

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2012**

(AUDIO SYSTEM MALFUNCTION – TAPE DID NOT RECORD)

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 15th President of the United States, James Buchanan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

REGULAR AGENDA

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-07** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, to Follow the Recommendations of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, as to the Implementation of Fair and Reasonable Regulations on Wetland Habitat Assessment and Compensation for Wetland Impacts (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-07.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-07, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-07. Resolution No. 2012-07 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison-

Council President Alexius announced that the rollover and encumbrances report has been completed. Also, he gave an update on the sales tax collection.

(a) Historic Committee Update-None.

2. Community Development/Housing-

Councilman Callahan announced there will be a “Tire Round-up” at Peter Atkins Park from March 24th through March 31st. The public should contact Wayne Mayberry in the Code Enforcement office for information.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling announced there will be an Economic Development Committee meeting the 2nd week of April. Upcoming events: “Coffee with Mayor Cooper” on Wednesday, March 28th from 9 A.M. until 10 A.M.; “Rockin’ the Rails” will be held on April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 5 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. at the Trailhead; “A Taste of Covington” will be held from March 29th through April 1st; and on Friday, March 30th the City will host a Commercial Open House beginning at 9:30 A.M. at the Trailhead for realtors and potential buyers/renters to tour available commercial properties.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Alexis mentioned that Oak Alley Phase 2-A which contains 44 lots, received conditional final subdivision approval at the last P&Z meeting.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman O’Keefe announced there will be a Public Works/Public Safety Committee meeting next week to discuss the ordinance concerning excessive barking dogs.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith announced the “Swing in the Pines” concert performed by the LPO will be held on Saturday, April 14th beginning at 5 P.M. in Bogue Falaya Park. Also, there will be a City-wide cleanup day on Saturday, March 24th beginning at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead.

7. Traffic and Transportation-

Councilman Wright announced that on Wednesday, April 4th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers, there will be a public meeting concerning the widening of Hwy. 21, which will be facilitated by the Regional Planning Commission and LA DOTD.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper’s comments:

- (a) The new City Engineer, Daniel Hill, was introduced to the Council and public;
- (b) Lonnie Johnson was recognized for his years of service to the City of Covington and a Proclamation was read in his honor;
- (c) Wal-Mart should begin construction in the next few weeks;
- (d) A new Frostop restaurant will be opening in the old Pizza Hut location on Hwy. 190;
- (e) Bank of New Orleans will be opening a new branch on S. Tyler Street;
- (f) Work has begun on the restrooms at Hubie Gallagher Park;
- (g) Reminder about upcoming events: Art Market on Saturday, March 31st from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M.; the Lions’ Club Car and Bike Show will be held on Saturday, March 31st; and the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, March 31st beginning at 6 P.M.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-

Mrs. Hayes announced that an RFQ for engineering services was issued and 43 formal responses were received. The Professional Service Contracts Committee will be formed within the next few weeks and hopefully, the process will be completed by end of April. Also, the Downtown Pipelining Project begins on March 21st and should take about a month to complete or until approximately May 1st. The work will be performed from 7 P.M. until 7 A.M. weekdays except on Fridays when the work will be performed during the day. Also, the City’s new website has been launched and the address is: www.covla.com.

Councilman Coner reminded everyone that the Clean City Contest will take place on Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

3. 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