

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 6, 2011**

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 10<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, John Tyler.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion concerning the request by Administration to open the agenda to add an item to the consent calendar.

There were no objections by the public to open the agenda and add an item to the consent calendar.

**Councilman O'Keefe** made a motion to open the agenda to add the following item to the consent calendar, which item will be introduced by title only:

**Item 2011-12-05 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into an Intergovernmental Agreement with St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 12 to Provide for Fire Protection Services and the Collection of Fire Tax Millages (O'Keefe)**

**Seconded by Councilman Coner.** Roll call was unanimous to open the consent calendar. The consent calendar was opened.

**Councilman Wright** made a motion to adopt the consent calendar with the addition of Item 2011-12-05, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar with the addition of Item 2011-12-05. The consent calendar was adopted with the addition of Item 2011-12-05.

**APPEARERS-**

**Representative John Schroder** gave an update on the basketball courts at Peter Atkins Park.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Unfinished Business**

A. Items to be voted on:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-10-03 –**  
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Portions of the Alley and Ox Lot in Square 9, Division of St. John, City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Abandoned, Vacated, Closed and Not Needed for Public Purposes for Planning Case 11-11-02 SAC (Alexius)

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion on Item 2011-10-03. Also, he stated the property has been sold and this item has been withdrawn. No action is required by the Council.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-10-04 –**  
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Declaring Surplus Certain Vehicles and Equipment Owned by the City of Covington (Alexius)

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion concerning Item 2011-10-04.

There were no comments by the public regarding Item 2011-10-04.

**Councilman Rolling** made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by **Councilman Smith**. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

**Councilman Rolling** made a motion to amend Item 2011-10-04, as follows:

- (1) Page 1, delete lines 14 and 15; and
- (2) Page 1, line 21, change "33:4712" to "49:125."

Seconded by **Councilman Wright**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item 2011-10-04. Item 2011-10-04 was amended.

**Councilman Coner** made a motion to adopt Item 2011-10-04, as amended, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-10-04, as amended. Item 2011-10-04 was adopted, as amended.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-10-05 –**  
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Enlarging the Boundaries of the City of Covington, Louisiana, Describing the Area to be Annexed and Added Thereto and Also Classifying This Property as Regional Commercial District (RCD) Under the Zoning Laws of the City of Covington - Zoning Case 11-11-03ANNEX (Smith)

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion concerning Item 2011-10-05.

There were no comments by the public regarding Item 2011-10-05.

**Mayor Cooper** stated that this matter will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission on December 12, 2011 and it is inappropriate for the Council to act on this matter at this time.

**Councilman Rolling made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.**

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to table Item 2011-10-05 until January 3, 2012, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to table Item 2011-10-05 until January 3, 2012. Item 2011-10-05 was tabled until January 3, 2012.**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-11-01 –  
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Adopting Appendix A,  
Subdivision Regulations (Alexius)**

**Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning Item 2011-11-01.**

There were no comments by the public regarding Item 2011-11-01.

**Councilman Smith made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Wright. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.**

**Councilman Smith made a motion to amend the Subdivision Regulations as follows:**

- (1) Page 12, Section 3.3(G), should be changed to read "...Planning Commission are available..."**
- (2) Page 15, Section 3.4(C)(3), should be changed to read "...Clerk of Court."**
- (3) Page 15, Section 3.4(D), should be changed to read "...to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany."**
- (4) Page 18, Section 3.5(D), should be changed to read "...to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany."**
- (5) Page 20, Section 3.6(D), should be changed to read "...to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany."**
- (6) Page 26, Section 3.6(J), should be changed to read "...to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany."**
- (7) Page 34, Table 5.1, should be replaced with the AASHTO Geometric Design of Highways and Streets Table including Notes (a), (b) and (c) below the table.**

**Seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to amend the Subdivision Regulations. The Subdivision Regulations were amended.**

**Councilman Wright made a motion to amend the Ordinance itself as follows:**

- (1) Page 1, line 28, should be changed to read "...February 1, 2012..."**

**Seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to amend the Ordinance itself. The Ordinance identified as Item 2011-11-01 was amended.**

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item 2011-11-01, with the amendments stated above to the Ordinance itself and to the attached Subdivision Regulations, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-11-01, as amended. Item 2011-11-01 was adopted, as amended.**

- 5. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-11-02 –  
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Chapter 98, Utilities, and Chapter 50, Health and Sanitation (O'Keefe)**

**Councilman O'Keefe led a discussion concerning Item 2011-11-02.**

There were no comments by the public regarding Item 2011-11-02.

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.**

**Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item 2011-11-02, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-11-02. Item 2011-11-02 was adopted.**

#### **New Business**

##### **Items to be voted on:**

**Council President Alexius led a discussion concerning the request by Administration to open the agenda to add a Resolution under New Business, Items to be voted on.**

There were no comments or objections by the public to open the agenda under New Business.

**Councilman Coner made a motion to open the agenda under New Business to add an item, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to open the agenda under New Business to add an item. The agenda was opened.**

**Councilman Coner made a motion to add under New Business, Items to be voted on, the following resolution:**

**Resolution 2011-29 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Between Michael Weiner, Esq. of Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC and the City of Covington and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith,**

**Seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to add Resolution 2011-29 under New Business, Items to be voted on. Resolution 2011-29 was added to the agenda under New Business, Items to be voted on.**

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-28** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Exclusive Contract Agreement With Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. to Provide Emergency and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Service (O’Keefe)

**Councilman O’Keefe** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2011-28.

**Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-28, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2011-28. Resolution No. 2011-28 was adopted.**

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-29** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Between Michael Weiner, Esq. of Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC and the City of Covington and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith

**Council President Alexius** led a discussion on Resolution No. 2011-29.

**Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-29, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2011-29. Resolution 2011-29 was adopted.**

**Items for discussion:**

1. Removal of trees from private property (Wright)

**Councilman Wright** led a discussion concerning the process for removal of trees from private property. The Planning & Zoning/Annexation Committee will schedule a meeting with the Tree Board and members of Administration to review and discuss the process.

**COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

**A. Council Committee Comments and Reports**

**1. Administrative Liaison-**

**Council President Alexius** stated there was a Finance Committee meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup> and the topics discussed were subdivision fees, public records request fees and arbitrage rebate. Also, he has been notified that the Firefighters’ Retirement System rate will increase to 36% effective July 1, 2012. Also, concerning the Groves’ annexation, a letter was received from First NBC stating they are in the process of issuing the letter of credit in the amount of \$300,102.

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

**2. Community Development/Housing-None.**

**3. Economic Development-**

**Councilman Rolling** stated that in November there were 14 new business licenses issued by the City and year to date, 101 have been issued. Also, he thanked the Mayor for his work with the Southern Hotel and the economic development that it will bring. There will be a CBA meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at T-Bone’s Grill in Tyler Square. The Covington Police Officers Recreation Association is collecting toys for children, newborn to 12 years of age. Also,

Christmas in the Country starts Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, continuing on December 17<sup>th</sup> and December 24<sup>th</sup>, with live music from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

**4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-**

**Council President Alexius** stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> and the issues to be discussed are Wal-Mart and Oak Alley.

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

**Councilman O'Keefe** mentioned that hopefully there will be an Intergovernmental Agreement executed with the fire districts in the next 30 days. Also, he commended the Fire Department for the job they did regarding a fire this morning involving a fatality. Also, he thanked the Police Department for working hard to protect the public safety of the citizens.

**6. Recreation/CPOC-**

**Councilman Smith** mentioned there will be a meeting tomorrow at 4 P.M. at the Bogue Falaya Park and invites public input regarding the proposed dog park. Also, he requested a meeting with the Mayor to discuss some of the issues that may arise as a result of losing the Burns' fields.

**7. Traffic and Transportation-**

**Councilman Wright** stated there may be a meeting on Friday with the Regional Planning Commission. Also, he stated that the Blues Harmonica Festival went well.

**B. Administrative Comments and Reports**

**1. Mayor Cooper's comments:**

**Mayor Cooper** deferred his initial comments to Gina Hayes, Director of Administration.

**Mrs. Hayes** gave an update and led a discussion on Administrative and capital projects.

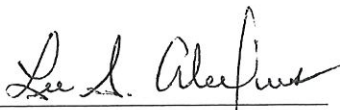
**2. Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr., City Attorney**

**Mr. Rodrigue** stated that he hopes to have a draft of the Intergovernmental Agreement to provide to the Council by the end of this week.

**Mayor Cooper** stated that he feels the Administration and Council have accomplished a lot in the first six months in office and looks forward to working together during the next year. Also, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Council President Alexius**, on behalf of the City Council, wished the members of the audience and the citizenry of Covington, a happy and blessed holiday season.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



LEE S. ALEXIUS  
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
Clerk to the Council