

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 6, 2014**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Jerry Coner, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith, Sam O'Keefe  
and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: John Callahan

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Sam O'Keefe.

Council President Alexius read a quote by the 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

**APPEARERS**

Cheryl F. Klein gave a presentation on the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living.

Mayor Cooper presented a Proclamation to the Covington High School Powerlifting Team for their 2014 State and National Championships.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Callahan) 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. 2014-04-01** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 14 Animals, Sec. 14-5. Keeping of Certain Animals Regulated and Sec. 14-8. Dangerous and Vicious Animals (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2014-04-01.

Councilman Rolling 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 O'Keefe made a motion to amend Item No. 2014-04-01 as follows:

Page 1, line 10, insert, "...Animals, Sec. 14-1. Definitions, Sec. 14-5. Keeping..."

Page 1, line 22, insert:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that Chapter 14 Animals, Sec. 14-1. Definitions, shall be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14-1. Definitions.

Dangerous animal: means any animal may be classified as dangerous if:

(5) It is deemed dangerous by the ~~St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.~~ Covington Police Department."

Page 1, line 39, insert, "...St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services..."

Page 2, line 14, insert:

"Appeal mechanism: In the event that an animal is deemed dangerous by the ~~St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services,~~ Covington Police Department, the owner and/or keeper of said animal can appeal that determination to the animal shelter advisory board, which shall convene and make a recommendation to be ratified by the city council.

(c) Vicious animals:

Animal determined as vicious: Any animal previously classified as dangerous which subsequently violates any section of this article, or whose owner/keeper subsequently violates any requirements established for the harboring of dangerous animals by this article, may be deemed vicious by the ~~department of animal services.~~ Covington Police Department.

Appeal mechanism: In the event that an animal is deemed vicious by the ~~St. Tammany Department of Animal Services~~ Covington Police Department, the owner and/or keeper of said animal can appeal that determination to the animal shelter advisory board, which shall convene and make a recommendation to be ratified by the city council."

Seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Callahan) to amend Item No. 2014-04-01. Item No. 2014-04-01 was amended.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-04-01, as amended, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Callahan) to adopt Item No. 2014-04-01, as amended. Item No. 2014-04-01 was adopted, as amended.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-04-02 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 98 Utilities, Article II. Solid Waste, Division 2. City Dump and Landfill (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-04-02.

Councilman O'Keefe 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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2014-04-02, seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Callahan) to adopt Item No. 2014-04-02. Item No. 2014-04-02 was adopted.**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2014-04-03 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2014 Budget for the Peter Atkins Park Basketball Court Roof Project (Alexius)**

**Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2014-04-03.**

**Councilman Rolling 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. 2014-04-03, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Absent - 1 (Callahan) to adopt Item No. 2014-04-03. Item No. 2014-04-03 was adopted.**

#### **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

- 1. District A -- Absent**
- 2. District B --**

**Councilman Coner recognized the May 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 expressed his disappointment with the outcome of the RD#10 election and thanked the individuals who served on the RD#10 Board. Also, he requested that the Mayor ask Daniel Hill, City Engineer, to appear at a Council meeting to give an update on City projects.**

- 4. District D --**

**Councilman Rolling commented that 11 new businesses applied for occupational licenses in April. Also, he expressed his appreciation to the RD#10 Board for all their work in connection with the recent election. Also, he reminded everyone that STPH will host a Neighbor Update meeting on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. in the STPH Conference Room. Upcoming events: LPO Concert in the Bogue Falaya Park on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M.; Jumpin' into Summer kids' event on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 A.M. until noon at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged everyone to support local restaurants and businesses.**

- 5. District E --**

**Councilman Smith reminded everyone about the CBA meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 P.M. at the Seiler Bar. Also, he discussed the upcoming events at the Southern Hotel -- Ribbon-Cutting on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M.; Anniversary Preview Gala on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 7 P.M. until 10 P.M.; and Anniversary Champagne Reception on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 2 P.M. until 5 P.M.**

- 6. At Large (Vice President) -- None.**
- 7. At Large (President) --**

**Council President Alexius thanked the Mayor and Rod Rodrigue for meeting with him and Councilman O'Keefe this morning and giving them an update on the**

affairs of the City. Also, he gave a recap of the recent P&Z meeting. Also, he thanked Police Chief Lentz for hosting the Community Policing Seminar recently. Also, he thanked the citizens of Covington for voting in the recent election and expressing their views on the RD#10 propositions. Also, he announced that the May 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting will be held at the St. Tammany Parish School Board building on North Theard Street due to the anticipated larger than normal audience.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

**Police Chief Tim Lentz** gave a presentation on a safety compliance program regarding seatbelts that targeted students leaving the local high schools.

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

- (a) He presented a Proclamation declaring May 2014 as Motorcyclist Awareness and Safety Month in the City of Covington;
- (b) He mentioned that Daniel Hill, City Engineer, will appear at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting to give an update on City projects;
- (c) He discussed the opening events for the Southern Hotel;
- (d) He announced that the Kiwanis of the Greater Covington area will sponsor a Community Prayer Breakfast on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 A.M. in the Briggs' Assembly Center at St. Paul's.

**Councilmen Coner and Smith** announced that the Firemen's Association is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Abita Country Club, registration at 10 A.M., tee time at 11 A.M.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS  
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Clerk to the Council