

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 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 from the blog of Dr. Waylon Bailey, Pastor of First Baptist Church Covington.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Wright. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as President of the Council. Councilman O'Keefe was appointed President of the Council.

Councilman Coner made a motion to appoint Councilman Alexius as Vice President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Rolling. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Councilman Alexius as Vice President of the Council. Councilman Alexius was appointed Vice President of the Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Alexius. 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 2012-06-01 –**
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 7. Board of Adjustment (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item 2012-06-01.

Councilman Smith 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 Alexius made a motion to amend Item 2012-06-01 to delete paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) in Sec. 7.3. Board of Adjustment meeting procedure, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item 2012-06-01. Item 2012-06-01 was amended.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Item 2012-06-01, as amended, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2012-06-01, as amended. Item 2012-06-01 was adopted, as amended.

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2012-06-02 –
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Setting Forth the Adjusted Millage Rates (Alexius)**

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Item 2012-06-02.

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

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item 2012-06-02, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2012-06-02. Item 2012-06-02 was adopted.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2012-06-03 –
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Levying and Imposing Taxes on all Property Subject to Taxation in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, for the Year 2012 (Alexius)**

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Item 2012-06-03.

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

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Item 2012-06-03, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call - Yeas: 6; Nays: 1 (Wright). Item 2012-06-03 was adopted.

OPENING THE AGENDA

Council President O'Keefe requested a motion to open the Agenda to add Judge Will Crain as an Appearer.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to open the Agenda, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to open the Agenda. The Agenda was opened to add Judge Will Crain as an Appearer.

Judge Will Crain discussed his present position as State Court Judge of the 22nd Judicial District Court and his candidacy for the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-19** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Accepting the 2011 Audit Report Issued by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-19.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-19, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-19. Resolution No. 2012-19 was adopted.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-20** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the First Amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Implementing Grant Under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-20.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-20, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-20. Resolution No. 2012-20 was adopted.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-21** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Appointment of Jan Armand to the Covington Tree Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-21.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-21, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-21. Resolution No. 2012-21 was adopted.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-22** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Confirming the Appointment of Keith Villere to the Covington Tree Board for a Term of Three (3) Years (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-22.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-22, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-22. Resolution No. 2012-22 was adopted.

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-23** -- A Resolution of the Covington City Council Ordering and Calling a Special Election to be Held in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, to Authorize the Rededication of a Sales and Use Tax Therein; Making Application to the State Bond Commission in Connection Therewith; and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-23.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-23, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-23. Resolution No. 2012-23 was adopted.

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-24 --** A Resolution of the Covington City Council In Support of the Transfer of Land From Recreation District No. 10 to Recreation District No. 1 (Smith)

Councilman Smith led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-24.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-24, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-24. Resolution No. 2012-24 was adopted.

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-25 --** A Resolution of the Covington City Council to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Joint Agreement for Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-25.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-25, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-25. Resolution No. 2012-25 was adopted.

Items for discussion:

1. ELCA (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius reminded everyone that youth from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be in Covington this Thursday, Friday and Saturday to work on the Covington Cemetery No. 1 fence facing Columbia and Kirkland.

2. 2013 Budget Preparation (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius announced that Administration has started the 2013 budget preparation and all departments must have their preliminary budgets in no later than August 1st. Also, he reminded Council that if anyone has input or suggestions for any departments, please send them in before the deadline.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison-

Councilman Alexius gave an update on the sales tax collections thru June 2012. Also, he, Council President O'Keefe and Councilman Smith met with the Mayor for an update on the affairs of the City. In the future, each Council member will be given the opportunity to attend the meetings on a rotating basis. Also, the City has received its pre-clearance letter from the Department of Justice for the redistricting plan.

- (a) **Historic Committee Update-None.**
2. **Community Development/Housing-**

Councilman Callahan stated that the World Changers organization was in Covington last week working on houses in the W. 30s neighborhood. He thanked the organization along with all of the volunteers and supporters who worked on the project.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling announced that he and Pam Keller have scheduled a meeting with Brenda Reine-Bertus to discuss the Covington Business Workshop which is scheduled to be held in the Fall. Also, he reminded everyone of upcoming events: Friday, July 30th, Columbia Street Landing concert from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Saturday, July 21st, Bastille Day from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; and Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, July 25th from 9 A.M. until 10 A.M. at the Trailhead.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Councilman Alexis stated that P&Z had a meeting last night with two cases on its agenda; a resubdivision and a zoning change request.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-None.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith announced there will be a CPOC meeting tomorrow at 1 P.M. at the Council Chambers.

7. Traffic and Transportation-None.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

Mayor Cooper congratulated the new Council President, Sam O'Keefe, and commended the job performed by Lee Alexis as the Council President for the past year.

City Engineer Daniel Hill gave an update on City projects.

Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (1) The City received two grants from the State of Louisiana: (i) an LGAP grant for miscellaneous drainage and bridge improvements in the amount of \$20,700; and (ii) a Community Water Enrichment Fund grant to upgrade the water system (Inserta valves) in the amount of \$33,500.
- (2) The City received a letter from Senator Mary Landrieu regarding the Community Disaster Loan from Katrina in the amount of \$1.8M plus interest . The City may be allowed to delay payment of the loan and the Mayor is hopeful that consideration will be given to forgive the entire loan.
- (3) The owners of the Southern Hotel received a demo permit to start the initial cleaning process of the building and contents. Also, their new website is available for viewing.
- (4) Two public meetings have been held by the Regional Planning Commission to receive public input for the conceptual improvements for North Jefferson Avenue.
- (5) Three new restaurants have begun preparation of their sites; two on Boston Street and the other in the Sorelli building.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

Mrs. Hayes announced that tomorrow morning, the Public Works Department will begin the process of capping off an old well in the area of Columbia, Theard, Gibson and New Hampshire Streets.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
R.S. "SAM" O'KEEFE
Council President

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