

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2012**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:15 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 14th President of the United States, Franklin Pierce.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Coner 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

Mr. Cliff Bergeron from the Covington Business Association made a presentation on the upcoming event, "A Taste of Covington" (Rolling)

Ms. Lynn Weber, Community Representative from the American Cancer Society, discussed the Relay for Life event (Wright)

Mayor Cooper read a Proclamation proclaiming March 5, 2012 through April 1, 2012 as "Paint the Town Purple Days."

REGULAR AGENDA

Unfinished Business

Items to be voted on:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2012-02-01** – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending Chapter 98, Utilities, Article IV. Rates and Charges, Sec. 98-122. Water Rates, and Sec. 98-123. Sewerage Rates (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item 2012-02-01.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no objection to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item 2012-02-01, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2012-02-01. Item 2012-02-01 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

- 1. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-06** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council in Support of Creating an Advisory Committee to Study and Streamline the St. Tammany Parish Sales Tax Code (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Resolution No. 2012-06.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-06, seconded by **Councilman Wright**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2012-06. Resolution No. 2012-06 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison-

Council President Alexius announced that the July 3rd City Council meeting has been cancelled due to the holiday week.

(a) Historic Committee Update-None.

2. Community Development/Housing-

Councilman Callahan announced there will be a “Trash Bash” in the West 30s on March 10th from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. starting at Bogue Chitto Park.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling announced there were four new business licenses issued in February 2012 and on February 23rd, ribbon cuttings were celebrated at new businesses. Upcoming events: CBA meeting on Wednesday, March 7th at 407 North Restaurant at 5:30 P.M.; “Taste of Covington” will be held from March 29th through April 1st; and the Relay for Life will be held on March 31st at Covington High School.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Alexius mentioned the revocation of a portion of the ox lot and alley associated with the Southern Hotel was approved at the last P&Z meeting.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman O’Keefe announced there will be a Neighborhood Watch Meeting for Area #1 on Thursday, March 8th at 6 P.M. in the St. Paul’s Cafeteria.

6. Recreation/CPOC-

Councilman Smith requested the status from the Mayor concerning the restrooms at Hubie Gallagher Park.

7. Traffic and Transportation-

Councilman Wright announced that on Thursday, 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:

- The City will host a Commercial Open House on Friday, March 30th beginning at 9:30 A.M. at the Trailhead for realtors and potential buyers/renters to tour available commercial properties.
- There is a project to remove tree stumps in the public rights of way and approximately 250 tree stumps will be removed in this phase of the project.
- The next “Coffee with Mayor Cooper” is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead. Future events will be held quarterly; possible change in the venue and time.

(d) The project to install restrooms at Hubie Gallagher Park is moving forward and there should be some activity in the next two weeks.

2. **Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.**
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