

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2016**

Council Vice 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 and Sam O'Keefe

ABSENT: Lee Alexius

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Denis Schexnaydre.

APPEARERS

1. Councilman Wright introduced John Henderson from the Covington Rotary Club, who discussed the upcoming fundraiser, "Quack-a-Falaya," which will be held on April 14th and sponsored by the Covington Rotary Club.

2. Councilman Rolling introduced Denis Schexnaydre from the Youth Service Bureau, who thanked the City Council, City Administration and the local businesses for their support in relocating the Chef Soiree due to the flood damage at Bogue Falaya Park. To express their appreciation, he presented a limited edition commemorative Chef Soiree poster to the City.

Mayor Cooper accepted the poster on behalf of the City and thanked the Youth Service Bureau along with City staff for coordinating the relocation of the Chef Soiree.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call – Yeas: 6; Absent: 1 (Alexius) 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. 2016-03-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2016 Operating Budget for Additional Renovations to the Council Chambers (O'Keefe)

Council Vice President O'Keefe led a discussion regarding Item No. 2016-03-01.

Councilman Wright 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 Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2016-03-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Alexius) to adopt Item No. 2016-03-01. Item No. 2016-03-01 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2016-03-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Covington, Louisiana, to Reclassify Lot 1 (100 Menetre Drive), The Village Subdivision, Phase II, From RS-2 (Single-Family Residential) to CO (Commercial Office/Professional) (Zoning Case No. 15-12-03REZONING) (Wright)

Council Vice President O’Keefe led a discussion regarding Item No. 2016-03-02.

Councilman Coner 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 Wright made a motion to adopt Item No. 2016-03-02, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Alexius) to adopt Item No. 2016-03-02. Item No. 2016-03-02 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. Appeal of Historic District Commission Decision – Denial of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Demolition of the House Located at 522 N. Florida Street, Covington, LA -- Case No. 16-03-05CHDC (O’Keefe)

Council Vice President O’Keefe gave a brief recap of the Historic District Commission’s meeting held on March 8, 2016 in which the Commission voted to deny the application filed by Troy and Lori Cooper for a certificate of appropriateness to demolish the house located at 522 N. Florida Street, Covington, LA.

Council Vice President O’Keefe led a discussion on the appeal filed by Troy and Lori Cooper.

Mayor Cooper commented that currently our Code does not prevent the demolition of any structure, but the Historic District Commission may delay demolition for 90 days.

Councilman Coner made a motion to reverse the decision of the Historic District Commission in Case No. 16-03-05 and that a Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition or removal of the structure at 522 N. Florida Street be granted, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Alexius) to reverse the decision of the Historic District Commission in Case No. 16-03-05 and that a Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition or removal of the structure at 522 N. Florida Street shall be issued.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2016-04 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Requesting Support From Our United States Congressional Delegation for the Study of Flood Protection and Dredging of the Bogue Falaya River (Not Part

of the Scenic Rivers Act) From its Merger With the Tchefuncte River by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (O'Keefe)

Council Vice President O'Keefe read the Resolution into the record.

Council Vice President O'Keefe led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2016-04.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-04, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call – Yeas: 6; Absent: 1 (Alexius) to adopt Resolution No. 2016-04. Resolution No. 2016-04 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced that the VFW on Ronald Reagan Highway will host a fish fry fundraiser on Friday, April 8th at 11 A.M., the proceeds from which will be set aside for their new flagpole.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the April birthdays for City employees. Also, he encouraged the public to shop locally to support the businesses in our City. His quote for this evening was, "The only thing you will take through those pearly gates is what you have given away," by Marcia Moore.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright acknowledged the calls and emails relating to the West 15th Avenue bridge replacement and West 15th Avenue washout. He understands the frustration and asked the public for its continued patience.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that the Sixth Covington Business Resource Workshop entitled, "#Plugged-in for Business," will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at 8:30 A.M. in the Bogue Falaya Hall. He mentioned that the workshop will be sponsored by the Council's Economic Development Committee and the City. Upcoming events: A Taste of Covington from April 6th-April 10th; Rockin' the Rails concert series begins on April 7th at 5 P.M. at the Trailhead; Sunset at the Landing on Friday, April 15th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M. at the Trailhead; Covington Antiques Festival on April 16th and 17th at the Trailhead; Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, April 27th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; the Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, April 29th; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he reminded the public that the next OnStage performance will be "Late Nite Catechism" on Friday, May 13th at the Fuhrmann Auditorium. Also, he gave a roadway closure update with regard to the LA 21 widening project by DOTD.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith reminded the public about the important election on April 9th in which three tax renewals will be on the ballot and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. Also, he reminded the public about the CBA meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, April 6th, at the Seiler Bar on North Columbia Street, reception at 5:30 and meeting at 6 P.M.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Council Vice President O'Keefe reminded everyone that tonight is the only Council meeting in April and the next Council meeting will be May 17th.

