

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2019**

Council President McMath called the regular meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Joey Roberts, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith,
Sam O'Keefe and Patrick McMath

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Cindy O'Keefe.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Rolling. 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. 2019-01-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring the 20 Foot Alley Traversing Square 2106, Lying Between North Tyler Street and North Harrison Street and Bounded by West 21st Avenue and West 22nd Avenue, Division of New Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Abandoned, Vacated, Closed and Not Needed for Public Purposes (Planning Case No. 18-12-02Street/Alley Revocation) (O'Keefe) (TABLED on March 19, 2019)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Item No. 2019-01-01.

Councilman O'Keefe 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. 2019-01-01, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call: Yeas – 5; Nays – 2 (Rolling and Smith) to adopt Item No. 2019-01-01. Item No. 2019-01-01 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Informing the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of the Actions Regarding the Sewerage Treatment Facility (MWPP) (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Resolution No. 2019-08.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-08, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-08. Resolution No. 2019-08 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-09 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Capital Outlay and Encumbrance Rollovers from the 2018 Budget to the 2019 Budget (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on Resolution No. 2019-09.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-09, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-09. Resolution No. 2019-09 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Callahan announced that the West 30s community is hosting its 2nd Annual Block Party on Saturday, April 13th from 11am until 5pm at 701 Tyler Street and everyone is invited.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner gave honor to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He recognized the April birthdays for City employees. He reminded everyone to shop locally to support our local businesses. His quote for this evening was, "Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose, by President Lyndon B. Johnson."

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts reminded everyone that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and encouraged public awareness. He announced that the Kiwanis Youth Wellness Fair will be held on Saturday, April 20th from 10am until 1pm at the Trailhead and invited everyone to attend.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling extended his appreciation to the residents of Covington who voted in the Mayoral and Council elections last Saturday. He thanked all the candidates for entering the races and extended his congratulations to District A Councilman-elect Peter Lewis, Council at Large Patrick McMath and Mayor-elect Mark Johnson. Upcoming events: Rockin' the Rails concert series on Thursdays in April from 5pm until 7:30pm at the Trailhead; the Spring for Art sponsored by the St. Tammany Art Association on Saturday, April 13th from 6pm until 9pm; A Taste of Covington from April 10th through April 14th; Egg Rollin' Children's Event on Saturday, April 20th from 10am until noon at the Trailhead; new business ribbon cuttings on Thursday, April 25th; the 5th Annual Covington Antiques and Uniques Festival on April 27th and 28th from 10am until 5pm at the Trailhead; OnStage presents, "Joshua Kane's Borders of the Mind," on Thursday, May 16th at 7pm in the Fuhrmann Auditorium; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to shop locally to support our local businesses.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith congratulated Mayor-elect Mark Johnson and all the winners in last Saturday's election. He reminded the District E residents about the runoff

on May 4th. He reported two safety concerns in the city: striping is needed on the new curb on Lockwood Street and a tree limb is hanging over the Farmer's Market area near the corner of North Columbia and North Theard streets.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O'Keefe commended Councilman Smith for his dedication to the residents of District E and to all the citizens in Covington. He congratulated the winners in last Saturday's election and expressed his appreciation to all the candidates.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath thanked all the candidates in last Saturday's election and congratulated the winners. He thanked Councilman Smith for his public service and for his commitment to the citizens of Covington.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

(a) He commended all the candidates who ran for office in the recent election and congratulated the winners.

(b) He gave an update on projects:

(1) The proposed roundabout at Jefferson and 21st Avenue – DOTD has submitted preliminary plans to their headquarters for geometric review of the revised roundabout. The review should be completed in June and bid letting should occur in February, 2020. The plans have been revised from the original elongated roundabout to a round roundabout. DOTD has funded 100% of the project and the City has funds allocated for utility relocation.

(2) LA 21/South Tyler Street minor road widening – DOTD plans to overlay and slightly widen the section of South Tyler Street between West 12th Avenue and West 21st Avenue. In addition to the minor widening of the roadway and laying new asphalt, striping and signage will be installed.

(3) Drain cleaning and inspections in downtown – The contractor has completed the cleaning and inspection of a portion of the downtown drainage system. The videos are expected to be delivered in the near future. Upon receipt, the City Engineer will review and prepare a summary report that outlines additional improvements. In addition, a 100% mainline blockage was discovered at the corner of Lockwood and Columbia which has been repaired with an emergency requisition.

(4) The 15th Avenue Trail from Gallagher Park to River Forest – This overlay project has been awarded to Barriere Construction and the contract is currently being processed. The project consists of overlaying the existing trail and installing culverts in low areas to aid drainage. Work is expected to start at the end of this month or early next month.

(5) Rutland Street Drainage Improvements – This is a major drainage project that is underway. Concrete culverts and other drainage features are being installed to allow better drainage. Work should be completed in May.

(6) 2018 SSES Point Repairs – Sewer line problems have been located and repairs are underway. Currently, repair work is taking place on Rutland Street between Jahncke Avenue and Lee Lane. Intermittent street closures will occur during the repair work in this area.

(7) The Ernest J. Cooper Memorial Fire Station – The expansion of the fire station with two additional bays is almost complete. The Fire Marshal's office performed its inspection today and all remaining work should be finished in two weeks.

(8) The Old Fire House Event Center – Site work continues and all work should be completed in the next two weeks. The first event planned in the Center will be Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, April 24th at 9am.

(9) Bogue Falaya Park Bulkhead – The contractor has completed the piling work and the site improvements are underway. The project is on schedule and should be completed within the next six weeks, weather permitting.

(10) Patricia Ditch Cleaning and De-snagging – All permits have been obtained. Public Works is working on a pathway through the ditch to remove any debris and to determine the scope of work for the final clearing.

(11) West 8th Avenue Safety Improvements – Temporary improvements to the West 8th Avenue/South Harrison Street intersection have been completed and more complete improvements are planned. The scope of work includes the installation of a safety median and other crosswalk improvements on West 8th Avenue and a turn lane on South Harrison Street. Bids will be received on April 4th. This project is in conjunction with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Tammany Parish Hospital to provide safety improvements in this major intersection.

(c) He acknowledged two new businesses, The Blind Tiger and Town Donuts, and encouraged the public to patronage these new businesses along with all of our local businesses.

Councilman Smith inquired as to the start date for the construction project on the West 15th Avenue Trail.

Mayor Cooper responded that the project should start by the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

Councilman Smith suggested the construction of foot bridges over the swales on the Tammany Trace near Village Walk and on Lakewood Northshore Drive in order for citizens to walk over the swales instead of walking through them.

Councilman Roberts agreed and mentioned that citizens are having to walk with their children down the street which is a safety issue.

Mayor Cooper responded that he will discuss the issue with City Engineer Daniel Hill.

Councilman Rolling requested a clarification as to whether or not the roadwork on South Tyler Street will contain the construction of turning lanes.


Mayor Cooper responded that these are safety improvements and not the long term solution. At this time, DOTD is only improving the condition of the roadway by minor widening and installing new asphalt, striping and signage.

Council President McMath inquired as to whether or not the roundabout at Jefferson and 21st Avenue will contain a rollover curb.

Mayor Cooper responded that the roundabout will contain a rollover curb and no statues or fountains will be installed in the middle of the roundabout.

Council President McMath mentioned that he looks forward to working with this Council and Administration over the next few months to continue the good work for the citizens of Covington.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk