

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 3, 2011**

Council President Faust called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call was as follows:

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

ABSENT: Mark Sacco

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Councilman Blackall** made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Alexius. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. Absent: Sacco.

**APPEARERS-**

- A. Carl Perkins led a discussion concerning Item 2011-04-02.
- B. Connie Jenkins led a discussion concerning a tornado relief drive for Smithville, MS.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Old Business**

**A. Items to be voted on:**

**1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-04-01**

An Ordinance Of The City of Covington Amending The Following Provision Of The Covington Code Of Ordinances: Chapter 18 Buildings and Building Regulations (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion concerning Item 2011-04-01.

**Councilman Romage** made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Blackall. The public hearing was closed.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to amend Item 2011-04-01 as follows:

- (a) Page 2, Sec. 18-33.3. Right of entry – Change title to “No right of entry.”
- (b) Page 7, “\$2,500 for the first \$500,001 plus \$2 for...” – Change to “\$2,500 for the first \$500,001 plus \$5 for...”
- (c) Page 33, Sec. 18-98(f), strike “in the opinion of the code compliance officer or building official or their designee.”
- (d) Page 24, paragraph (c), fifth line, change “nay” to “may.”

**Councilman Blackall** seconded the motion to amend Item 2011-04-01. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item 2011-04-01. Absent: Sacco. Item 2011-04-01 was amended.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to adopt Item 2011-04-01, as amended, seconded by Councilman Blackall. Roll call: Yeas: 5; Nays: 1 (Benoit). Absent: Sacco. Item 2011-04-01 was adopted, as amended.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-04-02**

An Ordinance Of The City Of Covington Amending The Following Provision Of The Covington Code Of Ordinances: Chapter 42 Environment, Article IV. Abandoned, Inoperative, Dismantled, Junk And Wrecked Vehicles, Sec. 42-113. Right To Enter Upon Private Property, And Sec. 42-113.1. Notice To Owner Or Occupant To Abate Public Nuisance On Occupied Or Unoccupied Premises (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion concerning Item 2011-04-02.

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

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to amend Item 2011-04-02 as follows:

(a) Page 1, line 35, insert the word “open” – “The Covington Police Department or the code compliance officer shall be authorized to enter upon open private property...”

**Councilman Blackall** seconded the motion to amend Item 2011-04-02. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item 2011-04-02. Absent: Sacco. Item 2011-04-02 was amended.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to adopt Item 2011-04-02, as amended, seconded by Councilman Romage. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-04-02, as amended. Absent: Sacco. Item 2011-04-02 was adopted, as amended.

**New Business**

**A. Items removed from consent calendar:**

**1. INTRODUCTION OF 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 on Item 2011-04-04.

**Councilman Blackall** made a motion to introduce Item 2011-04-04, seconded by Councilman Romage. Roll call: Yeas: 5; Nays: 1 (Benoit). Absent: Sacco. Item 2011-04-04 was introduced.

**B. Items to be voted on:**

**1. RESOLUTION 2011-05 – A Resolution Acknowledging Receipt And Compliance With Questionnaire From The Legislative Auditor’s Office (Alexius)**

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Resolution 2011-05.

**Councilman Blackall** made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-05, seconded by Councilwoman Dunn. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-05. Absent: Sacco. Resolution 2011-05 was adopted.

**2. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-06** – A Resolution To Confirm Rollovers From 2010 Budget To The 2011 Budget (Alexius)

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on Resolution 2011-06.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-06, seconded by Councilman Romage. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-06. Absent: Sacco. Resolution 2011-06 was adopted.

**3. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-07** – A Resolution Giving Preliminary Approval To The Issuance Of Not Exceeding Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,900,000) Of Public Improvement Sales Tax Refunding Bonds, Of The City Of Covington, State Of Louisiana; Making Application To The State Bond Commission For Approval Of Said Bonds; And Providing For Other Matters In Connection Therewith (Alexius)

**Bond Attorney Jerry Osborne** led a discussion on Resolution 2011-07.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-07, seconded by Councilman Benoit. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-07. Absent: Sacco. Resolution 2011-07 was adopted.

**4. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-08** – A Resolution Making Application To The State Bond Commission For Consent And Authority To Issue, Sell And Deliver Not Exceeding \$850,000 Of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Of The City Of Covington, State Of Louisiana, All In The Manner Provided For By Chapter 14-A Of Title 39 Of The Louisiana Revised Statutes Of 1950, As Amended, And Other Constitutional And Statutory Authority Supplemental Thereto And Providing For Other Matters In Connection Therewith (Alexius)

**Bond Attorney Jerry Osborne** led a discussion on Resolution 2011-08.

**Councilman Alexius** made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-08, seconded by Councilman Benoit. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution 2011-08. Absent: Sacco. Resolution 2011-08 was adopted.

**C. Items for discussion:**

**1. Board of Adjustment Appointments (Alexius)**

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion concerning the appointment of the Board of Adjustment members.

**Councilman Benoit** made a motion to confirm the following members to the Board of Adjustment:

Leonard White	2 yr term
Sam Fauntleroy	3 yr term
Phyllis Gremillion	4 yr term
William Leach	5 yr term
Charlie Maestri, Jr.	Alternate – 3 yr term

**Councilman Alexius** seconded the motion. Roll call was unanimous to confirm the members listed above to the Board of Adjustment. Absent: Sacco.

**Councilman Alexius** stated there are two appointments to the Board of Adjustment still to be made from District B and At Large (Faust).

**Board of Adjustment** appointees, Phyllis Gremillion, William Leach and Charlie Maestri, Jr., were sworn in by City Attorney Alex Peragine.

## COMMENTS AND REPORTS

### A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

#### 1. Administrative Liaison

**Councilman Alexius** led a discussion on the light poles in downtown; the community disaster loan payback; and gave an update on the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge project.

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

#### 2. Community Development/Housing

**Councilwoman Dunn** expressed her appreciation to the individuals involved with the amendment of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances which involves the policies and procedures for the code compliance official. Also, she mentioned that the basketball court should be completed by May 28<sup>th</sup> and thanked the New Orleans Hornets.

#### 3. Economic Development-

**Council President Faust** stated the next CBA meeting is Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Mattina Bella Restaurant.

#### 4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-None.

#### 5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

**Councilman Blackall** stated the public hearing on the utility rate ordinance will be on June 7, 2011. Also, he mentioned to the Administration that there is serious subsidence on New Hampshire Street in front of Kentzel Printing. Also, as an update, the Skybridge for STPH should be installed at the end of June or first week of July. This may entail closing Tyler Street from a Friday afternoon until Sunday evening.

#### 6. Recreation-None.

#### 7. Traffic and Transportation-None.

### B. Administrative Comments and Reports

#### 1. Mayor-

**Mayor Watkins** stated she has been working on the sewer ordinance and will forward to Councilman Alexius for his review.

**Mayor Watkins** announced that the service contract selection committee has recommended IESI for renewal of the garbage contract. Administration will meet with representatives of IESI to negotiate a new contract. The Mayor stated that suggestions and comments will be accepted from any interested parties.

#### 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