

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 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 11<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, James Polk.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**TREE BOARD NOMINEE**

Council President Alexius nominated Elizabeth Pfeffer Williams to fill the vacancy on the Tree Board.

**Councilman Rolling made a motion to accept Elizabeth Pfeffer Williams as a member of the Tree Board, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to accept Elizabeth Pfeffer Williams as a member of the Tree Board. Elizabeth Pfeffer Williams was appointed to the Tree Board.**

Ms. Williams was sworn in by City Attorney Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr.

**APPEARERS-None.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Unfinished Business**

**A. Items to be voted on:**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-12-05 –**  
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into an Intergovernmental Agreement with St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 12 to Provide for Fire Protection Services and the Collection of Fire Tax Millages (O'Keefe)

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion on Item 2011-12-05.

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

**Councilman Rolling made a motion to amend Exhibit “A” (the map) attached to the Fire Protection Services Agreement to include the five-acre Autin property and the five-acre Gulf States Bank property into the service area of the City of Covington Fire Department, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to amend Exhibit “A” as stated above. Exhibit “A” was amended.**

**Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item 2011-12-05, as amended, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-12-05, as amended. Item 2011-12-05 was adopted, as amended.**

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-10-05 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Enlarging the Boundaries of the City of Covington, Louisiana, Describing the Area to be Annexed and Added Thereto and Also Classifying This Property as CR - Regional Commercial District Under the Zoning Laws of the City of Covington - Zoning Case 11-11-03ANNEX (Smith) (TABLED ON DECEMBER 6, 2011)**

**Councilman Smith led a discussion concerning Item 2011-10-05.**

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

**Councilman Wright made a motion to amend Item 2011-10-05, as follows:**

**(1) Page 4, lines 16 and 17, shall read, “This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication of same in the St. Tammany Farmer, the official journal of the municipality, as well as the execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Covington and Fire District 12 and the execution of the Developmental Agreement between the City of Covington and Wal-Mart Louisiana, LLC.”**

**Seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item 2011-10-05. Item 2011-10-05 was amended.**

**Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item 2011-10-05, as amended, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-10-05, as amended. Item 2011-10-05 was adopted, as amended.**

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-12-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Establishing and Adopting Chapter 83, Fees, Article III. Public Records Request Fees, Sec. 83-3. Schedule of Public Records Request Fees (Alexius)**

**Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item 2011-12-02.**

**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 adopt Item 2011-12-02, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call: Yeas – 6; Abstain – 1 (Coner). Item 2011-12-02 was adopted.**

- 4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-12-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 86, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article II. Parades, Festivals and Other Special Events (Rolling)**

**Councilman Rolling led a discussion concerning Item 2011-12-04.**

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

**Councilman Wright made a motion to amend the Amended version of Item 2011-12-04, as follows:**

- (1) Page 1, line 34, strike “...provided they are Louisiana residents.”**
- (2) Page 2, lines 48 through 50, shall read, “There shall be no parking on the parade route to secure preferred parking more than thirty-six (36) hours prior to the scheduled parade or twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion, postponement or cancellation of any scheduled parade, or as properly posted.”**

**Seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to amend the Amended version of Item 2011-12-04. The Amended version of Item 2011-12-04 was amended.**

**Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Item 2011-12-04, as amended, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-12-04, as amended. Item 2011-12-04 was adopted, as amended.**

#### **New Business**

**Items to be voted on:**

- 1. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-01 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Between the City of Covington and Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C. for Professional Audit Services (Alexius)**

**Council President Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2012-01.**

**Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-01, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-01. Resolution No. 2012-01 was adopted.**

**Items for discussion:**

1. Re-districting Public Hearing (Alexius)

**Council President Alexius** announced that there will be a public meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss the re-districting proposals prepared by Geographic Planning & Demographic Services.

2. Homeowners' Insurance (Coner)

**Councilman Coner** stated it is his understanding that insurance companies in Louisiana are allowed to increase homeowners' insurance rates without receiving approval from the Insurance Department. He has requested information from the State representative to find out if this is correct. If so, he would like to send a resolution requesting that they pass legislation requiring insurance companies to appear before the Insurance Department before raising homeowners' insurance rates.

## COMMENTS AND REPORTS

### A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

#### 1. Administrative Liaison-

**Council President Alexius** stated that Administration will be accepting proposals to clean up the compost and green waste at the old City dump at no cost to the City.

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

#### 2. Community Development/Housing-

**Councilman Callahan** announced that on January 16, 2012, there will be a Martin Luther King parade starting at 10:00 A.M., leaving from Peter Atkins Park to the Greater Covington Center. After the ceremony at the Greater Covington Center, there will be a fun day at Peter Atkins Park starting at 1:00 P.M.

#### 3. Economic Development-

**Councilman Rolling** stated there will be a CBA meeting on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at Beck-N-Call Café on North Hampshire Street.

#### 4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-None.

#### 5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

**Councilman O'Keefe** encouraged discussion between the Covington Fire Department and Fire District 12 in light of the adoption of the Fire Protection Services Agreement.

#### 6. Recreation/CPOC-

**Councilman Smith** suggested arranging a fundraiser to be sponsored by the Covington Fire Department and Fire District 12 in an attempt to mend fences between the two departments.

#### 7. Traffic and Transportation-

**Councilman Wright** stated that the Traffic and Transportation Committee met in December with the Mayor and the Regional Planning Commission's Executive Director and Deputy Director. The RPC updated the Committee on long term projects around the City as well as what the RPC offers to municipalities.

### B. Administrative Comments and Reports

#### 1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

**Mayor Cooper** thanked the Council for supporting the Administration with regard to settling the dispute with Fire District 12.

**Mrs. Hayes** gave an update and led a discussion on Administrative and capital projects.

#### 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