

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 7, 2017**

**Council Vice President O'Keefe** called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

**PRESENT:** John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith, Edward Fielding and Sam O'Keefe

**ABSENT:** None

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Cooper.

**APPEARERS**

**Councilman Smith** introduced Ms. Pat Travasos, Volunteer Coordinator for Compassus Hospice and Palliative Care, who discussed their volunteer program and encouraged the public to contact her for more information.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Councilman Callahan** 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. 2017-01-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 5. Special Provisions, Sec. 5.5. Tattoo Parlors, Subsection 5.503. Tattoo Parlor Development Requirements (Zoning Case #16-12-02TXT) (Smith)

**Councilman Smith** led a discussion on Item No. 2017-01-01.

**Councilman Callahan** 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 Smith** made a motion to adopt Item No. 2017-01-01, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2017-01-01. Item No. 2017-01-01 was adopted.

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2017-02-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract with Baby Lee LLC (O'Keefe)

**Council Vice President O'Keefe** led a discussion on Item No. 2017-02-01.

**Mayor Cooper** commented that the City is renewing this lease for five years at a price of \$2400 per year, which is the current lease price for this property. Also, he mentioned that this property is used for parking for events at the Trailhead as well as for other downtown events.

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

**Councilman Wright** made a motion to adopt Item No. 2017-02-01, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2017-02-01. Item No. 2017-02-01 was adopted.

#### New Business

**Councilman Wright** made a motion to open the agenda for the sole purpose of electing **Councilman at Large Sam O'Keefe** as President of the Council, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to open the agenda.

**Councilman Wright** made a motion to elect **Councilman at Large Sam O'Keefe** as President of the Council, seconded by **Councilman Callahan**. Roll call was unanimous to elect **Councilman at Large Sam O'Keefe** as President of the Council.

**Council President O'Keefe** stated that it was not the Council's intent to keep the position of President open for several months but did so out of respect for the late Council President Lee Alexius. Also, he stated that the decision to elect the President during this meeting was made after the agenda deadline which necessitated opening the agenda to include the election.

**Councilman Wright** commented that **Sam O'Keefe** has been the Council's leader through the last several months and deserves the title of President of the Council.

#### COMMENTS AND REPORTS

##### A. Council District and Committee Reports

###### 1. District A –

**Councilman Callahan** announced that the VFW is sponsoring a fish fry on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 A.M. until 3 P.M.

###### 2. District B –

**Councilman Coner** recognized the March birthdays for City employees. Also, he thanked all of the City employees for their work during the Mardi Gras season. Also, he reminded everyone to shop locally to support our local businesses. Also, he commended **Nahketah Bagby** and **Ashley Russell** for their excellent help during the time when the Council Clerk is out of the office.

**3. District C –**

**Councilman Wright** mentioned that there was a P&Z workshop recently to consider the proposed amendments to the ordinance concerning landscaping and trees. He commented that the discussion went well and the ordinance is scheduled to appear on P&Z's April agenda and should appear on the Council's agenda in May or June. Also, he announced that the Covington Rotary will be sponsoring its annual fundraiser, "Quack-a-Falaya" Rubber Duck Race on the Bogue Falaya River, on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 A.M. at The Chimes Restaurant. He mentioned that tickets can be purchased from any Rotary member. Also, he mentioned that the Covington Heritage Foundation is sponsoring an event entitled, "St. Joseph Abbey: An Appreciation of its History and Glimpse Into The Future," which will be presented by Father Matthew Clark on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 6 P.M. at the St. Tammany Art Association House.

