

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 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 Ms. Emily Frosch.

Council President Alexius read a quote by the 29th President of the United States,
Warren Harding.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded
by Councilman Smith. 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. 2013-10-01** -- An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 102 Vegetation, Article II. Trees on Public Property (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2013-10-01.

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

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to amend Item No. 2013-10-01 as
follows:

Page 2, line 5, should read, "...recorded utility rights-of-way and should in no
way conflict with any existing or future work associated with Public Works.
Proper distance of trees from road edge to prevent any type interference must
be maintained.

Page 3, line 35, delete the word "annually."

Page 3, line 42, should read "...in this section. In addition, each applicant shall provide evidence of a valid business/occupational license."

Seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2013-10-01. Item No. 2013-10-01 was amended.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2013-10-01, as amended, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2013-10-01, as amended. Item No. 2013-10-01 was adopted, as amended.

New Business

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2013-26 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Providing for Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the Result of the Special Election Held in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, October 19, 2013, to Authorize the Renewal of A Special Tax Therein (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-26.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-26, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-26. Resolution No. 2013-26 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2013-27 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement With St. Tammany Parish Government in Connection With the Disposition Method for Proceeds of Adjudicated Property Sales (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-27.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-27, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-27. Resolution No. 2013-27 was adopted.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2013-28 -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement With the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Obligating the City of Covington to Assume all Legal Liability for and all Maintenance Cost of the Subject Sidewalk (Wright)

Councilman Wright led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2013-28.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-28, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2013-28. Resolution No. 2013-28 was adopted.

4. Amended Minutes from Council meeting held on September 17, 2013 (Alexius)

Council President Alexius read the following statement:

"We inadvertently failed to comply with the Open Meetings Law and to clarify what was discussed during the Executive Session on September 17, 2013, we are amending

the minutes from September 17th to reflect the cases discussed during the Executive (Strategy) Session.

Also, we acknowledge that in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, in the future we must include a statement identifying the court, case number and the parties relative to any pending litigation on all agendas when executive sessions will take place."

Council President Alexius stated that during the executive session on September 17, 2013, the following two cases were discussed:

Joshua Kentzel vs. Eric Driscoll, Richard Palmisano, Bradley Eckert, John Doe and City of Covington - Case #12-1626 L, US Eastern District Court

James A. Walker vs. Richard Palmisano, Officer John Doe and City of Covington – Case #2:12-CV01514, US Eastern District Court

Council President Alexius also stated that no votes were taken during the Executive Session on September 17, 2013.

Councilman Smith made a motion to amend the minutes from September 17, 2013 to include the two cases set out above, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to amend the minutes from September 17, 2013. The minutes from September 17, 2013 were amended to include the two cases set out above.

Items for discussion:

2014 Council meeting schedule (Alexius)

Council President Alexius presented the 2014 Council meeting schedule.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt the 2014 Council meeting schedule, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the 2014 Council meeting schedule. The 2014 Council meeting schedule was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A --

Councilman Callahan announced there will be a garage sale on Saturday, November 9th from 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. at the VFW Post 7286 on Ronald Reagan Highway.

2. District B --

Councilman Coner recognized the November birthdays for City employees.

3. District C --

Councilman Wright discussed the District C meeting which was held recently. Also, he gave an update on the St. Tammany Parish Inspector General Task Force.

4. District D --

Councilman Rolling mentioned that the third Covington Business Workshop held recently was a huge success and thanked everyone involved with the workshop. Also, he announced that the fourth workshop is being planned for January 2014. Also, he reminded everyone that the annual Caroline Darby Memorial Toys for

Tots Fund is getting underway with the Covington Police Officer's Recreation Association. Upcoming events: Three Rivers Art Festival on Saturday, November 9th and Sunday, November 10th from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in downtown Covington; Covington Art Market will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.; Deck the Rails on Saturday, December 14th at the Trailhead from 4 P.M. until dusk; and the Farmer's Market held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Also, he commented about the loss of a dear friend to the City, David Barfield, and mentioned that the CBA will present a celebration of David's life on November 14th at 5:30 P.M. at the Camellia House Bed and Breakfast.

5. District E --

Councilman Smith reminded everyone about the CBA meeting tomorrow night, November 6th, at 5:30 P.M. at the Seiler Bar on Columbia Street. Also, he mentioned that he has received many compliments on the new parking lot on Rutland Street.

6. At Large (Vice President) --

Councilman O'Keefe requested that the Mayor consider scheduling another Open House for the business community in an attempt to fill vacant commercial properties in the City. Also, he requested an update from the Mayor on the 23rd Avenue Bridge project. Also, he mentioned that the 35th Avenue project is moving along.

7. At Large (President) --

Council President Alexius gave a recap of the recent P&Z meeting. Also, he announced that Bonnie Champagne, Council Clerk, will serve as Custodian of Public Records for the City. Also, he gave special recognition to three City employees: (1) Nahketah Bagby for her work on two new projects on Hwy. 21; (2) Bonnie Champagne for obtaining the Certified Municipal Clerk designation; and (3) Rick Smith for performing the Heimlich maneuver on a person who was choking in a local establishment.

Police Chief Tim Lentz presented Councilman Rick Smith with the Police Officer's Life Saving Award for his recent heroic efforts.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He mentioned that the 23rd Avenue Bridge project will begin in the next few weeks;
- (b) He congratulated Bonnie Champagne for earning the Certified Municipal Clerk designation;
- (c) He commended Nahketah Bagby for her work on the recent projects on Hwy 21;
- (d) He thanked Larry Rolling for his work on the Business Workshop series;
- (e) He thanked Aimee Fauchaux for her work on the Rockin' the Rails concert series;
- (f) He reminded everyone about the Three Rivers Art Festival being held this weekend, November 9th and 10th; and
- (g) He gave an update on the 2013/2014 Street Improvement Project.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

- (a) She mentioned that the public meeting to discuss the Biggert-Waters Act and its effect on the City will be postponed pending the outcome of recently-filed legislation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council