

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 3, 2014**

**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 Mike Curtis.

**Council President Alexius** read a quote by the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

**APPEARERS**

Melissa Hodgson from St. Tammany Parish Hospital gave an update on their expansion project.

Ralph Menetre gave a recap of the Veterans' reception on Memorial Day. Also, Mayor Cooper presented Mr. Menetre with a framed certificate in recognition of his community service and his work on the Veterans' reception.

Candace Watkins - Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties  
(The presentation by this Appearer was moved down on the agenda and was presented after the Regular Agenda items.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Councilman Wright** made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman O'Keefe**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**New Business**

**Items to be voted on:**

1. Naming the Official Journal for the City of Covington (Alexius)

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion on this matter.

**Councilman Smith** made a motion to adopt **The St. Tammany Farmer** as the Official Journal for the City of Covington for a term of one year, seconded by **Councilman O'Keefe**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt **The St. Tammany Farmer** as the Official Journal for the City of Covington for a term of one year.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-12** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Re-Appointing Ron Vaccaro as the District C Appointment to the Covington Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years (Wright)

**Councilman Wright** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-12.

**Councilman Wright made a motion to re-appoint Ron Vaccaro as the District C Appointment to the Covington Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to re-appoint Ron Vaccaro as the District C Appointment to the Covington Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years.**

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Informing Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of the Following Actions Regarding the Sewerage Treatment Facility (MWPP Resolution) (Alexius)

**Mike Curtis from Curtis Environmental Services, Inc.** led a discussion on the results of the MWPP Environmental Audit.

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-13, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-13. Resolution No. 2014-13 was adopted.**

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-14** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of the FTO (Field Training Officer) Incentive Pay Plan (O'Keefe)

**Councilman O'Keefe** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-14 and Police Chief Lentz gave a synopsis of the FTO (Field Training Officer) Incentive Pay Plan.

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-14, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-14. Resolution No. 2014-14 was adopted.**

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-15** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and Enter Into an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Construction of a Roundabout at the Intersection of West 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue (US190B) and Jefferson Avenue (Wright)

**Mayor Cooper** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-15.

**Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-15, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-15. Resolution No. 2014-15 was adopted.**

#### **APPEARER**

Candace Watkins gave a presentation on abandoned and dilapidated housing in the West 30s neighborhood.

Wayne Mayberry, Code Enforcement Officer, gave an update on blighted property and demolitions.

**Mayor Cooper** supported the efforts of Code Enforcement Officer Mayberry in the aggressive attention to the removal of blighted structures around the City over the past 3 years.

## **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

### **A. Council District and Committee Reports**

#### **1. District A --**

**Councilman Callahan** announced that Ochsner Hospital will hold a blood drive on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. at the VFW Hall on Ronald Reagan Highway. Also, he announced that on June 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a fish fry at the VFW Hall.

#### **2. District B --**

**Councilman Coner** recognized the June birthdays for City employees. Also, he reminded everyone to pick up litter in an attempt to keep our city, parish and state litter-free.

#### **3. District C --**

**Councilman Wright** mentioned that he had a great time at the Veterans' reception on Memorial Day. Also, he discussed the drainage problems in River Forest Subdivision as a result of the recent heavy rainfall. Also, he mentioned that a public meeting of the Traffic and Transportation Committee is planned for an evening in July to update the public on City projects and to encourage feedback from the public.

#### **4. District D --**

**Councilman Rolling** announced that the Tyler Street Informational Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the Council Chambers. Also, he mentioned that eight new businesses applied for occupational licenses in May. Upcoming events: Tour de Louisiane Bike Race on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 A.M.; the Covington Heritage Foundation will hold a Crawfish Boil on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> for existing and new members; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, June 27 from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; Sparks in the Park on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Bogue Falaya Park; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday.

#### **5. District E --**

**Councilman Smith** thanked Ralph Menetre for his work on the Memorial Day ceremony and reception. Also, he thanked the citizens of Covington for their understanding with regard to the City's response to the recent heavy rainfall. Also, he thanked the Public Works Department for their work in dealing with the recent heavy rainfall. Also, he reminded everyone about the CBA meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 P.M. at Winos and Tacos on Columbia Street. Also, he commented that the Southern Hotel is fabulous and mentioned that the owner has donated the proceeds from the opening events to the Covington Boys & Girls Club and Keep Covington Beautiful.

#### **6. At Large (Vice President) --**

**Councilman O'Keefe** thanked Trilby Lenfant from St. Tammany Parish Government for attending tonight's meeting. Also, he thanked the Administration and Public Works for their work in dealing with the recent heavy rainfall. Also, he thanked the citizens of Covington for their understanding with regard to the City's response to the recent heavy rainfall.

**7. At Large (President) --**

**Council President Alexius** thanked the Mayor for meeting with him and Councilman O'Keefe this morning and giving them an update on the affairs of the City. Also, he requested that Administration place a note on the utility bills or a mail out from the Mayor to remind the residents to bring their garbage cans in after garbage pickup. Also, he announced that during the Council meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 6 P.M. at the Council Chambers located at 222 East Kirkland Street, Covington, Louisiana, the Council intends to levy, impose and adopt the current millage rates on all property subject to taxation in the City of Covington for the Year 2014.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

**City Engineer Daniel Hill** gave an update on City projects.

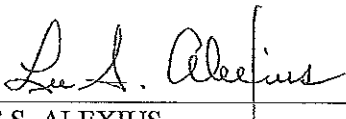
**1. Mayor Cooper's comments:**

- (a) He mentioned that according to the rain gauge at the Sewerage Treatment Plant, over 20 inches of rain have fallen over the past six days;
- (b) He discussed the Hwy. 21 road improvement project;
- (c) He commented about the recent Community Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis Club and Life Resources and the ribbon-cutting and dedication of the Southern Hotel;
- (d) He mentioned that the Block Party scheduled for last Friday was cancelled due to inclement weather;
- (e) He reminded everyone about the "Sparks in the Park" fireworks celebration on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Bogue Falaya Park;
- (f) He announced that Chad Whaley started work recently as our GIS Analyst;
- (g) He announced that during the recent Legislative Session, Covington's Police Chief position was removed from Civil Service; and
- (h) He reminded everyone that the Greater Covington Branch of the NAACP will sponsor its annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 A.M. until 3 P.M. at the Bogue Chitto Park.

**2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-**

- (a) She mentioned that the Hurricane Incident Plan has been updated and copies were handed out today;
- (b) She recommended that the public sign up for the "Alert St. Tammany" emergency notification system which is offered on St. Tammany Parish Government's website; and
- (c) She mentioned that due to FEMA's new requirement, the City has prepared a Debris Management Plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS  
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Clerk to the Council