**4. District D –**

**Councilman Rolling** gave an update on the road closures in connection with the LA 21 widening project. Also, he mentioned that the new and improved Mardi Gras Day experience in the City of Covington was a great success and thanked everyone who was involved in the planning, working and cleaning up after the day's events. He especially thanked the committee members including Pam Keller and Aimee Fauchaux from Administration, along with the Lions Club, Krewe of Covington, Honorary Grand Marshal Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and the Saints Super Fans. He extended a special thanks to Jared Osterhold for designing the floats for the Lions Club and also he thanked all of the sponsors. Upcoming events: Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 A.M. at the Trailhead – Kelly Kicking Cancer 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run Fundraiser to benefit brain cancer research; Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. at the Tap Room – the St. Patrick's Day Parade; Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium – OnStage performance, "Route 66," and tickets are available at City Hall; Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. – Sunset at the Landing; Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – the Chef Soiree in downtown Covington; Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 P.M. – the Columbia Street Block Party; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday.

**5. District E –**

**Councilman Smith** reminded everyone that there will be a CBA meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Bank, social begins at 5:30 and the meeting at 6 P.M. Also, he mentioned there will be a "Political Stump" after the meeting where the public is invited to meet the candidates for the Council at Large seat. Also, he announced that the Covington Recreation Department will begin registration for t-ball, softball and baseball for age groups 4-15 beginning on March 13<sup>th</sup> at City Hall and the CRD Complex. Also, he congratulated St. Paul's for winning the Soccer State Championship for the fourth year in a row.

**6. At Large (Interim) –None.**

**7. At Large (President) –**

**Council President O'Keefe** reminded everyone that there will be only one Council meeting in April, which will be held on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, due to the anticipated light agendas, he announced that the Council meetings scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled. The only Council meetings in the months of May and June will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

**1. Mayor Cooper's comments:**

(a) He mentioned that the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> starting at noon, with the line-up time at 10:30 A.M.

(b) He recognized and commended all those individuals who participated in the Carnival season in the City of Covington and helped make it a great success. He estimated there were record crowds in the City for the Krewe of Olympia and Mardi Gras Day parades. Also, he commended the Police, Fire, Public Works and all City departments for their efforts in making this a memorable Carnival season. Also, he thanked Councilman Rolling for leading the committee to help rejuvenate the Mardi Gras Day experience and looks forward to next year.

(c) He gave an update on some local projects:

(1) West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert Washout at Rattlesnake Creek – The project was bid out by DOTD and the low bidder was Barriere Construction Company in the amount of \$443,642. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, DOTD awarded the contract and the next step is for Barriere to order materials and prepare to mobilize. DOTD has estimated the project will run from March 1<sup>st</sup> until completion around June 1<sup>st</sup>, weather permitting.

(2) US190/Collins Blvd. and US190B/Ronald Reagan Hwy/Hwy 25 Widening – He announced that there will be a public hearing on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. at the St. Tammany Parish Department of Public Works facility located at 620 N. Tyler Street in Covington. Conceptual plans for the project will be shown and DOTD officials will be available for public input and to answer questions.

(d) He mentioned that on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. at the Louisiana National Guard Armory on North Columbia Street, the Lt. Governor's office is hosting an event entitled, "Leaders Against Litter", which is a statewide effort to address the litter problem in Louisiana. Keep Covington Beautiful, along with elected officials and volunteers, will be leading the efforts and event t-shirts will be available. He encouraged everyone to participate in this event.

(e) He announced that in conjunction with the Leaders Against Litter event, he issued a proclamation on behalf of Keep Covington Beautiful proclaiming this Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as Leaders Against Litter Day in Covington. The proclamation calls on all citizens and local leaders to recognize the contributions which Keep Covington Beautiful makes daily to the cleanliness and beautification of our community and for citizens and local leaders to pledge their support to Keep Covington Beautiful and to take a stand against litter.

(f) He reminded everyone about the important election on March 25<sup>th</sup> for the open Council at Large seat. Also, he mentioned that early voting starts on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and runs through Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, excluding Sunday. He encouraged our citizens to review the qualifications of all the candidates and exercise their right to vote.

**2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-**

Mrs. Hayes announced that the surplus auction was a success again this year and the City received a check in the amount of \$20,447.91.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 P.M.



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



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Council Clerk