

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2014**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith,
Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jimmy Dykes.

Council President Alexius read a quote by the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman.

APPEARERS

Becky Gelatt, Mike Haas, Sandy Matthews and Dennis Mutell, members of the Mayor's Council on Healthy Lifestyles, gave a presentation on the Council's objectives.

Dianne Baham, Executive Director of STARC, gave a presentation on the mission of STARC.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Wright. 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. 2013-12-02** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Covington, Louisiana, to Reclassify a 3.6 Acre Tract of Land Along Collins Boulevard from CN (Neighborhood Commercial) to CR (Regional Commercial) (Zoning Case No. 13-11-01Rezoning) (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2013-12-02 involving a tract of land located on the east side of Collins Blvd. across from Sharp and Clark streets.

Jason Reibert from Gulf States Real Estate Services, LLC appeared on behalf of Pass On It Properties LLC to answer questions.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2013-12-02, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2013-12-02. Item No. 2013-12-02 was adopted.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2013-12-03 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute All Legal Documents Necessary to Acquire Lot 2A, Square 2301, Division of New Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana (Alexius)

Council President Alexius withdrew Item No. 2013-12-03 involving a lot at the corner of W. 24th Avenue and N. Madison Street.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2013-12-04 -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2014 Budget to Acquire Lot 2A, Square 2301, Division of New Covington, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana (Alexius)

Council President Alexius withdrew Item No. 2013-12-04 involving a lot at the corner of W. 24th Avenue and N. Madison Street.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of Submitting a Request to the Attorney General Regarding the Content and Publication of Council Meeting Minutes (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2014-03.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-03, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2014-03. Resolution No. 2014-03 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. National League of Cities Conference (Coner)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on the request by Councilman Coner to attend the National League of Cities Annual Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 8-12, 2014.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to approve Councilman Coner's request to attend the National League of Cities Annual Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 8-12, 2014, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call: Yeas - 6; Abstain - 1 (Coner) to approve Councilman Coner's request. Councilman Coner's request was approved.

2. Litter on West Edwards Street between N. Spell Street and N. Columbia Street (Coner)

Councilmen Coner and O'Keefe thanked Public Works, the Police Department and Code Enforcement for their efforts in cleaning up the litter on West Edwards between N. Spell and N. Columbia streets.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A --

Councilman Callahan thanked all of the volunteers, sponsors and the City for helping to present the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event on January 20th.

2. District B -- None.

3. District C --

Councilman Wright gave an update on the St. Tammany Parish Inspector General Task Force.

4. District D --

Councilman Rolling announced there will be a District D meeting on Wednesday, February 12th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Upcoming events: Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, January 29th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Fuhrmann Performing Arts will present "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" on February 7-9 and 14-16 in the Fuhrmann Auditorium; the Krewe of Olympia parade on Saturday, February 22nd; and the Covington Lions Club, Krewe of Covington and the Krewe of Lyra parades on Tuesday, March 4th (Mardi Gras Day).

5. District E --

Councilman Smith announced the days and times for baseball registration for the Recreation Department. Also, he announced that Mayor Cooper was sworn in as President of the St. Tammany Municipal Association and Council President Alexius was sworn in as Treasurer.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman O'Keefe discussed two potential drainage problems: (1) Asplundh recently left logs in the ditch along 21st Avenue between Barkley Parc and the wooden structure near the Warner property; and (2) the grass-cutting contractors are blowing leaves and debris into the ditches.

Mayor Cooper responded that he spoke with a CLECO representative who was aware of the problem and indicated it should be taken care of in the next day or two.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President Alexius thanked the Mayor for meeting with him and Councilman O'Keefe this morning and giving them an update on the affairs of the City. Also, he gave a recap of the recent Historic District Commission meeting. Also, he mentioned that the next P&Z meeting will be on February 10th. Also, he announced that Councilman Rick Smith has been elected to serve on the Advisory Board of the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce for 2014.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

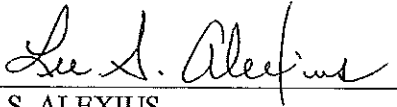
1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He thanked the appearers who attended tonight's meeting and for their presentations;
- (b) He looks forward to serving as President of the St. Tammany Municipal Association and thanked the guest speakers who attended the STMA meeting;
- (c) With regard to the forgiveness of the CDL loan, he thanked the Council for its perseverance and support during the process.

Councilman O'Keefe thanked the Mayor for his diligence in working toward the forgiveness of the CDL loan and commended Gina Hayes and Alisa Faciane for their perseverance.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council