

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 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, Mark W. Verret, Larry Rolling and Patrick McMath

ABSENT: Cody Ludwig

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Eric Skrmetta.

APPEARERS

1. Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Eric Skrmetta gave an update on the Public Service Commission and utilities in the State of Louisiana. He mentioned that Louisiana is at the top of the list on overall quality and has the lowest rates for residential utilities in the country.
2. Council Vice President Rolling introduced Ms. Julie Agan, Executive Director for the St. Tammany Council on Aging, who discussed the mission of the St. Tammany Council on Aging and the services provided to St. Tammany Parish residents age 60 and older.
3. Councilman Lewis introduced Ms. Ashley Russell, who discussed the upcoming event, "I Am Enough, Against All Odds Empowerment Conference," which will be held on Saturday, September 21st from 10am until 3pm at the Homewood Suites.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Roberts. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Ludwig) to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2019-26** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Reappointment of Seymon S. "Windy" Hartzog III to the Covington Historic District Commission (CHDC) for a Term of Four (4) Years (Mayor)

Councilman Botsford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-26, seconded by Councilman Roberts. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Ludwig) to adopt Resolution No. 2019-26. Resolution No. 2019-26 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-27 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Use of a Portion of the Unconstructed Alley in Square 2603, Division of New Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Which Alley Intersects with North Jackson Street and North Monroe Street Between West 26th Avenue and West 27th Avenue, as a Driveway (Botsford)

Councilman Botsford led a discussion on Resolution No. 2019-27.

Councilman Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-27, seconded by Councilman Botsford. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Ludwig) to adopt Resolution No. 2019-27. Resolution No. 2019-27 was adopted.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-28 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Approving the Industrial Tax Exemption Program Unified Guidelines for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana (McMath)

Council President McMath led a discussion on Resolution No. 2019-28.

Mr. Chris Masingill, Chief Executive Officer of St. Tammany Corporation, discussed the process to evaluate businesses for the Industrial Tax Exemption Program.

Council Vice President Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-28, seconded by Councilman Botsford. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Absent – 1 (Ludwig) to adopt Resolution No. 2019-28. Resolution No. 2019-28 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A –

Councilman Lewis reminded everyone about the Reverend Peter S. Atkins Park Sign Dedication and the Music in the Park concert on Thursday, September 26th from 6pm until 8pm in the Reverend Peter S. Atkins Park.

2. District B –

Councilman Botsford announced some upcoming events: Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, September 20th from 6pm until 9pm; Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 21st from 9am until 2pm at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, September 27th from 6:30pm until 9:30pm; Bogue Falaya River Sweep on Saturday, September 28th from 9am until 12pm in the Bogue Falaya Park; Live Well Northshore hosted by Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center on Saturday, September 28th from 10am until 2pm at the Trailhead; St. Tammany Parish Fair Parade on Friday, October 4th from 10am until 12pm and St. Tammany Parish Fair from Wednesday, October 2nd through Sunday, October 6th at the St. Tammany Parish Fairgrounds; St. Tammany Art Association's Covington Art Market on Saturday, October 5th from 9am until 1pm at the Trailhead; the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday; and Pallets for a Purpose hosted by the Covington Food Bank on Friday, November 8th at 6:30pm at its new facility. Also, he announced that registration is open for those families who are eligible to participate in St. Tammany Project Christmas for 2019.

3. District C –

Councilman Roberts acknowledged and congratulated Council Vice President Larry Rolling for being named “Legislator of the Year for St. Tammany Parish” by the Alliance for Good Government. He announced two upcoming events: (1) River Forest has a neighborhood-wide garage sale scheduled on Saturday, September 21st from 7am until 2pm; and (2) the Mayor’s Council on Healthy Lifestyles is hosting a Focus Group Meeting on Thursday, September 19th from 11:30am until 2pm in the Bogue Falaya Hall.

4. District D – Absent.

5. District E –

Councilman Verret thanked the City employees who work outside in the extreme heat for maintaining the City and keeping it in great condition. He encouraged everyone to participate in the survey with regard to the Comprehensive Plan Update. He mentioned that he has received numerous reports of speeding on 8th Avenue and throughout the City and reminded motorists to continue to “slow their roll”. Also, he mentioned that he continues to receive concerns about the Menetre Boat Launch and has discussed the issues with Mayor Johnson.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Council Vice President Rolling announced that eleven new businesses applied for occupational licenses during mid-August through mid-September. He reminded everyone that the Rockin’ the Rails concert series begins on Thursday, October 3rd at 5pm at the Trailhead and mentioned that the food proceeds from the concert on October 3rd will benefit Carnival in Covington. Also, he announced that the Night Out Against Crime will be held on Tuesday, October 15th and thanked Bruce and Kathy Davidson for hosting the event at the corner of Jefferson and 20th in District D.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President McMath congratulated Council Vice President Rolling for being named “Legislator of the Year for St. Tammany Parish” by the Alliance for Good Government. Also, he acknowledged the relationship between the Council and Administration and looks forward to working together for the betterment of the City of Covington.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Johnson’s comments:

(a) He congratulated Council Vice President Rolling for representing the City of Covington and winning \$1,000.00 as the Champion in the “Giant Jenga” competition at Winn Dixie.

(b) He announced some personnel changes:

(1) City Engineer Daniel Hill resigned recently and the City has hired Bahram “Bob” Moeinian as the new City Engineer; and

(2) Long-time City employee and Finance Director Alisa Faciane resigned recently and the City has hired Stephen Sanders as the new Finance Director.

He thanked Eugenie Leggio and Gina Hayes for their efforts in screening the applicants for both positions.

(c) He reminded everyone about the Music in the Park event on Thursday, September 26th at 6pm in the Peter Atkins Park along with the unveiling and dedication of the new Reverend Peter S. Atkins Park Sign.

(d) He introduced a new City newsletter recently to communicate Covington information to Covingtonians. The free newsletter will be published six times a year and is available at City Hall, the Trailhead, Acquistapace's and I-Stop. He thanked his Administrative Assistant Bridget Watson, along with Tammy Hedry Smith and Anne Giovingo for their assistance in putting the newsletter together.

(e) He mentioned that the "Slow Your Roll" campaign has kicked off and presented a video about the campaign. He stated that over 250 signs have been distributed free of charge and placed throughout the City in an attempt to remind motorists to drive the speed limit and to come to a complete stop at stop signs. He gave special thanks to Chief Culotta, Sergeant Masters and the Covington Police Department for their help with the video.

Police Chief Culotta acknowledged that speeding is a major problem throughout the City. He stated that the Police Department does its best to combat the problem and believes the "Slow Your Roll" campaign will be beneficial in educating motorists.

Council Vice President Rolling inquired as to where Covington residents can pick up the "Slow Your Roll" signs.

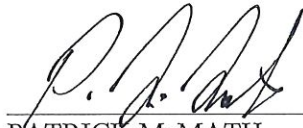
Mayor Johnson responded that all of the signs have been distributed but when the new order comes in, they will be available at City Hall and the Trailhead Museum.

Councilman Lewis mentioned that Ashley Russell and Council Vice President Rolling participated as a team in the "Giant Jenga" game at Winn Dixie and expressed his thanks for her contribution in winning the competition.

Mr. Zach Lea thanked Mayor Johnson and Council Clerk Bonnie Champagne for their help in guiding him through the process for placing his resolution on the agenda this evening.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.



PATRICK McMATH
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk