

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 5, 2011**

Councilman 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to appoint Councilman Alexius as President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Coner. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas – Callahan, Coner, Wright, Rolling, Smith and O'Keefe; Abstain: Alexius. Councilman Alexius was appointed President of the Council.

Councilman Coner made a motion to appoint Councilman O'Keefe 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: Yeas: Callahan, Coner, Wright, Rolling, Smith and Alexius; Abstain: O'Keefe. Councilman O'Keefe was appointed Vice President of the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL CLERK

Councilman Coner made a motion to appoint Bonnie Champagne as Council Clerk, seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Bonnie Champagne as Council Clerk.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL CONFIRMATIONS

Mayor Cooper appointed Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr. as City Attorney for the City of Covington. Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to confirm Julian J. Rodrigue as City Attorney, seconded by Councilman Coner. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr. as City Attorney for the City of Covington.

Mayor Cooper appointed Jeremy D. Goux as City Magistrate for the City of Covington. Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to confirm Jeremy D. Goux as City Magistrate, seconded by Councilman Rolling. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Jeremy D. Goux as City Magistrate for the City of Covington.

Mayor Cooper appointed Gina T. Hayes as Director of Administration for the City of Covington. Councilman Rolling made a motion to confirm Gina T. Hayes as Director of Administration, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Gina T. Hayes as Director of Administration for the City of Covington.

Mayor Cooper appointed Richard Badon as Fire Chief for the City of Covington. Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to confirm Richard Badon as Fire Chief, seconded by Councilman Coner. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Richard Badon as Fire Chief for the City of Covington.

Mayor Cooper appointed Timothy Williams as Recreation Director for the City of Covington. Councilman Smith made a motion to confirm Timothy Williams as Recreation Director, seconded by Councilman Wright. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Timothy Williams as Recreation Director for the City of Covington.

Mayor Cooper appointed Carl Rebouche as Director of Public Works for the City of Covington. Councilman Wright made a motion to confirm Carl Rebouche as Director of Public Works, seconded by Councilman Rolling. There was no discussion by the Council or public concerning this confirmation. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Carl Rebouche as Director of Public Works for the City of Covington.

Council President Alexius read two quotes directed to the City Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPEARERS-

A. Barry Morse discussed a “winter averaging” billing method for sewer charges. Comments by Council followed.

REGULAR AGENDA

Old Business

- A. Items to be voted on: None.**
- B. Items for discussion: None.**

New Business

- A. Items removed from consent calendar: None.**
- B. Items to be voted on:**

1. **RESOLUTION 2011-10** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council to Amend the 2010 Budget to Adjust 1957 and 1982 Sales Tax Funds (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on this resolution.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-10, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-10. Resolution 2011-10 was adopted.

2. RESOLUTION 2011-11 – A Resolution Levying, Imposing and Adopting the Current Millage Rates on All Property Subject to Taxation in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, for the Year 2011 (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on this resolution.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-11, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-11. Resolution 2011-11 was adopted.

C. Items for discussion:

1. Mile Branch Cleaning – Columbia to 21st Avenue (O’Keefe)

Councilman O’Keefe led a discussion on this matter.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison

Council President Alexius discussed the Council Committees; the retirement systems for the fire and police departments; and the meeting with the auditors concerning the 2011 audit.

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

2. Community Development/Housing-None.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling stated there will be a CBA meeting tomorrow at Sarraille’s Brick Oven Restaurant on Columbia Street. Also, Bastille Day is Saturday, July 16 – 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Columbia Street and Lee Lane.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Alexius discussed the draft of the Subdivision regulations that was given to each Council member this evening. Also, he mentioned that a Planning Workshop conducted by Steve Villavaso will be scheduled for the Council.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-None.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith announced that registration for Little League football has started at City Hall and the Recreation facility. Also, he mentioned they are trying to raise money to put a canopy over one of the basketball courts at Peter Atkins Park. There will be a Patron Party/fundraiser on August 6th at the Columbia Street Tap Room and Restaurant.

7. Traffic and Transportation-

Councilman Wright stated that DOTD sent a press release notifying the public that Hwy. 21 will be closed on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 and Wednesday, July 13, 2011 from 8:00 PM until 6:00 AM for the installation of the STPH Skybridge.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor-

Mayor Cooper commented on his first day in the office.

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

Council President Alexius commented on La. Revised Statute 42:19.

Councilman Coner led a discussion on the accuracy of the Council district map.

Covington resident Gay Barnes led a discussion on The Groves development and property taxes.

Covington resident Gary Barnes led a discussion on the police and fire retirement system and the collection of fines for violations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President

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