

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2015**

Council President Alexius 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, Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Schreiner.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling removed Item No. 2015-12-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Providing for an Increase in Compensation for the City Council for the City of Covington, Which Increase Will Be Effective on July 1, 2019, from the Consent Calendar.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar excluding Item No. 2015-12-04, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted excluding Item No. 2015-12-04.

REGULAR AGENDA

Unfinished Business

Items to be voted on:

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-11-01 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 14 Animals, Article I. In General, Section 14-8. Dangerous and Vicious Animals, Subsection 14-8(b) Control of Dangerous Animals and Subsection 14-8(c) Vicious Animals (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2015-11-01.

Councilman Smith 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 O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-11-01, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-11-01. Item No. 2015-11-01 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-25 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into an Exclusive Contract Agreement With Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. to Provide Emergency and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services (O’Keefe)

Councilman O’Keefe led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-25.

Mayor Cooper mentioned that this is a renewal of a four year contract with a few minor changes from the previous contract.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-25, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-25. Resolution No. 2015-25 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-26 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the State of Louisiana and the City of Covington for Capital Outlay Funding for Extensions and Improvements to the Water Distribution System (Wright)

Councilman Wright led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-26.

Mayor Cooper commented that the State, with the help of Senator Jack Donahue, has approved up to \$560,000 in capital outlay funds for a waterline extension. The extension will be constructed along U.S. Hwy 190, south of the City, which includes properties in the City limits that currently do not have water or fire protection from the City. The City’s match is 25%, which amounts to approximately \$150,000.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-26, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-26. Resolution No. 2015-26 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. Drainage projects in the Martin Luther King Drive and Ozone Park Drive Areas (O’Keefe)

Councilman O’Keefe led a discussion regarding a Memorandum prepared by Daniel Hill, City Engineer, which set out a list of drainage improvements recommended for the Martin Luther King Drive and Ozone Park Drive areas.

Mayor Cooper mentioned there are a number of small projects targeted for the Ozone area and servitudes will be acquired, if necessary.

2. 25th Avenue Bridge Project (O’Keefe)

Mayor Cooper discussed the time line for the 25th Avenue Bridge Project. He mentioned there was a delay in the project due to the discovery of more extensive piling deterioration. The estimated completion date of the project is February 2016.

3. 15th Avenue Bridge Project (O'Keefe)

Mayor Cooper discussed the time line for the 15th Avenue Bridge Project.

Tom Schreiner from Pinnacle Engineering discussed the project schedule and the process involved with the preparation and replacement of the bridge. Also, he discussed the relocation of the utilities. Also, he mentioned that the bidding process should take about a month with the contract being awarded in March 2016.

Kate Wilhelm from T. Baker Smith Engineering discussed the project time line and the analyses required for the replacement of the bridge. She mentioned that this project is being fast-tracked as compared to other bridge projects and it should be a quick construction period.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan and his family wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the December birthdays for City employees. His quote for this evening was, "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." Also, he reminded the public to shop locally to support the businesses in our City. Also, he and his family wished everyone a Blessed Holiday Season.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright gave a recap of the recent Cemetery Advisory Board meeting at which time officers were elected and other items were discussed. Also, as the Chair of the Transportation Committee, he encouraged the public to be patient with the increased traffic on Tyler Street during the holiday season.

Council President Alexius requested that Mrs. Hayes provide Councilman Wright with the renewal information for the cemetery maintenance contract in order for the Cemetery Advisory Board to review and submit its suggestions and recommendations to Administration before the contract negotiations begin.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that there were 16 new occupational licenses issued in November 2015. Also, he encouraged the public to shop and buy locally. Also, he mentioned there are no City-sponsored events scheduled for the remainder of December. Also, he mentioned that the History and Holly Home Tour sponsored by the Covington Heritage Foundation was held recently and was a great success. He thanked the CHF Board and the City for all of their work in presenting the event. Also, he reminded the public about the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he commented that 2015 was a successful year for our City and thanked the Council and Administration for working together in moving the City forward. Also, he mentioned that he enjoys serving as the Councilman for District D and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

5. District E –

Councilman Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Also, he encouraged the public to shop locally.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O’Keefe wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

7. At Large (President) –

Council President Alexius mentioned that on Sunday, December 6th, the Covington Heritage Foundation sponsored the Holiday Home Tour in the West 22nd/West 23rd/West 24th Avenue area. He commented that over 600 people attended the tour and it was a great success. Also, he mentioned that on Tuesday, December 8th, the Covington Heritage Foundation’s Annual Meeting was held with approximately 140 people in attendance. He reminded current members that dues for 2016 are now due and that reminders have been sent out. He thanked the City for all of its help with the tour and commented that it was truly a joint effort. Also, he mentioned that the next P&Z meeting will be held on Monday, December 21st at which time the Oak Alley Meadows Subdivision annexation will be discussed. Also, he and his family wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He commented that we have had a very successful year with many projects underway right now, some about to get underway and some already completed.
- (b) On behalf of himself, his family and City employees, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- (c) He gave an update on recent bid openings.
- (d) He congratulated the SSA Swim Team for winning their fifth consecutive Division II State Championship.
- (e) He mentioned that on November 21st, the 1982 Sales Tax Extension and Rededication was approved by the citizens of Covington by a margin of 59% to 41%. He thanked the citizens for approving this proposition and giving the Council and Administration the flexibility to spend the funds where needed.
- (f) He gave an update on the LA Highway 21 project and mentioned that the project is on schedule. He stated that DOTD is monitoring the traffic and has made some light sequence changes at 8th and 11th Avenues.

Councilman Rolling suggested that DOTD re-examine the timing of the signal light at Bootlegger Road and LA Highway 21 as it seems to be causing additional traffic delays.

Councilman Coner requested that Administration start the process of acquiring the servitude regarding the Ozone Creek.

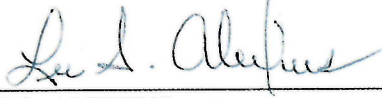
Councilman Coner encouraged the public to be patient with the traffic delays along LA Highway 21 during the widening project.

Mayor Cooper announced that free tickets are available for a concert by Don Vappie and Friends who will be performing “A Creole Christmas in Covington” on Sunday, December 20th from 4 P.M. until 6 P.M. in the Fuhrmann Auditorium.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

Councilman Wright wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk