

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2015**

Council President Alexius 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, Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bruce Davidson.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Smith**. 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. 2015-07-02 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with South Central Planning and Development Commission for Software and Services Known as "My Permit Now" (Alexius)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion on Item No. 2015-07-02.

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson from South Central Planning and Development Commission discussed the "My Permit Now" system and answered some questions from the Council.

Mr. Matt Faust from the St. Tammany Parish Assessor's office discussed the benefits when St. Tammany Parish municipalities implement the "My Permit Now" system as it relates to recordkeeping in the Assessor's office.

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

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-07-02, seconded by **Councilman Smith**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-07-02. Item No. 2015-07-02 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-16 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Appointing Hattie Brown as the Council District A Appointment to the Covington Board of Adjustment for a Term of Five (5) Years (Callahan)

Councilman Callahan introduced Ms. Hattie Brown to the Council, Administration and public and recommended her appointment to the Covington Board of Adjustment.

Councilman Callahan made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-16, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-16. Resolution No. 2015-16 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-17 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Bruce E. Davidson to the Covington Tree Board to Fill an Unexpired Term (Rolling)

Councilman Rolling sponsored Resolution No. 2015-17.

Mayor Cooper introduced Mr. Bruce Davidson and requested the confirmation of Mr. Davidson's appointment to the Covington Tree Board.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-17, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-17. Resolution No. 2015-17 was adopted.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-18 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Emily Couvillon to the Covington Tree Board to Fill an Unexpired Term (Alexius)

Councilman Wright sponsored Resolution No. 2015-18.

Mayor Cooper introduced Ms. Emily Couvillon and requested the confirmation of Ms. Couvillon's appointment to the Covington Tree Board.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-18, seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-18. Resolution No. 2015-18 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council President Alexius gave the following recap of the 78th Annual Louisiana Municipal Association Convention which was held last weekend in Lafayette:

He mentioned that Mayor Cooper participated in a breakout session during the convention regarding the benefits of parish municipal associations, such as the St. Tammany Municipal Association.

Also, he announced that Councilman Coner and he were awarded Gold Star Awards for six terms of service.

Also, he announced that the City of Covington won First Place in the LMA's Community Achievement Awards, Basic Services category, for the submittal by Police Chief Tim Lentz and Pam Keller for the "I Got Caught Wearing My Seatbelt" campaign. Councilman O'Keefe presented the plaques to each Councilman and the Mayor. Mayor Cooper commended Police Chief Lentz, the Police Department and all those who had a part in this campaign.

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced that the month of August is VFW Membership Drive month and he encouraged all qualifying veterans to visit the VFW Hall located at 2013 Ronald Reagan Highway.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner thanked Police Chief Lentz for the outstanding "I Got Caught Wearing My Seatbelt" campaign. Also, he recognized the August birthdays for City employees. Also, his quote for this evening was, "History must stay open; it is all humanity" by William Carlos Williams, American Author and Poet, 1883-1963.

3. District C – None.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that 6 new businesses applied for occupational licenses in July. Upcoming events: Covington's White Linen Night on Saturday, August 15th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, August 21st from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, August 28th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith reminded everyone that the next CBA meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5th at Mac's on Boston Street, social starts at 5:30, meeting at 6 P.M.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O'Keefe recognized the new members of the Tree Board and Board of Adjustment for their service in volunteering for these positions.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President Alexius announced that the HDC will meet on August 11th and the BOA/P&Z will meet on August 17th. Also, he read the following Notice of Public Meeting:

"Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 222 East Kirkland Street, Covington, Louisiana, the City Council of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the City of Covington to authorize the extension and rededication of a sales tax."

Mayor Cooper discussed the 1982 one cent sales tax and stated that the City may want to consider rededicating this sales tax to remove all restrictions in order for the sales tax to be used for all municipal purposes. He commented that the notice tonight is in accordance with a new state law and the public meeting to discuss this issue will be held on September 15, 2015 with the election scheduled for November 21, 2015.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

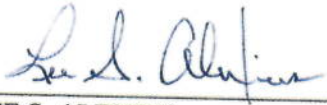
1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He thanked the new appointments to the City boards for their willingness to serve.
- (b) He announced there will be two presentations by the consultants during the next Council meeting on Tuesday, August 18th – one concerning the Old Fire Station Feasibility Study and the second concerning the RPC's Downtown Traffic and Parking Study.
- (c) He mentioned that the 2016 budget preparation is underway and the budget will be submitted to the Council on September 15th;
- (d) He gave an update on the 15th Avenue Bridge at Mile Branch project;
- (e) He mentioned that some deficiencies have been discovered on the approaches to the Gratitude Drive Bridge in Covington Point. The bridge is structurally sound; however, the approaches are undermined and the City is taking the steps to select a contractor to repair the bridge.
- (f) He commented that the recent LMA Convention was a great event and was well-attended by Administration and Council.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

Mrs. Hayes reminded everyone that schools will be back in session in the next few days and to be mindful of the school zones.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk