

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2013**

Council President O'Keefe called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

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

ABSENT: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman John Callahan.

Invocation was led by Pastor Brumfield from Mt. Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman Coner made a motion to appoint Councilman Alexius as President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Rolling. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas: 6; Abstain: 1 (Alexius). Councilman Alexius was appointed President of the Council.

Council President Alexius read a quote by the 21st President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur.

Councilman Wright made a motion to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as Vice President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Coner. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas: 6; Abstain: 1 (O'Keefe). Councilman O'Keefe was appointed Vice President of the Council.

APPEARERS:

Dr. Eva Baham expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with Mayor Cooper, the Council and members of the community in preparation for her recent program on the History of the African American Community in Covington.

John Parck/James O'Lexa - BP Oil Spill Claims (Coner)
(Arrived later in the meeting.)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Rolling. 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. 2013-05-02 -- 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 4. General Provisions (Zoning Case No. 13-05-02TXT) (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Item No. 2013-05-02.

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

Councilman Smith made a motion to amend Item No. 2013-05-02 as follows:

Page 2, lines 47 and 48, to add: "If a fence or wall to the property line does not impede vision, then the sight triangle is not applicable."

Seconded by **Councilman O'Keefe**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2013-05-02. Item No. 2013-05-02 was amended.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2013-05-02, as amended, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2013-05-02, as amended. Item No. 2013-05-02 was adopted, as amended.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2013- 05-03 --** An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 83 Fees, Sec. 83-1. Schedule of Zoning Fees (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Item No. 2013-05-03.

Councilman Wright 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 Coner made a motion to withdraw Item No. 2013-05-03, seconded by **Councilman Smith**. Roll call was unanimous to withdraw Item No. 2013-05-03. Item No. 2013-05-03 was withdrawn.

New Business

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-19 --** A Resolution of the Covington City Council Accepting the 2012 Audit Report Issued by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (Alexius)

Donald Wheat from Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C. led a discussion on the 2012 Audit Report.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-19, seconded by **Councilman Smith**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-19. Resolution No. 2013-19 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-17 --** A Resolution of the Covington City Council Requesting the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to Continue its Efforts to Amend or Revise the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2013-17.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-17, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-17. Resolution No. 2013-17 was adopted.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-18** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming its Appointment to the St. Tammany Parish Inspector General Task Force (O'Keefe)

Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion on Resolution No. 2013-18.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-18, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call - Yeas: 6; Abstain: 1 (Wright). Resolution No. 2013-18 was adopted.

Items for discussion

1. Drainage issues (Coner)

Councilman Coner withdrew this discussion topic from the agenda.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A --

Councilman Callahan announced that Mt. Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church will be sponsoring a dinner on Saturday, July 20th.

2. District B --

Councilman Coner thanked everyone who participated in the bicentennial events. Also, he discussed an article written by Robert Mann dated July 7, 2013 concerning the state voucher program.

APPEARER

John Parck/James O'Lexa - BP Oil Spill Claims (Coner)

Mr. John Parck from GECON led a discussion on the services his company offers with regard to BP oil spill claims.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS (Cont'd)

3. District C --

Councilman Wright thanked everyone involved with the bicentennial events. Also, he expressed his appreciation to the Council for appointing him to the St. Tammany Parish Inspector General Task Force. Also, he commended the Fire Department for its handling of the fire this morning in River Forest.

4. District D --

Councilman Rolling commented that the bicentennial parade was a great event and thanked the parade sponsors. Also, he announced that two businesses applied for occupational licenses in June. Upcoming events: Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings; Saturday, August 3rd - Covington Art Market at the Trailhead at 9 A.M.; August 16th - Sunset at the Landing concert; and August 30th - Columbia Street Block Party and Car Show.

5. District E -- None.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman O'Keefe commented that it was a privilege to serve as Council President during the past year and thanked the Council, Mayor and City employees for their assistance.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President Alexius thanked Mayor Cooper for meeting with him and Councilman Smith this morning and giving them an update on the affairs of the City. Also, he gave a recap of the recent CHDC and P&Z meetings. Also, he thanked everyone who helped with the bicentennial events.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

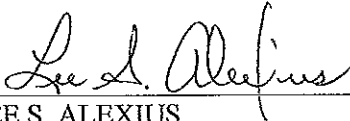
- (a) He welcomed the large audience in attendance this evening.
- (b) He thanked everyone involved in all of the bicentennial events.
- (c) He discussed the timeline for the selection of a new police chief.
- (d) He announced that the items from the time capsule opened on July 4th are on display in the museum at the Trailhead.

Susan DeWitt, who lives on 25th Avenue, led a discussion on the Neighborhood Watch program.

Pastor Brumfield announced that Mt. Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church will be hosting its annual "fan giveaway" on Saturday, July 27th from 9 A.M. until noon.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council