

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2011**

Council President Faust called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Frances Dunn, Clarence Romage, Mark Sacco, Marty Benoit, Lee Alexius, Trey Blackall and Matt Faust

ABSENT: None

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Alexius led a discussion concerning the major changes in the proposed garbage contract.

Councilman Blackall made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Sacco. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

APPEARERS-

A. Mary Toti from the Council on Aging, St. Tammany, was not able to appear. She rescheduled for the meeting on June 21st.

B. Ron Willette discussed the "Soap Bubbles for Kidz Cancer" fundraiser.

REGULAR AGENDA

Old Business

A. Items to be voted on:

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-04-04

An Ordinance Of The City of Covington Amending The Following Provisions Of The Covington Code Of Ordinances: Chapter 98 Utilities, Sec. 98-122. Water Rates. And Sec. 98-123. Sewerage Rates (Blackall)

Councilman Blackall led a discussion concerning Item 2011-04-04.

Councilman Sacco made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Alexius. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman Blackall made a motion to adopt Item 2011-04-04, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call: Yeas: 5; Nays: 2 (Sacco and Benoit). Item 2011-04-04 was adopted.

New Business

A. Items removed from consent calendar: None.

B. Items to be voted on:

1. Naming the Official Journal for the City of Covington (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on this matter.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt The St. Tammany Farmer as the Official Journal for the City of Covington for one year providing there is no conflict with the Service Contract ordinance, seconded by Councilman Benoit. Roll call was unanimous to adopt The St. Tammany Farmer as the Official Journal for the City of Covington.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-09** – A Resolution of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Cooperative Agreement between the City of Covington and St. Tammany Parish to Undertake Eligible Community Development and Housing Assistance Activities Within the City of Covington Jurisdiction and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith, All to be Pre-approved by the Town and Parish Before Activities Take Place. (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Resolution 2011-09.

Councilman Alexius made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-09, seconded by Councilwoman Dunn. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-09. Resolution 2011-09 was adopted.

C. Items for discussion:

1. 2011 Street Overlay Program (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on the street overlay program.

2. Status of Bi-Centennial Committee Formation (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius requested an update on the formation of the committee.

Mayor Watkins stated she did not have a chance to gather the information and requested this item be placed on the June 21st Agenda.

3. Board of Adjustment Appointments (Alexius)

Council President Faust led a discussion on the appointment of Robert Hewitt to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate.

Council President Faust made a motion to confirm Robert Hewitt to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate and “at large” appointment for a 2 year term, seconded by Councilman Sacco. Roll call was unanimous to confirm Robert Hewitt to the Board of Adjustment.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. **Administrative Liaison**

Councilman Alexius stated there will be a Finance Committee meeting tomorrow morning at 8:30. Topics to be discussed will be the street overlay program, 11th Avenue bridge repairs, the River Forest project and status of St. Paul’s drainage

project. He requested updates from the Mayor on the River Forest and 19th Avenue Bridge projects.

Mayor Watkins stated the 19th Avenue Bridge should be open this weekend and the River Forest bid opening is June 16th.

(a) **Historic Committee Update**-The Historic Committee has a special meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a pavilion area at SSA.

2. Community Development/Housing

Councilwoman Dunn stated Charles Buki was in town last week to work on the West 30s implementation plan and there were two steering committee meetings. Also, the ribbon cutting for the basketball courts at Peter Atkins Park is next Saturday, June 18 at 2 p.m. On the last weekend of July (July 29, 30 and 31), there will be a 3 on 3 basketball tournament to raise funds to cover one of the basketball courts. Also, there is a patron party the following weekend.

3. Economic Development-

Council President Faust stated the next CBA meeting is Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at Seiler Bar.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Faust mentioned that the Groves development has filed its annexation request.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman Blackall discussed an anonymous letter from a concerned citizen regarding parking issues in the 800 block of Columbia Street; water leaks around the city; issues with the sewer treatment plant; the sewer system to the end of 14th Avenue; and the placement of the STPH Skybridge.

6. Recreation-

Councilman Alexius stated the bathroom for Peter Atkins Park was delivered last Friday. He commented that the whole complex looks great with the exception of children throwing glass and rocks into the pool.

7. Traffic and Transportation-

Councilman Benoit discussed the 19th Avenue bridge project.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor-

Mayor Watkins stated that the Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp is full and that over 100 kids signed up. She thanked Mr. Doyle Coatney for his \$25,000 donation for the summer camp. Also, she thanked Parish President Kevin Davis and Bruce Crouch and his staff for allowing the B&GC to use the Fair Association building at the St. Tammany Parish Fairgrounds for the camp.

2. Alex J. Peragine, City Attorney-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
Matthew T. Faust
Council President

/s/ _____
Bonnie D. Champagne
Clerk to the Council