

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2011**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:10 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 James Madison, the fourth President of the United States.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

APPEARERS-

Dexter Accardo arrived later in the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Old Business

A. Items to be voted on:

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-07-01 –**
An Ordinance Enlarging The Boundaries Of The City Of Covington, Louisiana, Describing The Area To Be Annexed And Added Thereto, And Describing The New Boundaries Of Said Municipality And Also Classifying The Property As PRD (Planned Residential District) Under The Zoning Laws Of The City Of Covington (Zoning Case No. 11-5-01 ANNEX)
(Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item 2011-07-01.

Councilman Wright made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to table Item 2011-07-01 until October 4, 2011, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to table Item 2011-07-01 until October 4, 2011. Item 2011-07-01 was tabled until October 4, 2011.

Dexter Accardo, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for St. Tammany Parish, presented an update on hurricane preparedness.

B. Items for discussion: None.

New Business

A. Items removed from consent calendar: None.

B. Items to be voted on: None.

C. Items for discussion: None.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison

Council President Alexius stated that the entire Council and Mayor Cooper attended the Louisiana Municipal Association Convention in Shreveport recently. Some of them attended a retirement seminar and it was estimated that retirement contribution percentages will increase by 35% over the next several years. Also, he stated there was a Finance Committee meeting on August 12th and the main purpose was to discuss and address the retirement issue.

Council President Alexius announced that the term of the current Council-appointed member of the Civil Service Board expires on September 12, 2011. Four people have expressed interest in the appointment and each has been asked to submit a short bio for Council review. The Governmental Services Committee will schedule interviews with the candidates.

(a) **Historic Committee Update-None.**

2. Community Development/Housing-

Councilman Callahan stated that Mayor Cooper has approved the demolition of four houses in the West 30s and these houses will be demolished by volunteers. Also, he stated that he will give an update on the West 30s at the next Council meeting.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling stated he will schedule a meeting with the Mayor next week to discuss the City's vision for economic development. After the meeting, he will schedule his first Economic Development Committee meeting which will take place in the next few weeks. Also, he is having a District D Citizens' meeting in the conference room at the police station on August 30th at 6 p.m. He invites all citizens in District D to attend and discuss the issues in District D. Also, he received a notification today that between 9 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 17th, the water will be turned off on 19th between Johnson and St. Mary to install new fire hydrants.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Alexius stated there were six Council members at the kick-off meeting for the subdivision regulations. He encouraged the public to attend the next meeting which is scheduled for August 30th at 5:00 P.M. Also, the Planning and Zoning Committee met on August 9th and discussed parking issues.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman O’Keefe stated there will be a Public Works/Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for August 18th at 10:00 A.M. to discuss grease traps.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith stated the basketball tournament was held last weekend and it was a great success. He thanked the Mayor, his department heads, local businesses and Representative John Schroder for their support. He estimated that about half of the money needed for the roofs was raised at this fundraiser. Also, he requested an update from the Mayor regarding the Menetre boat launch and the docks.

Mayor Cooper stated that the Menetre boat launch is a priority for the Public Works Department and a survey was conducted to determine the materials and equipment needed.

7. Traffic and Transportation-

Councilman Wright reported that the Mayor sent a letter to DOTD in which he requested an accelerated widening of the roadway from Bootlegger to 11th Avenue.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor-

Mayor Cooper thanked the representatives from Cleco for attending the work session earlier this evening wherein they discussed their storm preparations. Also, he announced that IESI has started delivering the new recycling carts and everyone should have a new cart in the next few days. If the public would like to return the old carts, they are to put them upside down next to their recycling cart or garbage cart on the day of pickup. Also, he stated there was a DWI checkpoint on Boston Street last Saturday evening from 8 P.M. until 1:00 A.M. Sunday morning. One driver was arrested for DWI out of 1429 vehicles stopped.

2. Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr., City Attorney-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President

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