

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2012**

(AUDIO SYSTEM MALFUNCTION – TAPE DID NOT RECORD)

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

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

ABSENT: Mark Wright

A Moment of Silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Alexius read a quote by the 17th President of the United States, Andrew Johnson.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). The consent calendar was adopted.

APPEARER

Roslyn Hanson presented an update on the plans of the Bicentennial Committee.

REGULAR AGENDA

Unfinished Business

A. Items to be voted on:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2012-03-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Redistricting the Single Member Council Districts for the City of Covington, Louisiana (Alexius)**

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Item 2012-03-02. Also, Mike Hefner from Geographic Planning & Demographic Services presented the recommended redistricting plan.

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

Councilman Rolling made a motion to amend Item 2012-03-02, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Item 2012-03-02 was amended.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Item 2012-03-02, as amended, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Item 2012-03-02 was adopted, as amended.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2012-03-03** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Portions of the Alley and Ox Lot in Square 9, Division of St. John, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Abandoned, Vacated, Closed and Not Needed for Public Purposes, Planning Case 12-01-01 Street/Alley Revocation (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Item 2012-03-03.

Councilman Coner 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 adopt Item 2012-03-03, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Item 2012-03-03 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-08** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Informing Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of the Following Actions Regarding the Sewerage Treatment Facility (MWPP) (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-08. Also, Mike Curtis from Curtis Environmental Services, Inc. presented the results of the MWPP Audit.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-08, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Resolution No. 2012-08 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-10** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council to Confirm Rollovers from the 2011 Budget to the 2012 Budget (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-10.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-10, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Resolution No. 2012-10 was adopted.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-11** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Mayoral Appointment of Peggy Desjardins Schoen to the Covington Historic District Commission (CHDC) for a Term of Four (4) Years (Alexius)

Mayor Cooper led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-11.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-11, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Resolution No. 2012-11 was adopted.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-12** – A Resolution by the Covington City Council in Support of the City of Covington’s Pursuit of Funding Through the Recreational Trails Program (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-12.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-12, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Resolution No. 2012-12 was adopted.

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-13** – A Resolution by the Covington City Council to Approve the City of Covington’s Application for Funding Consideration Under the Statewide Flood Control Program in Fiscal Year 2013-14 (Alexius)

Gina Hayes, Director of Administration, led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-13.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-13, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call: Yeas – 6, Absent – 1 (Wright). Resolution No. 2012-13 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison-

Council President Alexius stated that he, Councilman O’Keefe and City Attorney Rod Rodrigue met with Mayor Cooper this morning for an update/discussion on the affairs of the City.

(a) Historic Committee Update-None.

2. Community Development/Housing-None.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling announced upcoming events: There will be a meeting on the Historic District Design Guidelines on April 18th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers; Sunset at the Landing will take place on April 20th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; “Rockin’ the Rails” concerts will be held on April 19th and April 26th from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M.; and Spring for Art will be held on April 21st in the 200 and 300 blocks of Columbia Street from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Alexius mentioned that Phase 5-A of the Savannahs (28 lots) received final subdivision approval at the last P&Z meeting.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman O’Keefe stated that the Public Safety/Governmental Services Committee is working on some issues and will announce its findings in the next few weeks.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith announced there will be a one mile fun run/walk and a 5K run on April 28th at the Recreation Complex to benefit the Nature Trail. Volunteers are needed for this event.

7. Traffic and Transportation-None.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper’s comments:

- (a) The City was the district winner in the Cleanest City Contest and will compete in the State contest on Wednesday, May 9th at 8 A.M.
- (b) The movie, “Beautiful Creatures”, will be filming in downtown Covington;
- (c) The Regional Planning Commission will perform a feasibility study on a pedestrian/bike path to be constructed on North Jefferson Avenue;
- (d) A survey of the lights in the ox lots was performed by the Covington Police Department to determine which lights need to be replaced or new ones installed; and
- (e) Approval was received from Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne’s office to expand the Covington Cultural District.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

- (a) The pipelining project is ongoing;
- (b) The RFQ for engineering services received 43 responses. The Selection Review Panel has been given the files to review and will attempt to have the process completed by April 30th;
- (c) The capital projects for the 11th Avenue Bridge and #10 Lift Station will be going out to bid; and
- (d) Bids were let on the Boston Street Beautification Project and the award process is ongoing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President

/s/ _____
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council