7. At Large (President) – Absent.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He issued a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- (b) He gave an update on the flood recovery and mentioned that over 100 building permits have been issued for repair and restoration to flood-damaged properties. He reminded the public that building permits are required for flood-damaged properties but that the permit fees are waived for those properties. Also, he mentioned that debris pickup should be completed in the next couple of days.
- (c) He mentioned that on Wednesday, April 6th, the Northshore Homebuilders Association will partner with the City in sponsoring a "Housing Central" event which is a one-stop location to help citizens who are seeking resources to repair their homes and businesses. The event will be held from 1 P.M. until 8 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Hall.
- (d) He reminded the public that FEMA urges flood victims to begin repairs to their flooded properties immediately. Also, it is recommended that pictures of the flooded properties be taken before any work is begun and receipts should be kept for any repair work. Also, FEMA recommends that flood victims register with them by calling their toll-free number or on their website.
- (e) He gave an update on the repairs from flood damage at the Bogue Falaya Park and mentioned that the target date to reopen the park is April 11th. He thanked Jarne Martino, Building Facility Manager, for her work in coordinating the repairs to the park. Also, he thanked the Key Clubs from St. Paul's, SSA and Hannan along with the Kiwanis of Greater Covington for their work in repairing the playground equipment.
- (f) He gave an update on the following City projects:
 - (1) West 25th Avenue Bridge at Mile Branch – The bridge is open.
 - (2) West 15th Avenue Drainage Work in River Forest – The project was a planned project and is underway. It will restore three blocks of street and drainage work in the area of West 15th Avenue and Patricia Drive.
 - (3) South Jahncke Avenue Waterline Improvement – This project will replace an inadequate waterline with a larger waterline between East 11th and East 15th Avenues. The contractor mobilized last week and will be working in the coming weeks to complete the project.
 - (4) West 15th Avenue Bridge at Mile Branch – Bids were opened on March 21st and the lowest bidder was Shavers-Whittle. The award letter has been sent out and the next steps will be to sign the contract and issue the Notice to Proceed.
 - (5) West 15th Avenue Washout – The engineer has been selected. A meeting was held with the LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to discuss any permitting requirements. Under the emergency ordinance adopted by the Council, the bidding process will be compressed. The project is presently in the design stage for replacing the culverts.
- (g) He congratulated the Covington High School powerlifters for winning their second National Championship.
- (h) He congratulated the St. Paul's Bands for winning a superior rating in concert band competition, best in class in jazz band competition and the overall gold award in the marching band competition.
- (i) He reminded the public about the important parish-wide election this Saturday, April 9th and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

(j) He announced that the Causeway Commission will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 20th at 6 P.M. in the Covington Council Chambers.

(k) He reminded everyone that the next St. Tammany Municipal Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 6:30 P.M. in the Madisonville Town Hall.

(l) He announced that in conjunction with the Give Nola Northshore online fundraising event on May 3rd, the City is offering a venue at the Trailhead where non-profits are invited to set up booths to bring awareness to their causes, recruit volunteers and raise money. More information will be forthcoming.

(m) He announced that a precautionary boil water advisory was issued earlier today for the Jahncke/Old Landing neighborhood due to a broken waterline. Also, he mentioned that he hopes to have the test results back from DHH within 48 hours.

Councilman Smith inquired as to how much longer the flood debris pickup will last and what residents should do if they have more flood debris after the initial debris pickup.

Mayor Cooper responded that the flood debris pickup should last another day or two, but if residents have additional debris they should contact City Hall. Also, he mentioned there have been additional debris pickups in the neighborhoods north of Covington.

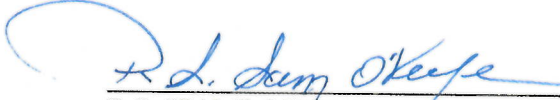
Councilman Smith reminded the public that the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra's "Swing in the Pines" concert is still scheduled for May 7th in the Bogue Falaya Park.


Councilman Rolling commented that the debris pickup is progressing very well. Also, he commended the Northshore Homebuilders Association for partnering with the City in sponsoring the "Housing Central" event.

Mayor Cooper commended Gina Hayes for all of her work in coordinating the flood debris pickup.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.


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


BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk