

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 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 Police Chief Tim Lentz.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. 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. 2015-04-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 102 Vegetation, Article II. Trees on Public Property, Division 2. Tree Board, Sec. 102-61. Creation and Establishment (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-04-01.

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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-04-01, seconded by **Councilman Wright**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-04-01. Item No. 2015-04-01 was adopted.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-04-03** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 106 Vehicles for Hire, to Add Article I. In General and Article II. Horse-Drawn Carriages for Hire (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-04-03.

Councilman Rolling 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. 2015-04-03, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-04-03. Item No. 2015-04-03 was adopted.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-04-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2015 Budget for Health Insurance Increase (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-04-04.

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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-04-04, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-04-04. Item No. 2015-04-04 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A – None.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the May birthdays for City employees. His quote for this evening was, "The measure of a man is not the number of his servants, but in the number of people whom he serves," by Paul D. Moody. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses.

3. District C – None.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that occupational licenses were issued to 10 new businesses in April and welcomed them to the City of Covington. Upcoming events: Swing in the Pines concert by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra on Saturday, May 9th at 6 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Park (rain date – Sunday, May 10th); Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, May 15th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Jumpin' into Summer Kids' Event on Saturday, May 16th from 10 A.M. until noon at the Trailhead; CBA meeting on Wednesday, May 6th at 5:30 P.M. at the Seiler Bar; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith commented that he has received great feedback on the street improvements in District E. Also, he mentioned that last night was the opening of the Covington Recreation Department's little league baseball season and tremendous crowds cheered on the teams. Also, he wished "Happy Mother's Day" to all of the moms in the Covington area.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius mentioned that the HDC will meet on May 12th with five items on its agenda: three material alterations to buildings and two applications for certificates of appropriateness for two new 2-family townhouses in Ox Lot Square on North Florida Street. Also, he mentioned that P&Z will meet on May 18 with

three items on its agenda: (1) Annexation of 87 acres on Ronald Reagan Hwy. (Bypass) named Oak Alley Meadows; (2) the tentative approval of Oak Alley Meadows, which involves 205 residential lots and two commercial lots; and (3) an overlay proposal for the zoning of Zaxby's Restaurant on Hwy 21, which is next to Auto Zone. Also, he announced that the Covington Heritage Foundation will host the Third Annual Veterans' Appreciation Ceremony on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th at 11 A.M. in the Bogue Falaya Hall (after the ceremony at the Justice Center). Also, he mentioned that Progressive Waste will be donating chicken and jambalaya for the veterans and their families. Also, he announced that the Covington Heritage Foundation will host its Second Annual Crawfish Boil and Membership Drive on May 31st.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President O'Keefe thanked the Mayor for meeting with him and Councilman Alexius this morning and giving them an update on the affairs of the City.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He gave a brief history on the West 15th Avenue Bridge project and recommended removal and replacement with a fully concrete bridge in the approximate cost of \$850,000;
- (b) He announced that the Champagne Beverage family and their 140 employees will sponsor a "Giveback Day" on Saturday, May 16th from 8 A.M. until noon where they will work to improve Gallagher Park and Rev. Peter Atkins Park. Also, he mentioned they will be working with Keep Covington Beautiful to plant trees in downtown Covington. He thanked the Champagne Beverage family and their employees for their commitment to the City of Covington.
- (c) He announced that the Old Fire Station Feasibility Study is underway and a public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers;
- (d) He announced that the Regional Planning Commission's Traffic and Parking Study is underway and a public meeting will be held in the near future;
- (e) He announced that the next inauguration will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at 10 A.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium; and
- (f) He commended all of the graduating seniors from our local high schools and wished each of them a great future.

Councilman Smith thanked the Champagne Beverage Company and family for everything they do for the Covington community.

Mayor Cooper also mentioned that Champagne Beverage is the sponsor of the Rockin' the Rails concert series at the Trailhead.

Councilman Rolling inquired as to when the next phase of the sidewalk project will begin. Also, he requested clarification on the green waste pickup schedule.

Mayor Cooper responded that the next phase of the sidewalk project will begin in the Spring of 2016.

Mayor Cooper mentioned that Progressive Waste picks up green waste twice a week and suggested that citizens contact Progressive Waste directly to submit a work order for green waste pickup.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

Police Chief Lentz reminded everyone that next week is National Police Officer Memorial Week and encouraged the public to thank police officers for their service.

Police Chief Lentz mentioned that the Second Annual T-shirt Campaign, "I Got Caught," begins tomorrow for high school students caught wearing their seatbelts. He thanked Councilman Rolling for all of his efforts in the campaign.

Police Chief Lentz mentioned that the City of Covington hosted the FBI National Academy Annual Retrainer conference last week and it was a very successful event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council