

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

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

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Peter Lewis Sr., John Botsford, Joey Roberts, Cody Ludwig, Mark W. Verret, Larry Rolling and Patrick McMath

ABSENT: None

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman R.S. "Sam" O'Keefe.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman Rolling made a motion to elect Councilman McMath as President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Roberts. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Abstain: 1 (McMath). Councilman McMath was elected President of the Council.

Council President McMath made a motion to elect Councilman Rolling as Vice President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Roberts. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Abstain: 1 (Rolling). Councilman Rolling was elected Vice President of the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL CLERK

Council President McMath made a motion to appoint Bonnie Champagne as Council Clerk, seconded by Council Vice President Rolling. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this appointment. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Bonnie Champagne as Council Clerk.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL CONFIRMATIONS

Mayor Johnson appointed Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr. as City Attorney/City Prosecutor for the City of Covington. Council President McMath made a motion to confirm Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr. as City Attorney/City Prosecutor, seconded by Councilman Botsford. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr. as City Attorney/City Prosecutor for the City of Covington.

Mayor Johnson appointed Michael F. Weiner as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Covington. Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to confirm Michael F. Weiner as Assistant City Attorney, seconded by Council President McMath. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Michael F. Weiner as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Covington.

Mayor Johnson appointed Cindy Petry as City Magistrate for the City of Covington. Council President McMath made a motion to confirm Cindy Petry as City Magistrate, seconded by Councilwoman Ludwig. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Cindy Petry as City Magistrate for the City of Covington.

Mayor Johnson appointed Gina Hayes as Director of Administration/Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Covington. Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to confirm Gina Hayes as Director of Administration/Chief Administrative Officer, seconded by Councilman Botsford. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Gina Hayes as Director of Administration/Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Covington.

Mayor Johnson appointed Stephen Culotta as Police Chief for the City of Covington. Council President McMath made a motion to confirm Stephen Culotta as Police Chief, seconded by Councilman Verret. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Stephen Culotta as Police Chief for the City of Covington.

Mayor Johnson appointed Gary S. Blocker, Jr. as Fire Chief for the City of Covington. Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to confirm Gary S. Blocker, Jr. as Fire Chief, seconded by Councilwoman Ludwig. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Gary S. Blocker, Jr. as Fire Chief for the City of Covington.

Mayor Johnson appointed Chris Davis as Director of Public Works for the City of Covington. Council President McMath made a motion to confirm Chris Davis as Director of Public Works, seconded by Councilman Roberts. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Chris Davis as Director of Public Works for the City of Covington.

APPEARERS

Councilman Botsford introduced Ms. Julie Taylor, President of the non-profit organization, Women of Infinite Possibilities, who discussed the history and mission of the organization. Also, she invited the public to their upcoming annual fundraiser, Smart Women's Day Out.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Roberts**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items to be voted on:

- 1. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-21** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Appointment of Bruce E. Davidson to Fill an Unexpired Term as the District D Appointment to the Covington Planning and Zoning Commission (Ludwig)

Councilman Botsford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-21, seconded by Councilman Roberts. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-21. Resolution No. 2019-21 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-22 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Appointing Trustees of the St. Tammany Public Trust Financing Authority and Designating Their Term of Office (Rolling)

City Attorney Rod Rodrigue gave a brief history of the St. Tammany Public Trust Financing Authority.

Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-22, seconded by Councilman Verret. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-22. Resolution No. 2019-22 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Lewis stated that all is good in District A and he has no report this evening.

2. District B –

Councilman Botsford encouraged the public to visit the Farmer's Market every Wednesday at the Trailhead and every Saturday at the corner of North Columbia and North Theard streets.

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts mentioned that the overlay of 15th Avenue is ongoing and thanked the Administration for scheduling the project. Also, he congratulated everyone who was appointed this evening and thanked them for their service.

4. District D –

Councilwoman Ludwig announced that the Level 2 Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at St. Tammany Parish Hospital opened last month and the Pediatric Emergency Room is now open 24 hours a day. Upcoming events: Farmer's Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays; Sparks in the Park on Wednesday, July 3rd from 6:30pm until 9pm in the Bogue Falaya Park; Four on the Fourth Race on Thursday, July 4th at Hubie Gallagher Park; Sunset at the Landing Concert on Friday, July 19th from 6pm until 9pm; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, July 26th from 6:30pm until 9:30pm; and the St. Tammany Art Association's Covington Art Market on Saturday, July 6th at the Trailhead.

5. District E –

Councilman Verret thanked the voters of District E for their trust and confidence in electing him as their Councilman. He looks forward to serving with the Council and Mayor for the betterment of the community. He thanked Sam O'Keefe, Jerry Coner and Rick Smith for their service and their assistance given directly to him during the transition of the Covington City Council. Also, he thanked the Police and Fire personnel who are in the audience this evening and all City employees for their public service. He asked that God bless Covington, the people and the City Administration.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Council Vice President Rolling announced that nine new businesses applied for occupational licenses during the period May 1st through July 1st. He commented that Inauguration Day was a great day for Covington and looks forward to working with the Council and Mayor over the next four years. He thanked Aimee

Fauchoux and Amy Tucker for their efforts in planning and organizing the inauguration events. Also, he thanked Councilmen Sammy O'Keefe and Jerry Coner for attending the meeting this evening and for their years of public service.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath thanked Councilman Sam O'Keefe for his public service and leadership on the Council. Also, he congratulated everyone who was appointed this evening. He announced that the Council meeting scheduled for September 3rd has been changed to September 17th in order to provide extra time for the preparation of the 2020 budget. He remarked that he is honored to serve as President of the Council and expressed his appreciation to the Council for electing him. Also, he thanked everyone who attended the inauguration events yesterday and the Council meeting this evening for their interest and involvement in the community.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Johnson's comments:

(a) He commented that it is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as the Mayor of the City of Covington and to serve with the Council. He thanked Councilmen Jerry Coner, John Callahan and Rick Smith for their service over the past eight years. Also, he gave a special thanks to Councilmen Sam O'Keefe and the late Lee Alexius for their public service, dedication and leadership.

He thanked Mayor Mike Cooper for the outstanding job he did over the past eight years and commended him for the team of department heads that he assembled. He expressed his appreciation to Mayor Cooper for meeting with him and providing him with detailed information regarding each department.

He mentioned that in preparation for taking office as Mayor, he met with Mayors and department heads from other municipalities as well as Parish President Pat Brister. Also, he met with the City's accounting firm in order to review the City's financials. He remarked that the City of Covington is blessed to have employees that are not just excellent public servants but are good people. Also, he was pleased to report that he is not replacing any of the City employees and to his knowledge, none of the City employees are leaving on their own accord.

He recognized that City departments use their budgets efficiently and without waste, according to their needs.

(b) He gave an update on some ongoing projects:

(1) Rutland Street Drainage Improvements – The project is substantially complete and punch list items should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

(2) Public Works Barn – The contractor has completed the majority of the interior framing and exterior windows. Work continues on the project.

(3) West 11th Avenue Bridge Replacement at Mile Branch – total replacement with a full concrete structure. Bids were received from six contractors and the lowest bidder was Cecil D. Gassiot, LLC. An award letter has been sent and the notice of acceptance should be received soon.

(4) West 15th Avenue Bridge at Simpson Creek – Advertising started on June 26th and the bid opening is scheduled for July 25th.

- (c) He mentioned that due to local and national trends, recycling has changed. The contamination rate accepted by China has decreased from a 30% contamination rate to a 1% contamination rate. He pointed out that the citizens of Covington have a contamination rate of 50%. He announced that in an attempt to give Coastal Environmental the opportunity to monitor recyclables, the pickup day for recyclables has been changed to every Thursday, effective July 4, 2019. He mentioned that only paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastic (not plastic bags) will be accepted as recyclables at this time. Also, he pointed out that if non-recyclables are included in the recycle cart, none of the contents will be picked up.
- (d) He encouraged residents to bring in their garbage receptacles after garbage pickup in order to preserve the cleanliness and natural beauty of Covington.

Council Vice President Rolling inquired as to the definition of contamination as it relates to recyclables and what types of items would be considered contaminated.

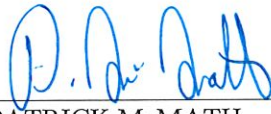
Mayor Johnson responded that anything that has organic material on it should be placed in the garbage receptacle and not in the recycle cart.

Councilman Botsford mentioned that Coastal Environmental has started a media blitz and has developed an informational video to educate the public on its recycling plan.

Councilman Roberts inquired as to whether the City has a link on its website for the public to access information about the recycling plan.

Mayor Johnson responded that Mrs. Hayes added a link on the City's website to Coastal Environmental's website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk