

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 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 City Attorney Rod Rodrigue.

APPEARERS

1. Sharon Nunez from the Covington Heritage Foundation presented its "Star Award" to Kelli Moore, Grants and Cemeteries Coordinator for the City of Covington, for her work on the Covington Antique Festival.
2. John Lasseigne gave a history and led a discussion about Square 709, Division of New Covington, regarding the alleged soil contamination of the square. Mayor Cooper responded that the City will contact the Regional Planning Commission to discuss the Brownfield Redevelopment Program relating to the contamination concerns of Square 709.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Smith 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. 2015-04-02** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Surplus Certain Firearms Owned by the City of Covington (O'Keefe)

Council President O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2015-04-02.

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 Alexius made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-04-02, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-04-02. Item No. 2015-04-02 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Designating Signatory Authority to the Mayor for the Purpose of Participating in a Grant Program Administered Through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (O’Keefe)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-08.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08. Resolution No. 2015-08 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. City of Covington’s Participation in MERS and Other Pension Funds (Wright)

Councilman Wright led a discussion on the recent news reports concerning the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) and other pension funds which receive contributions from City of Covington employees. He recommended the creation of an oversight committee to study the pension funds and to keep City employees abreast of the investments and activities of the pension funds.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

- 1. District A – None.**
- 2. District B –**

Councilman Coner’s quote for this evening was, “You can’t hold a man down without staying down with him,” by Booker T. Washington. Also, he encouraged the public to shop local and support our local businesses.

- 3. District C –**

Councilman Wright reminded everyone that today is Councilman Callahan’s birthday and wished him a happy birthday.

- 4. District D –**

Councilman Rolling announced upcoming events: Veterans Appreciation Reception on Monday, May 25th from 11 A.M. until 1 P.M. at the Bogue Falaya Hall in the Greater Covington Center; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, May 29th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; The New Orleans Bicycle Club is sponsoring the Tour de Louisiane Bike Race on Sunday, June 14th beginning at 7 A.M.; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, June 19th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, June 26th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; Sparks in the Park on Thursday, July 2nd from 7 P.M. until 9 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Park; 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 – None.**

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

Councilman Alexius mentioned that the HDC met recently and approved 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 met recently and approved the annexation of 87 acres on Ronald Reagan Hwy. (Bypass) named Oak Alley Meadows and also gave tentative approval of Oak Alley Meadows.

Also, he reminded the public that the Covington Heritage Foundation will host the Third Annual Veterans Appreciation Reception 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, Zoe's Bakery, IGA and Gallagher's Restaurant will be donating food and drinks for the veterans and their families. Also, he reminded the public 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 announced that there will be only one Council meeting in July, on Tuesday, July 14th, and the meetings scheduled for July 7th and July 21st have been cancelled. He further announced that at the meeting on July 14th, the Council will act upon the millage rates for 2015. Also, he reminded the public that the inauguration will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at 10 A.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He gave an update on the replacement of the West 15th Avenue Bridge at Mile Branch;
- (b) He reminded the public 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. He encouraged the public to attend the meeting and provide possible uses for this historic structure; and
- (c) He announced that the City of Covington was recognized as one of the 40 Top Work Places in the New Orleans area based upon surveys from City employees. He commented it was a heartfelt award since City employees acknowledged that the City of Covington is a great place to work. Also, he recognized other local companies who received awards: Mele Printing, Gilsbar, CGB Enterprises and Eagan Insurance Company.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council