

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

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 Mayor Mike Cooper.

Mayor Cooper appointed Christopher D. Davis as Director of Public Works for the City of Covington. Councilman Alexius made a motion to confirm Christopher D. Davis as Director of Public Works, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Christopher D. Davis as Director of Public Works for the City of Covington.

APPEARERS

Terri Turner-Marse, Executive Director of the Covington Food Bank, discussed the Food Bank's history and mission.

OPEN THE AGENDA

Councilman Smith made a motion to open the agenda to add Tony Le Mon as an appearer to speak about the importance of the upcoming election on December 6, 2014. Seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to open the agenda to add Tony Le Mon as an appearer.

Mr. Tony Le Mon spoke about the importance of the upcoming election on December 6, 2014 and encouraged the public to cast their votes either during early voting (November 22-29, excluding Sunday, November 23rd, Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th) or on December 6th.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling 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. 2014-06-07 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Decreasing the Boundaries of the City of Covington, Louisiana, Describing the Area to be De-Annexed and Removed

There to, and Describing the Boundaries to be Excluded From Said Municipality (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-06-07.

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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-06-07, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-06-07. Item No. 2014-06-07 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-09-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Setting the Compensation for the Mayor of the City of Covington for 2015 (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-02.

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 Alexius made a motion to amend Item No. 2014-09-02, as follows:

Page 1, line 26, shall read, "Annual salary of \$80,580 representing a 2% cost of living increase..."

Seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2014-09-02 as set out above. Item No. 2014-09-02 was amended as set out above.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-09-02, as amended, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-09-02, as amended. Item No. 2014-09-02 was adopted, as amended.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-09-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Adopting the 2015 Operating Budget and the Five Year Capital Outlay Budget for the Years 2015-2019 for the City of Covington (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-09-01.

Per Mayor Cooper's request, the contribution to COAST for 2015 was increased by \$4,000, from \$2,000 to \$6,000. This contribution will be for services rendered as per the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Covington and COAST. This increase had not been discussed during the public budget meetings.

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 Wright made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-09-01 as presented, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-09-01 as presented. Item No. 2014-09-01 was adopted as presented.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-01 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute all Legal Documents Necessary to Accept a Donation of Immovable Property, Said Immovable Property Being Located in Square 2010, Division of New Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Which Square is Bounded by West 21st Avenue, South Filmore Street, West 20th Avenue and South Pierce Street (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-01.

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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-01. Item No. 2014-10-01 was adopted.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-02 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 3. Use Districts, Sec. 3.8. RSL Single-Family Residential-Existing Small Lots, Sec. 3.9. RS-1 Single-Family Residential, Sec. 3.10. RS-2 Single-Family Residential, Sec. 3.12. RS-3 Two-Family Residential, Sec. 3.13. RM-1 Three- and Four-Family Residential and Sec. 3.14. RM-2 Multifamily Residential (Zoning Case No. 14-11-06TXT) (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-02.

Councilman Wright 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 Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-02, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-02. Item No. 2014-10-02 was adopted.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-03 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 3. Use Districts, Sec. 3.15. CO Commercial Office/Professional, Sec. 3.16. CN Neighborhood Commercial, Sec. 3.17. CBD-Community Business District, Sec. 3.18. CR Regional Commercial, Sec. 3.19. ID Institutional, Sec. 3.20. IH Medical Services and Sec. 3.22. ML Light Industrial/Manufacturing (Zoning Case No. 14-11-07TXT) (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-03.

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 Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-03, seconded by **Councilman Wright**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-03. Item No. 2014-10-03 was adopted.

7. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 6. Covington Sign Regulations (Zoning Case No. 14-11-08TXT) (Alexius)

City Attorney Rod Rodrigue and **Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-04.

Councilman Coner 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 amend Item No. 2014-10-04, as follows:

Page 4, lines 9 through 11, shall read, "Sec. 6.113. Procedures; application and fees for sign permits. 1. Requirement to obtain a sign permit. It shall be unlawful to construct, erect, alter, relocate, or display any sign without first obtaining..."

Seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2014-10-04 as set out above. Item No. 2014-10-04 was amended as set out above.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-04, as amended, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-04, as amended. Item No. 2014-10-04 was adopted, as amended.

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-05 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 94 Traffic and Vehicles, Article V. Parking. To Add Sec. 94-113 Extended Parking Prohibited (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-05.

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 Alexius made a motion to amend Item No. 2014-10-05, as follows:

Page 1, line 30, shall read, "...lots, leased parking lots or on public street rights-of-way within the Division of St. John in an uninterrupted..."

Seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2014-10-05 as set out above. Item No. 2014-10-05 was amended as set out above.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-05, as amended, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-05, as amended. Item No. 2014-10-05 was adopted, as amended.

9. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-06 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 98 Utilities, Article IV. Rates and Charges, to Amend Section 98-125. New Service, Deposits, Account Credits and Methods of Payment, Section 98-128. Charges, Penalties, Notice and Termination of Services and Section 98-134. Basic Fee Schedule (O’Keefe)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-06.

