

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2015**

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.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. George Michell.

APPEARERS

Mayor Cooper and Fire Chief Richard Badon announced the promotions of Shane Jenkins, Joey Cacioppo and Bryan Walters to the rank of Shift Lieutenants. Shift Lieutenants Jenkins, Cacioppo and Walters were presented with new badges and introduced to the Council and public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Wright. 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. 2014-11-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Covington, Louisiana, to Reclassify the Highway 190 Commercial Park Consisting of Lot Numbers 1 through 12, Located at the Intersection of Erin Drive and U.S. Highway 190 (Also Known as Ronald Reagan Highway), From RM-2 (Multifamily Residential) to CR (Regional Commercial) (Zoning Case No. 14-10-02Rezoning) (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-11-01.

Councilman Alexius 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 Rolling made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-11-01, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-11-01. Item No. 2014-11-01 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-11-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Surplus Certain Vehicles and Equipment Owned by the City of Covington (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-11-02.

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

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-11-02, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-11-02. Item No. 2014-11-02 was adopted.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-12-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Covington, Louisiana, to Reclassify a 75 ft. by 150 ft. Parcel Being Lot 6 and a Portion of Lot 7, Square 1012, Division of New Covington, in the Southwest Quadrant of South Polk Street and West 11th Avenue, Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, from CO (Commercial Office/Professional) to a Planned Commercial Overlay District (PCD) (Zoning Case No. 14-11-03Rezoning) (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-12-01.

Councilman Coner 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 adopt Item No. 2014-12-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-12-01. Item No. 2014-12-01 was adopted.

Jeff Schoen, attorney for the Braswells and Braswell's Drugs, thanked the Council and Administration for the support during the rezoning process.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan wished everyone a Happy New Year. Also, he reminded the public about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events on Monday, January 19th beginning at 10 A.M. at Peter Atkins Park.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the January birthdays for City employees. Also, his quote for this evening was, "What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" by George Eliot. Also, he wished everyone a Blessed New Year.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright wished everyone a Happy New Year and commented he is looking forward to 2015.

4. District D --

Councilman Rolling welcomed everyone back and to 2015. Also, he announced there will be a Tyler Street Business Owners meeting on Tuesday, January 27th at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers to discuss any concerns and current projects. Also, he mentioned that he will present a recap of the business occupational licenses for 2014 at the next Council meeting. Also, he announced the fifth Business Resource Workshop entitled, "Covington – Your Place for Business," will be held on Tuesday, February 10th from 8:30 A.M. until 12 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Hall.

5. District E --

Councilman Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year. Also, he reminded everyone there will be a CBA meeting tomorrow, January 7th, beginning at 5:30 P.M. at the St. Tammany Art Association on North Columbia Street. Also, he mentioned that the National Parks Service meeting scheduled for January 8th has been cancelled. Also, he announced that the St. John's Fools of Misrules Marching Club will march on Saturday, January 10th at 6:30 P.M. beginning at North Columbia and East Kirkland streets. Also, he reminded everyone that Christmas trees will be picked up on Thursday, January 15th and Thursday, January 22nd.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius mentioned that the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office will present workshops tomorrow, January 7th, at 9:30 A.M. at Koop Drive, and Wednesday, January 14th, at 9:30 A.M. at the Towers Building in Slidell, to discuss the newly-implemented "Enhanced Audit Process." Also, concerning the recent street overlay project, he mentioned there are some locations where shoulders need to be installed, such as on the south side of East 17th Avenue and South America Street.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President O'Keefe requested an update on the new recruits in the Police Department.

Chief Tim Lentz commented that seven recruits are scheduled to graduate from POST Academy later this month and all of them should be finished with training by the end of February or beginning of March. Also, he stated that two recent hires started POST Academy yesterday and will graduate in about 11 weeks.

Council President O'Keefe also commended the Police Department for its work with the "Secret Santa" event and the delivery of meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He mentioned there is a punch list for touch up work on the streets involved in the recent road improvement project.
- (b) He announced that Frostop has closed and a new business will be opened in that location.
- (c) He commented that Gina Hayes and Alisa Faciane will attend the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's workshop to gather information on the "Enhanced Audit Process."
- (d) He issued a Proclamation regarding Arbor Day, which is Saturday, January 17th.

- (e) He mentioned that at the next Council meeting on January 20th, he will present department updates along with an update on City projects.
- (f) He reminded the public about the Arctic blast forecasted for later this week and encouraged everyone to take the necessary precautions.

Councilman Rolling expressed some concerns about the drainage issues in the City with the ditches being blocked by leaves and limbs. He requested that the public clean out the ditches in front of their houses to help drainage in their neighborhoods.

Council President O'Keefe reminded everyone about the St. Tammany Parish Jr. Livestock Sale on Saturday, January 24th at the St. Tammany Parish Fairgrounds.

2. **Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.**

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



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council