

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 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 James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPEARERS-None.

New Business

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT (Coner)

Councilman Coner made a motion to appoint Edmond d'Hemecourt III to the Board of Adjustment, seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Edmond d'Hemecourt III to the Board of Adjustment.

Mr. d'Hemecourt was sworn in by Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr., City Attorney.

CITY PARKS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT (Coner)

Councilman Coner made a motion to appoint Jill Giberga to the City Parks Oversight Committee, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Jill Giberga to the City Parks Oversight Committee.

Ms. Giberga did not attend the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Old Business

A. Items to be voted on:

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-08-02 –**
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the 2011 Recreation Capital Budget to Appropriate Funds for Improvements and Equipment for Recreation Facilities (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item 2011-08-02.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Item 2011-08-02, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-08-02. Item 2011-08-02 was adopted.

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-08-03 -**
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 4. General Provisions, Sec. 4.3. Accessory use regulations, Sec. 4.304. Residential zones and Sec. 4.305 Development standards. (Alexius)

Nahketah Bagby, City Planner, led a discussion on Item 2011-08-03.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item 2011-08-03, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-08-03. Item 2011-08-03 was adopted.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-08-04 –**
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 3. Use Districts, Sec. 3.19. ID institutional, Sec. 3.1902. Permitted uses. (Alexius)

Nahketah Bagby, City Planner, led a discussion on Item 2011-08-04.

Councilman Wright made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Item 2011-08-04, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item 2011-08-04. Item 2011-08-04 was adopted.

- 4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-08-05 –**
An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 7. Board of Adjustment (Alexius)

Nahketah Bagby, City Planner, led a discussion on Item 2011-08-05.

Councilman Callahan made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-05 as follows:

- (1) Page 4, line 2, the word “compromise” should be changed to “compose”.**
- (2) Page 4, line 8, should read “...its own chairman and vice chairman, who shall serve for one year.”**

Councilman Coner seconded the motion to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-05. Roll call was unanimous to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-05. Item 2011-08-05 was amended.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-05, as amended, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-05, as amended. Item 2011-08-05 was adopted, as amended.

- 5. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-08-06 –**
An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2011, of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, Prescribing the Form, Fixing the Details and Providing for the Rights of the Owners Thereof; Providing for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on Such Bonds and the Application of the Proceeds Thereof to the Refunding of Certain Bonds of Said City; Awarding Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof; and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith (Alexius)

Mr. Jerry Osborne, Bond Counsel, led a discussion on Item 2011-08-06.

Councilman Coner made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Rolling. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Wright made a motion to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-06 as follows:

- (1) Page 2, lines 47 and 48, should read, ““Paying Agent” shall mean Capital One Bank, in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana...”**
- (2) Page 2, lines 56 and 57, should read, ““Purchaser” shall mean Capital One Public Funding, LLC, in the City of Melville, New York.”**
- (3) Page 4, lines 30 through 39, the interest rate should read “2.09%” on each line.**
- (4) Page 7, lines 27 and 28, should read, “...The designation of Capital One Bank, in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana...”**

Council President Alexius noted that the blanks in the exhibits to the ordinance will be filled in with the pertinent information once the bonds are issued. The exhibits will be on file in the Council office.

Councilman Coner seconded the motion to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-06. Roll call was unanimous to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-06. Item 2011-08-06 was amended.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-06, as amended, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-06, as amended. Item 2011-08-06 was adopted, as amended.

- 6. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM 2011-08-07 –**
An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Public Improvement Sales Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2011, of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana; Prescribing the Form, Fixing the Details and Providing for the Rights of the Owners Thereof; Providing for the Payment of Such Bonds and the Application of the Proceeds Thereof to the Refunding of Certain Bonds of Said City; Awarding Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith (Alexius)

Mr. Jerry Osborne, Bond Counsel, led a discussion on Item 2011-08-07.

Councilman Coner made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Wright. There being no objection to closing the public hearing, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Coner made a motion to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-07 as follows:

- (1) Page 6, lines 32 and 33, should read, ““Paying Agent” means Capital One Bank, in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana...”**
- (2) Page 6, lines 42 and 43, should read, ““Purchaser” shall mean Capital One Public Funding, LLC, in the City of Melville, New York.”**
- (3) Page 8, lines 25 through 35, the interest rate per annum should read “2.09%” on each line.**
- (4) Page 15, lines 13 and 14, should read, “...The designation of Capital One Bank, in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana...”**
- (5) Page 16, lines 36 and 37, should read, “...the Bonds submitted by Capital One Public Funding, LLC, in the City of Melville, New York...”**

Councilman Wright seconded the motion to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-07. Roll call was unanimous to amend the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-07. Item 2011-08-07 was amended.

Councilman Callahan made a motion to adopt the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-07, as amended, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the ordinance identified as Item 2011-08-07, as amended. Item 2011-08-07 was adopted, as amended.

Mr. Osborne stated the closing will take place on November 2, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in his office located in One Canal Place, Canal Street, New Orleans, LA.

New Business

A. Items removed from consent calendar: None.

B. Items to be voted on:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-13** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Authorizing the Construction of a Driveway in a Portion of the Unopened Alley in Square 503, Division of New Covington (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Resolution No. 2011-13.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-13, seconded by Councilman Callahan. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2011-13. Resolution No. 2011-13 was adopted.

2. **CIVIL SERVICE BOARD** – Nomination and Appointment (O’Keefe)

Councilman O’Keefe thanked the six individuals who expressed interest in serving on the Civil Service Board. The Governmental Services Subcommittee recommended Robert R. “Rusty” Barkerding, Jr. as the governing authority appointment to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to appoint Robert R. “Rusty” Barkerding, Jr. as the governing authority appointment to the Civil Service Board, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Robert R. “Rusty” Barkerding, Jr. as the governing authority appointment to the Civil Service Board.

Mr. Barkerding did not attend the meeting. He will be sworn in at a later meeting.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-14** – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Supporting the Application of a Grant Through the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) to Assist in Funding Health and Safety Related Bridge Repairs Throughout the City (Wright)

Councilman Wright led a discussion on Resolution No. 2011-14.

Councilman Wright made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-14, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2011-14. Resolution No. 2011-14 was adopted.

C. Items for discussion:

1. Budget Process Review (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on the budget review process.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council Committee Comments and Reports

1. Administrative Liaison

Council President Alexius discussed the sales tax reports.

(a) Historic Committee Update-

Council President Alexius mentioned there is a Historic Committee meeting on September 13, 2011.

2. Community Development/Housing-

Councilman Callahan stated that on September 11th, the West 30s Community Development Project Neighborhood Remembrance celebration will be held at Reverend Atkins Park from 4:00 until 7:00. There will be free food, free games, a talent show and swimming.

3. Economic Development-

Councilman Rolling stated the CBA has a meeting on September 7th at 407 North on Columbia. Upcoming events at the Trailhead: Coffee with the Mayor will be held on September 28th at 9:00 A.M.; Rockin' the Rails will be held on October 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th, 5 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.; and on October 14th and 15th, Covington October Fest will be held. Also, he met with the Mayor to discuss economic development and the Economic Development Committee will meet during the third week of September. Also, the District D meeting was held last Tuesday and about 25 citizens attended.

4. Planning & Zoning, Annexation-

Council President Alexius stated that Planning and Zoning has held two workshops on the subdivision regulations. The subdivision regulations will appear on P&Z's Agenda in October. After the meeting, the Council will schedule a public hearing/workshop to discuss the subdivision regulations. Also, P&Z has a meeting scheduled for September 19th.

5. Public Safety/Governmental Services-

Councilman O'Keefe stated that the Public Works/Public Safety Committee met to discuss grease traps and the ordinance is in the process of being revised.

6. Recreation/CPOC-None.

7. Traffic and Transportation-None.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

(a) An update on the effects of TS Lee on the City, which were minimal. Coastal will pick up tree limbs and debris piles on Wednesday and Thursday of this week and next week.

(b) The initial meeting of the 2013 Bicentennial Planning Committee was held last week which was attended by approximately 40 people. The next meeting will be held on September 14th at William Pitcher Junior High School.

(c) On Sunday, September 11th, there will be ceremonies and activities in Covington in memorial of the 9/11 tragedy. The Junior Corps at Pitcher Junior High School will have a National Day of Service in which the students will collect food goods and donations on behalf of the Covington Food Bank. Also, the American Legion Post 16 will have a memorial service at the Justice Center at 6 P.M. on Sunday, September 11th.

(d) The consultant has indicated that the Police and Fire Efficiency Study will be delivered to the Mayor by October 15th.

(e) An update on the Public Works projects in the City was given.

(f) The City has contracted with a private contractor for maintenance of the grass at the City cemeteries.

(g) An update on the water and sewerage rates was given by Gina Hayes.

Councilman Wright led a discussion concerning the River Forest drainage project.

Councilman Smith led a discussion on the permits for the boat launch and the time frame for repairing the docks.

Councilman Smith mentioned there will be a “River Sweep” sponsored by Keep Covington Beautiful on September 17th at 9:00 A.M. at Menetre Boat Launch to pick up litter and trash in the river.

Councilman Rolling led a discussion on the drainage issue at the intersection of Jefferson and 10th avenues and the amount of erosion at the intersection.

Councilman Coner led a discussion concerning the bridge on Covington Point Drive.

2. Julian J. Rodrigue, Jr., City Attorney-None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Rolling made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the pending litigation entitled, “Richard Badon, et al vs. Fire District 12, et al,” seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to go into Executive Session.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:30 P.M.

Councilman Coner made a motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Councilman O’Keefe. Roll call was unanimous to come out of Executive Session.

Council came out of Executive Session at 8:20 P.M.

Council President Alexius stated that no action or votes were taken during the Executive Session.

Mary Lynn Leach led a discussion on the drainage issues on W. 23 and W. 24 avenues near Barkley Parc and handed out copies of photographs of the area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President

/s/ _____
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Clerk to the Council