Councilman Smith 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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-06, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-06. Item No. 2014-10-06 was adopted.

10. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-10-07 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 66 Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV. Offenses Affecting Public Morals, to Add a New Section 66-115. Open Containers on Class B Premises Prohibited (O’Keefe)

Council President O’Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2014-10-07.

Councilman Coner 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 Rolling made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-10-07, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2014-10-07. Item No. 2014-10-07 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-26 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of the Sales Tax Exemption for Original Works of Art Sold in the Cultural District (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-26.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-26, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-26. Resolution No. 2014-26 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-27 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Approving the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of Not Exceeding \$40,000,000 of St. Tammany Public Trust Financing Authority Revenue and Refunding Revenue Bonds (Christwood Project) in One or More Series (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-27. Also, Ms. Jamie Boyd from Foley & Judell participated in the discussion.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-27, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-27. Resolution No. 2014-27 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

**1. 2015 Council meeting schedule (Alexius)
The proposed 2015 Council meeting schedule was discussed and approved.**

Council President O’Keefe announced there will be only one Council meeting in December which will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers. The meeting scheduled for December 16, 2014 has been cancelled.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced that VFW Post #7286 is now sponsoring Bingo every Monday and Saturday beginning at 6 P.M.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the November birthdays for City employees. Also, his quote for this evening was, “It is when we forget ourselves that we do things which will be remembered.” Also, he commented that the new sidewalks being installed on Columbia Street are very nice and really needed as he believes the original sidewalks were installed between 1940-1946.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright commented he is excited that Chris Davis has been appointed as Director of Public Works and looks forward to working with him. Also, he mentioned that he has been using Social Media to encourage celebrities who are in the area filming movies to visit Covington.

4. District D --

Councilman Rolling announced he has scheduled an Economic Development Committee meeting on December 2nd in the Council office to discuss the next business resource workshop which he hopes will take place in late January or early February. Also, he announced there were six new occupational licenses issued in October. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our businesses. Upcoming events: Christmas in the Country from Friday, November 28th through December in downtown Covington; Covington Art Market on December 6th from 9 until 1 P.M. at the Trailhead; Deck the Rails’ children’s event on December 6 from 4:30 until 7 P.M. at the Trailhead; and the Farmer’s Market every

Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he mentioned this past weekend was the Three Rivers Art Festival and it was a great event. He reminded the public that early voting will be open the week of Thanksgiving. Also, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

5. District E --

Councilman Smith commented that the recent Coyote Seminar was successful and he has received positive feedback from those in attendance. Also, he announced that sometime after the first of the year, public input will be requested on a potential dog park. Also, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius gave a recap of the recent CHDC meeting: They (1) approved the demolition of the old bank drive-thru building across the street from the Southern Hotel and approved the construction of a new two story structure at the location; and (2) approved some minor changes to the Youth Service Bureau building on North New Hampshire Street. Also, he gave a recap of the recent BOA meeting: They approved a width variance on a lot in Old Landing. Also, he gave a recap of the recent P&Z meeting: (1) a request for an annexation of property on Ronald Reagan Highway adjacent to Oak Alley Subdivision was tabled; (2) the tentative subdivision approval for Oak Alley, Phase 5, was tabled; (3) approved the conceptual and tentative plot plans for Phase 2 of Manton Drive (from 6 lots to 11 lots); (4) approved an overlay district for a parking lot for Braswell's Drugs at the corner of 11th and Polk Street; (5) all the text changes discussed tonight were approved; and (6) the SSA matter was tabled. Also, he mentioned that on December 11th, the Covington Heritage Foundation will hold their annual membership drive meeting from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M. at the Southern Hotel.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President O'Keefe stated that the City has never been in the fiscal shape that it's in today and everyone has done a fantastic job over the past four years. Also, he stated it has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Covington and to work with this Council and Administration. Also, he thanked the Administration and Councilman Lee Alexius for their work on the budget preparation and review.


B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He thanked Gina Hayes and Alisa Faciane for their help in the budget preparation.
- (b) He thanked the Council for its confidence in the budget process and for adopting the budget this evening.
- (c) He thanked the press for staying for the entire meeting tonight.
- (d) He announced they are currently advertising for bids for the basketball court at Peter Atkins' Park and the deadline is December 18th at 2 P.M.
- (e) He congratulated the four local football teams who participated in the recent playoff games and commended them for their success this year and wished them success in future years.
- (f) He mentioned that on Friday, November 21st at 7 P.M., the Covington Lions will be hosting West Monroe and Northlake Christian School will be traveling to New Iberia to play Catholic High School of New Iberia in the second round of the football playoffs. He wished these teams success as they represent Covington.
- (g) He reminded all citizens to vote in the very important election on December 6th and that early voting begins this Saturday through next Saturday with the exception of Sunday, Thursday and Friday.
- (h) He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.


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


BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council