

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2013**

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 Joseph Lipps.

APPEARERS:

Priscilla Floca discussed upcoming Keep Covington Beautiful events.
Joseph Lipps was presented a Letter of Commendation by Mayor Cooper.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Alexius 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. 2012-12-01 --**
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Surplus Certain
Vehicles and Equipment Owned by the City of Covington (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Item No. 2012-12-01.

Councilman Wright 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 Smith made a motion to adopt Item No. 2012-12-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2012-12-01. Item No. 2012-12-01 was adopted.

New Business

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-01 --** A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Shiloh Moates to the Covington Historic District Commission (CHDC) for a Term of Four (4) Years (Alexius)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-01.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-01, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-01. Resolution No. 2013-01 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-02 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Supporting the City of Covington Applying for Community Water Enrichment Funds (O'Keefe)**

Council President O'Keefe led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-02.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-02, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-02. Resolution No. 2013-02 was adopted.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-03 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Appointments of Baldwin Brown and Scott Salter to the St. Tammany Recreation District #10 Board of Commissioners (Smith)**

Councilman Smith led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-03.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-03, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-03. Resolution No. 2013-03 was adopted.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-04 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Recognizing Charlie Crawford and Ronnie Tyrney for Their Contributions to Hadden Hall (Smith)**

Councilman Smith led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-04.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-04, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-04. Resolution No. 2013-04 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. **Martin Luther King Day Ceremony (Callahan)**

Councilman Callahan led a discussion on the Martin Luther King Day events.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

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

Councilman Coner announced that a forum on the Affordable Care Act will be presented on Wednesday, January 23rd from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M. at the Abita Springs Town Hall. Also, he acknowledged the January birthdays for City employees.

3. **District C --**

Councilman Wright expressed his support for a larger City-sponsored Christmas decoration display. Also, he announced there will be a Neighborhood Watch meeting on Thursday, January 17th at 6:30 P.M. in the Police Department training

room for residents of River Forest and Barkley Parc. Also, he announced the Covington Rotary will sponsor a basketball game fundraiser on January 23rd at 7 P.M. at Covington High School between the Harlem Ambassadors and the Covington Eradicators. Also, he requested an update from the Mayor on the River Forest drainage and street project.

4. District D --

Councilman Rolling reported that the Covington Business Workshop was held today and it was a great success. He thanked all of the speakers and the City workers who helped with the event. Also, he announced that four new businesses applied for occupational licenses in December. Upcoming events: Coffee with Mayor Cooper on Wednesday, January 30th from 9 A.M. until 10 A.M. at the Trailhead; Tree Give-away on Saturday, January 19th from 8 A.M. until noon at the Farmer's Market; Covington Art Market on Saturday, February 2nd from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. at the Trailhead; Krewe of Olympia parade on Saturday, February 2nd starting at 6 P.M.; and Mardi Gras Day parades on Tuesday, February 12th beginning at 10 A.M. Also, he thanked the Police Department for their help in handling the graffiti issue.

5. District E --

Councilman Smith thanked the Mayor and Public Works for all of the extra work during the rainy weather. Also, he mentioned that the Twelfth Night Marching Club held its second annual event last weekend and over 200 people participated.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman Alexius announced the next bicentennial committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 17th at 6 P.M. in the William Pitcher Library. Also, he mentioned that he and Council President O'Keefe met with Mayor Cooper this morning for an update on the affairs of the City. Also, he reported the Historic District Commission met on January 8th and three sign cases were approved. Also, he participated in two bid openings since the last Council meeting; one on the wastewater treatment facility effluent pumps and the other on the roof replacement at the Greater Covington Center.

7. At Large (President) -- None.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) The Business Workshop was held this morning and he thanked the Council for their efforts in making the event a success;
- (b) Regarding the graffiti issue, two suspects have been arrested but there have been other acts of graffiti in the City. The Mayor asked everyone to be aware and to report any future incidents;
- (c) There have been no reports of flooding in homes or roads as a result of the recent rainfall;
- (d) He gave an update on City projects;
- (e) He and some of the City staff attended a meeting with the owner of the Southern Hotel and her architect to discuss the permit process;
- (f) He announced the Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market is scheduled to open on or around January 31st; and
- (g) He gave an update on the St. Tammany Parish Hospital expansion project and announced there will be a neighbor meeting on January 17th at 5 P.M. at the STPH Conference Center;

Councilman Smith led a discussion on the time frame for the State to donate Columbia Street to the City once the overlay project is completed.

Councilman Smith requested confirmation that the new signalization on Boston Street will be positioned high enough off the ground to accommodate parade floats.

Councilman Rolling requested an update on the lift station issue at 19th and Taylor. **Mayor Cooper** responded that it is an upgrade to the pumps and is in the process of being completed.

Councilman Alexius requested the public to help with the drainage by cleaning out the accumulation of leaves in the culverts after a heavy rain.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council