

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2012**

Council President Alexius 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, Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None.

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

Council President Alexius read a quote by the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Wright 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

A. Items to be voted on:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2012-03-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract With Baby Lee LLC (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Item 2012-03-01. He mentioned there will be one change to the Lease of Property Agreement in that the term of the lease will be March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2017.

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 2012-03-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2012-03-01. Item 2012-03-01 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 announced that this Resolution has been removed from the Agenda and will be acted upon at the next Council meeting on April 17, 2012 at which time Mike Curtis of Curtis Environmental Services, Inc. will appear to discuss the results of the MWPP Audit.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Opposing Senate Bills 269 and 273 Concerning the Proposed Implementation of a Maximum Franchise Fee Collected From Some Utilities (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-09.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-09, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-09. Resolution No. 2012-09 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. Bicentennial Committee Update (Alexius)

Council President Alexius gave an update on the Bicentennial Committee and announced the next meeting will be held on April 11th at 6 P.M. in the Library at William Pitcher Jr. High School. The subject matter of the proposed artwork along with the artist will be chosen at this meeting.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison-

Council President Alexius mentioned that he and Councilman O’Keefe 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-

Councilman Callahan announced that the “Tire Round-up” was a great success and 464 tires were picked up.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling welcomed 13 new business license applications in March. Also, he recommended that all of the local businesses be notified of future commercial open houses. He commented that “A Taste of Covington” and the “Saturday Night Stroll” were very successful and the businesses are looking forward to next year. Upcoming events: The next CBA meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11th at 407 Restaurant; and “Rockin’ the Rails” will be held on April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead. Also, there will be an “Easter Roll” for children this Saturday at 10:00 A.M. at the Trailhead.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

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

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman O’Keefe commented that the Commercial Open House was a great event and he would like to see it held twice a year. Also, he requested that Public Works clean the right of way along Taylor Street near Pine View School and he commented that sidewalks are needed in this area for the school children. Also, he mentioned that Reverend Callahan from Greater Starlight Baptist Church requested

that the City close 28th Avenue during funerals. Also, he thanked the Covington Fire Department for the great crawfish at the St. Paul's Crawfish Cook-Off.

Council President Alexius thanked the Covington Fire Department for conducting the fire hydrant demonstration.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith announced that the "Swing in the Pines" free concert performed by the LPO will be held on Saturday, April 14th beginning at 5 P.M. in Bogue Falaya Park and the rainout date is April 15th.

7. Traffic and Transportation-

Councilman Wright announced that on Wednesday, April 4th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers, there will be a public meeting concerning the widening of Hwy. 21, which will be facilitated by the Regional Planning Commission and LA DOTD. Also, the Traffic and Transportation Committee and the Mayor met with Jeff Roesel from the Regional Planning Commission to discuss various projects. Also, there will be a District C public meeting on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) There were many events held in the City last weekend with an incredible number of people in attendance and he commended all City departments and organizations that assisted in these events;
- (b) The Commercial Open House was very successful and he thanked everyone who participated in this event; and
- (c) A report on upcoming state projects was given.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President

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