

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 1, 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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Mark R. Johnson, Chief Administrative Officer Gina  
Hayes, City Attorney Rod Rodrigue, Police Chief Stephen  
Culotta, Director of Public Works Chris Davis

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Frances Dunn.

**APPEARERS**

**A. Councilman Botsford** invited the candidates for District Judge, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Judicial District Court, Division F, to introduce themselves to the Council,  
Administration and public:

Harold Bartholomew Jr.  
John Keller  
Karen S. Kovach  
Vincent J. "Vinny" Lobello  
Laurie M. Pennison  
Kevin S. Vogeltanz

**B. Council President McMath** introduced Mr. Robert C. Maier, who read a  
prepared statement regarding his request to tie-in to the sewer line on Polders  
Lane.

**Council President McMath** led a discussion with regard to Mr. Maier's request.

**Director of Public Works Chris Davis** commented on Mr. Maier's prepared  
statement.

**City Attorney Rod Rodrigue** participated in the discussion and read Covington  
Code of Ordinances Sec. 98-91(d) which states, "...The owner of all houses,  
buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreational or  
other purpose, situated within the city is required at his expense to install suitable  
sewage disposal facilities..."

**Council Vice President Rolling** suggested that a Council committee should meet  
to review the issues presented by Mr. Maier.

**Council President McMath** requested that the Council's Public Works/Public Safety Committee schedule a meeting to discuss the issues and present its recommendations to the entire Council.

## **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. 2019-29** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of an Application to the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) to Upgrade the Utility Department's Meter-Reading System (Rolling)

**Council Vice President Rolling** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2019-29.

**Chief Administrative Officer Gina Hayes** stated that with the upgrade to the Utility Department's Meter-Reading System, the present drive-by radio-read system will be replaced with a new, fixed network comprised of a tower base station, receptors and more than 5,000 water meter/register units. She pointed out that the new system is quite costly and these funds will be used toward the cost of the new system.

**Councilman Botsford** made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-29, seconded by **Councilman Roberts**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2019-29. Resolution No. 2019-29 was adopted.

*(Julie Miramon Knight, one of the scheduled appearers this evening, was late arriving at the meeting.)*

**Council President McMath** introduced Julie Miramon Knight, candidate for District Judge, 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Division F, who introduced herself to the Council, Administration and public.

## **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

### **Council District and Committee Reports**

1. **District A – None.**
2. **District B –**

**Councilman Botsford** mentioned that the "CANstruction" event sponsored by the Covington Food Bank will be on display from October 8<sup>th</sup> through October 24<sup>th</sup>. Also, he announced that the Northshore Fall Fest Job Fair will be held on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Castine Center in Mandeville.

3. **District C –**

**Councilman Roberts** urged everyone to vote in the upcoming election. Also, he thanked the candidates who appeared at the meeting tonight and all candidates for choosing to serve their communities.

4. **District D –**

**Councilwoman Ludwig** reminded everyone that school zones are back in effect and they are hands-free zones. She mentioned that the renovations to the Covington Branch of the St. Tammany Parish Library are underway and should be

completed soon. Also, she reported that St. Tammany Parish Hospital's expansion is on schedule and the Hospital appreciates the public's patience during this project. Upcoming events: Rockin' the Rails concert series starts on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be held every Thursday in October from 5pm until 7:30pm at the Trailhead; St. Tammany Parish Fair will be held this weekend at the Fairgrounds; St. Tammany Art Association's Fall for Art on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 9pm; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 9pm; Oxtoberfest Beer Fest on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> with all proceeds benefiting the Covington Boys and Girls Club; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm until 9:30pm; Coffee and Conversation with Mayor Mark on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 10am at the Fire House Event Center; and New Business Ribbon Cuttings on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9am. Also, she reminded everyone that Halloween and trick-or-treating will be celebrated on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**5. District E –**

**Councilman Verret** mentioned that he had the pleasure of attending the recent sign dedication and concert in the Reverend Peter S. Atkins Park. He thanked Frances Dunn and Aimee Faucheux for their efforts in planning the event. Also, he participated in the Comprehensive Plan Update survey and thanked Nahketah Bagby for her efforts in providing a hands-on approach for public input. Also, he thanked the candidates who attended the meeting this evening and encouraged the public to vote in the upcoming election. He shared a quote by Thomas Jefferson, "We in America do not have government by a majority; we have government by the majority who participate."

**6. At Large (Vice President) –**


**Council Vice President Rolling** thanked all the candidates who are running for public office on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, he reminded everyone that the Night Out Against Crime will be held on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and encouraged the public to attend one of the three events scheduled in the City of Covington: (1) Corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and Madison hosted by Bruce and Kathy Davidson; (2) Covington Housing Authority in the 300 block of West 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue; and (3) Savannahs Subdivision, Branch Crossing at Pond #2. Also, he announced that the Carnival in Covington Committee will be serving food at the Rockin' the Rails concert on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the proceeds will benefit Carnival in Covington. He thanked Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser for donating the food and Abita Roasting for their help in cooking the food. He mentioned that Carnival in Covington will also benefit from the food proceeds at the Rockin' the Rails concert on Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup>, and encouraged the public to attend and participate in the costume contest.

**7. At Large (President) – None.**

**Administrative Comments and Reports**

- 1. Mayor Johnson-None.**
- 2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

  
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PATRICK McMATH  
Council President

  
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BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Council Clerk