

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2019**

Council President 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 Mr. John Callahan.

APPEARERS

1. Police Chief Culotta introduced and congratulated Sgt. Mark Dugas on his recent promotion.
2. Police Chief Culotta introduced Officer James Lebonte, Officer Michael Hess, Officer Jordan Talley and Officer Cassia McGaven, who recently joined the Covington Police Department and who are attending the 16-week POST Academy.

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

Old Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2019-07-01** – 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 No. 19-06-01TXT) (McMath)

Council President McMath opened the public hearing for comments. There were no comments by the Council or public on this item.

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

Councilman Roberts made a motion to adopt Item No. 2019-07-01, seconded by Council Vice President Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2019-07-01. Item No. 2019-07-01 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2019-07-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Surplus Certain Vehicles and Equipment Owned by the City of Covington (McMath)

Council President McMath opened the public hearing for comments. There were no comments by the Council or public on this item.

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

Councilman Roberts made a motion to adopt Item No. 2019-07-02, seconded by Councilman Botsford. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2019-07-02. Item No. 2019-07-02 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-23 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Recognizing the Mayor’s Authority to Enter into an Exclusive Contract Agreement with Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. to Provide Emergency and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on Resolution No. 2019-23.

Chief Administrative Officer/Director of Administration Gina Hayes stated that the new contract is just a renewal of the present contract and none of the terms have been changed.

Council President McMath made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-23, seconded by Councilwoman Ludwig. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-23. Resolution No. 2019-23 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Recognizing the Concerns of the Community With Regard to the Proposed Tammany Bikeshare Plan (Rolling)

Council Vice President Rolling read aloud Resolution No. 2019-24 and led a discussion on the resolution.

Council members, concerned citizens, local business owners along with representatives from the Northshore Community Foundation, St. Tammany Corporation, the Northshore Business Council and the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce participated in the discussion.

Councilman Verret made a motion to table Resolution No. 2019-24, seconded by Councilman Roberts. Roll call: Yeas - 5; Nays – 2 (Rolling and Botsford) to table Resolution No. 2019-24. Resolution No. 2019-24 was tabled.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-25 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of an Application to the Recreational Trails Grant Program and

to Recognize the Mayor's Signatory Authority to Execute Any and All Documents in Connection with Said Grant Application (McMath)

Councilman Botsford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-25, seconded by Councilman Roberts. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-25. Resolution No. 2019-25 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Lewis announced two upcoming events: (1) the Anti-Bullying Parade and Rally to be held on Saturday, August 17th beginning at 7:30am at the Reverend Peter Atkins Park; and (2) the "I Am Enough Empowerment Conference, Part 2" to be held on Saturday, September 21st from 10am until 3pm at the Homewood Suites in Covington.

2. District B –

Councilman Botsford provided an update from the Food Bank in that 250 children were served through its July school supply program; construction continues on its new facility with the completion date scheduled for January 2, 2020; and due to lack of funding, the dental center will be closing on September 30, 2019. Also, he provided an update from the West 30's Redemption Company in that 14 houses have been renovated and 10 houses have been sold; and it was awarded a grant program from the Louisiana Housing Corporation to build four new houses.

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts thanked everyone for the respectful conversation this evening with regard to the proposed Tammany Bikeshare Plan. Also, he commented that the overlay and striping project on West 15th Avenue looks amazing and thanked the Administration for scheduling the project. He mentioned that some citizens have expressed concerns about safety in the areas where the ditches run under the pathway and requested some signage to identify the drop off. Also, he reported some concerns about inconsistencies in the recycling pickup schedule.

4. District D –

Councilwoman Ludwig announced some upcoming events: OnStage presents, "One Stop Pony Band," on Thursday, August 15th at 7pm in the Fuhrmann Auditorium; the Sunset at the Landing Concert on Friday, August 16th from 6pm until 9pm; the Covington White Linen for Public Art event on Saturday, August 17th from 6pm until 9pm; the Ultimate Tailgate Party on Saturday, August 24th at 7pm at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, August 30th from 6:30pm until 9:30pm; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday from 10am until 2pm at the Trailhead and every Saturday from 8am until 12pm next to the Police Station.

5. District E –

Councilman Verret reminded everyone that it's back to school time and to plan for the additional traffic. Also, he thanked the Covington Police Department for its efforts in enforcing the speed limits across the City. Also, he received some inquiries as to the start date for the improvements to the Menetre Boat Launch along with some concerns about the activities taking place at the boat launch and the increase in boat traffic.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Council Vice President Rolling announced that seven new businesses applied for occupational licenses during the period July 2nd through August 6th. Also, he mentioned that several Council members attended the LMA Convention in Monroe last weekend and it was a great convention. In addition to the various workshops, the Opening Session included a forum with two of the gubernatorial candidates.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath reminded everyone that the Council meeting scheduled for September 3rd has been changed to September 17th at 6pm.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Johnson's comments:

(a) He announced that our Public Works Director Chris Davis was taken to the hospital this evening and asked everyone to keep Chris and his family in our prayers.

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

(1) Public Works Maintenance Barn – The project is in the rough-in stage and the current estimated completion date of the project is the first week of October.

(2) 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 in the amount of \$947,000.00. Contracts have been sent to the contractor for signature. Construction will allow for 210 days from start of work to substantial completion. The bridge is currently posted with a three ton limit but will be out of service throughout the duration of the construction period. Repairs have taken place on this bridge three times over the past eight years mostly due to the original timber substructure. Life expectancy of the new concrete bridge is about 50 years.

(3) West 15th Avenue Bridge Replacement at Simpson Creek – Twelve bids were received on the project and the lowest bid was in the amount of \$323,000.00. The bids are under review and an official award letter should be sent out next week. The project consists of the removal of the old 19-foot span concrete bridge and replacing it with a 20-foot aluminum culvert.

(4) 2019 Road Overlay Program – The project consists of patching, milling and overlaying some City streets. In order to increase the life expectancy of the overlay, the City will undertake a new process to mill down the veneer to the substreet, then rebuild and recompact the foundation before overlaying the streets. This process will be more expensive but the streets will last longer. The major streets included in this program are a portion of North Tyler Street from West 23rd to Columbia along with 15th Avenue from South Johnson to Charleston. Bids are due on August 8th.

(5) West 8th Avenue Safety Improvements – The project is ongoing and should be completed in the next two weeks, weather permitting.

(c) He reminded everyone that the pickup day for recyclables has been changed to Thursday and encouraged citizens to put just their recyclables out for Thursday pickup. Also, he mentioned that Councilmen McMath, Verret and Botsford will join him for a trip to the FV Recycling Facility in Sumrall, MS to learn about the recycling process.

(d) He mentioned that it has been a challenge over the last few years with regard to the pickup of bulk and/or green waste. He instituted a new process whereby when a City employee either sees or receives a report of green and/or

bulk waste, the details are provided to Vickel Washington in the Code Enforcement office who compiles a report and forwards the information each afternoon to Coastal Environmental Services. Since this process began, over 200 piles of debris have been reported to and picked up by Coastal Environmental Services.

(e) He announced that the City will be kicking off its "Slow Your Roll" campaign in September. Signs will be placed throughout the community to remind motorists to drive the speed limit and to come to a complete stop at stop signs.

(f) He reminded the public that the next OnStage presentation, "One Stop Pony Band," is scheduled for Thursday, August 15th in the Fuhrmann Auditorium and encouraged everyone to come out to see this incredibly-talented musician.

Councilman Botsford commented there has been some confusion as to what time the recycling cans should be placed out for pickup. He contacted Gus Bordelon with Coastal Environmental Services who advised that all recyclables should be placed out by 7am on Thursdays.

Mayor Johnson announced two new initiatives that will be used to provide the residents of the City of Covington with information and reminders of upcoming events: (1) Beginning in September, the City will produce a newsletter six times a year that will be free and given away at local businesses; and (2) His office has started working on an email blast system that will enable him to provide important information via email to the residents of the City of Covington.

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

Mrs. Hayes reminded everyone that schools are back in session and to be mindful of the "hands-free" zones.

Also, she reminded everyone that it is hurricane season and encouraged the public to sign up for Alert St. Tammany on the St. Tammany Parish Government's website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk