakes and brooms in the cold weather to clean the streets.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that the Candlelight Caroling event scheduled for December 13th has been cancelled due to the weather forecast and has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 19th at 7 P.M. at the Trailhead. He mentioned that the OnStage theatre series has concluded for this year and everyone is looking forward to the 2019 season. He encouraged the public to support our local businesses and shop locally. Also, he reminded everyone about the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. He stated that it is his honor to serve the residents of District D. Also, he wished Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season to his fellow Councilmen, the Administration and the residents of the City of Covington.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith reminded the public about the Menetre Park and Boat Launch Public Workshop scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, December 12th, from 5:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. He encouraged the public to attend and submit comments. Also, he extended his condolences to the Robertson family on the recent death of Isiah Robertson, Jr. He thanked the Administration, Fire, Police and Public Works departments for their commitment to the City of Covington. Also, he wished everyone Merry Christmas.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O'Keefe thanked the Public Works, Fire and Police departments for their work in keeping the residents of Covington healthy and safe. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath commented that he attended a meeting today with representatives from Coastal Environmental Services at which time the adjustments to the holiday garbage pickup schedule were discussed. He mentioned that flyers setting out the holiday schedule have been placed at City Hall and on the City's website. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Councilman Coner thanked City Attorney Rod Rodrigue and his family for the beautiful Christmas card.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

(a) He mentioned that Coastal Environmental Services has adjusted its garbage pickup schedule in that pickup normally made on Wednesday will move to Thursday and pickup normally made on Friday will move to Saturday over the two-week holiday period. He stated that Monday pickup will remain the same over the holidays.

(b) He encouraged the public to attend the Menetre Park and Boat Launch Master Plan Public Workshop scheduled for tomorrow, December 12th, at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

(c) He announced that the former DOTD property located at 833 East Boston Street has been sold and the new owner intends to demolish the building and fencing. Also, he mentioned that the new owner has no development plans at this time.

(d) He mentioned that several projects are currently underway and in different stages of completion. He pointed out some of the most prominent projects:

- (1) Bogue Falaya Park Bulkhead;
- (2) The SSES Sewer Point Repairs;

- (3) The Sidewalk Construction Program;
- (4) The restrooms at Reverend Peter Atkins Park;
- (5) The renovation and rehabilitation of the Theard Street Fire House;
- (6) The Public Works Barn;
- (7) The addition to the Cooper Fire Station on Jefferson Avenue;
- (8) Covington High School Sewer Lift Station Improvements;
- (9) The 2018 SSES Sewer Line Improvements; and
- (10) Wastewater Treatment Plant, Phase 1, improvements.

Also, he mentioned that several projects are in the planning stages and will get underway in 2019.

- (e) He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- (f) He expressed his condolences to the Robertson family on the death of Isiah Robertson, Jr.

Councilman Rolling inquired as to the estimated completion date of the renovations and rehabilitation of the Theard Street Fire House.

Mayor Cooper responded that the work on the Theard Street Fire House should be completed by April 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk