

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2016**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

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

ABSENT: Jerry Coner

Council President Alexius asked everyone to remember the recent happenings in our country and state and to ask for unity in our country during the Moment of Silence.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Eric Schouest.

APPEARERS

1. Mayor Cooper introduced Mr. Eric Schouest, General Manager, Governmental Affairs and Regional Sales, CLECO Power, LLC, who gave an update on the recent transaction where CLECO Power, LLC was taken private by Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (MIRA), John Hancock Financials and British Columbia Financial Investors. Also, Mr. Schouest announced that as a result of the recent transaction, every CLECO customer as of June 30, 2016 will receive a credit of \$479 on their accounts.
2. Mr. Jeff Schoen withdrew his name as an appearer on tonight's agenda.
3. Mr. Don Wheat, a partner with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, made a presentation to the Council regarding the 2015 audit and stated that the City had a clean audit with no deficiencies. Also, he commended the Mayor's administration for being one of the best and easiest municipalities to work with.
4. Mr. Keith Villere, representing the Covington Tree Board, presented some recommendations submitted by the Tree Board regarding the Landmark Tree Program, Live Oak tree care and protection, and residential tree preservation.

Council President Alexius requested that Councilman Wright research the Landmark Tree Resolution for Council consideration.

Mayor Cooper thanked the members of the Tree Board and Priscilla Floca for their work with regard to the trees in the City.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to appoint Councilman Alexius as President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Wright. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas – 5; Absent – 1 (Coner); Abstain – 1 (Alexius) to appoint Councilman Alexius as President of the Council. Councilman Alexius was appointed President of the Council.

Councilman Wright made a motion to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as Vice President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Rolling. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as Vice President of the Council. Councilman O'Keefe was appointed Vice President of the Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) 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. 2016-06-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Enlarging the Boundaries of the City of Covington, Louisiana, Describing the Property to be Annexed and Added Thereto as 1.1602 Acres Located in Section 38, Township 6 South, Range 11 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Said Property Being Located on the Northeast Side of Polders Lane and Also Classifying This Property as a Planned Residential District Under the Zoning Laws of the City of Covington (Zoning Case No. 16-05-01ANNEX) (Callahan)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2016-06-01.

Councilman Wright made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Callahan. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2016-06-01, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to adopt Item No. 2016-06-01. Item No. 2016-06-01 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2016-06-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring a Portion of the Unconstructed East 8th Avenue, Situated Near South Louisiana Street, Located in Wayside Addition to the City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Abandoned, Vacated, Closed and Not Needed for Public Purposes (Planning Case No. 16-05-01STREET/ALLEY REVOCATION) (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion on Item No. 2016-06-02.

Councilman Wright 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 Smith made a motion to adopt Item No. 2016-06-02, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to adopt Item No. 2016-06-02. Item No. 2016-06-02 was adopted.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2016-06-03 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Levying, Imposing and Adopting the Adjusted Maximum Millage After Reappraisal/Reassessment on all Property Subject to Taxation in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, for the Year 2016 (O’Keefe)

Council President Alexius stated that the current millage on immovable property in the City of Covington is 21.5 mills and this ordinance proposes to lower the 2016 millage on immovable property to 21.24 mills.

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2016-06-03.

Mayor Cooper stated that Administration supports the reduction from 21.5 mills to 21.24 mills based on the comments made by Council President Alexius.

Councilman O’Keefe 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 O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2016-06-03, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to adopt Item No. 2016-06-03. Item No. 2016-06-03 was adopted.

New Business

Council President Alexius requested that the Council open the agenda to add Item (b) under Items to be voted on, which item is entitled, “Resolution No. 2016-13 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of Covington Police Chief Tim Lentz and the Men and Women who are Members of the Covington Police Department.”

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to open the agenda to add Resolution No. 2016-13 as Item (b) under New Business, Items to be voted on, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to open the agenda to add Resolution No. 2016-13 as Item (b) under New Business, Items to be voted on.

Items to be voted on:

(a) RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Accepting the 2015 Audit Report Issued by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (O’Keefe)

Council President Alexius read Resolution No. 2016-12 into the record.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-12, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to adopt Resolution No. 2016-12. Resolution No. 2016-12 was adopted.

(b) **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-13** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of Covington Police Chief Tim Lentz and the Men and Women who are Members of the Covington Police Department (Wright)

Council President Alexius read Resolution No. 2016-13 into the record.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt **Resolution No. 2016-13**, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Coner) to adopt **Resolution No. 2016-13**. **Resolution No. 2016-13** was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. **District A – None.**
2. **District B – Absent.**
3. **District C –**

Councilman Wright mentioned that Councilman Callahan and he attended the recent Cemetery Board meeting. At that time, the Board voted on a few resolutions which they plan to discuss with Mayor Cooper and present to the Council. Also, he stated that a date has not yet been set for the public meeting to discuss drainage issues, but plans are moving forward.

4. **District D –**

Councilman Rolling gave an update on the roadwork on Hwy. 21 and mentioned that the projected completion date is late spring 2017. He announced that three new businesses applied for occupational licenses in June. Upcoming events: Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, July 27th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, July 29th at 6:30 P.M.; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he expressed his appreciation to Councilman Wright for the resolution in support of the Covington Police Department. Also, he thanked all of the first responders in our City and community for the wonderful job they do in keeping us safe.

5. **District E –**

Councilman Smith recognized the 1966 Graduating Class of Rosenwald High School, who celebrated a reunion last weekend. Also, he recognized and thanked Ms. Bridget West for her efforts in organizing the Blue Light Ceremony in honor of the officers who were killed last weekend in Baton Rouge. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at 7:30 P.M. in the Bogue Falaya Park Pavilion. T-shirts will be available for order with the proceeds benefiting the families of the deceased officers. He thanked Larry Rolling and LA Logos and Promos for donating the profits from the t-shirt sales.

6. **At Large (Vice President) –**

Council Vice President O'Keefe gave a recap from the recent Special Meeting of the HDC: approval of a certificate of appropriateness for the roof replacement on the commercial property located at 202 N. Florida Street. Also, he gave a recap from the recent P&Z meeting: approval of the resubdivision of lots located in the Division of Warner Estate at the corner of Barkley Parc Boulevard and West 21st Avenue.

7. **At Large (President) –**

Council President Alexius gave a recap from the recent HDC meeting: (1) approval of a certificate of appropriateness for an addition to the commercial property located at 228 N. Lee Lane; and (2) tabled the request for construction of four townhomes at 124 Park Drive until its August 9th meeting and scheduled a Work Session to be held on July 18th. Also, he commented that at the Work

Session, the HDC took input from the public and will take action on the item at its August 9th meeting.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

(a) He mentioned that the Sparks in the Park celebration held on July 1st was a great event with a large turnout.

(b) He mentioned that the recent public meeting to review the Master Plan for the Bogue Falaya Park was well-attended. The planning process is ongoing with several public meetings planned before recommendations are submitted to the City. Also, he thanked all of those individuals who are involved in the planning process.

(c) He gave an update on the following City projects:

(1) West 15th Avenue Bridge at Mile Branch – The utility relocations related to the new bridge are being completed. The pile driving operations have mobilized on site and test pile-driving is underway. Vibration monitoring is being performed. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

(2) West 15th Avenue Washout – Plans and specifications are complete. Scenic Rivers permit has been obtained, but still waiting for permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

(3) Ozone Drainage Improvements – This project includes the removal and replacement of cross culverts at E. 35th Avenue and Hosmer and driveways along E. 34th Avenue from Hosmer to Lee Road. All of the drainage work has been completed with the remaining tasks including rip rap installation and replacement of the concrete panels at the culvert crossings. The project should be completed by next week.

(4) South Jahncke Avenue Waterline Improvement – Work has been completed with the exception of asphalt patching and asphalt overlay. A delay occurred with the uncovering of a sink hole at 15th and Jahncke. Also, there was another issue at 11th and Jahncke that has recently been completed. Rain caused some delays but the project should be completed this week.

(5) Rutland Street between New Hampshire and Vermont streets – A sink hole occurred as the result of a crushed sewer line. Repairs are underway and should be completed by the end of this week.

(6) Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 Rehabilitation – The plant has been brought offline and all of the sludge, railings and decking have been removed. The tank will be sandblasted and the project is on schedule for completion.

(7) River Forest Paving and Drainage Improvements on West 15th Avenue – He met with the contractor this afternoon and expressed his dismay over the length of time this project is taking. The project is still on schedule but urged the contractor to complete the project as soon as possible. Expected substantial completion is mid to end September with final completion in October.

(d) He announced that there will be a workshop for the public to review the proposed sewer and water capacity charges ordinance on Wednesday, August 10th at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Also, he reminded everyone that this ordinance will be acted upon at the Council meeting on August 16th.

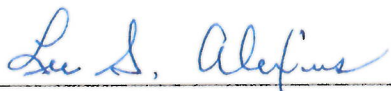
Council President Alexis commented that the painting of the Trailhead has been completed but requested that the two metal poles adjacent to the Police Station also be painted.

Mayor Cooper responded that he will take care of having the two poles painted. Also, he commented that the new paint on the Trailhead looks spectacular.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

Police Chief Lentz thanked the Council for the continued vote of confidence and support and he will share the resolution adopted this evening with the members of the Police Department. Also, he mentioned that the Baton Rouge Police Chief requested help and four Covington Police officers volunteered and are patrolling the streets of downtown Baton Rouge this evening. He added that later this evening, five more Covington Police officers will report to Baton Rouge to patrol the streets. He commented that these officers are heroes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk