ORDINANCE # 2021-15(E)
INTRODUCED BY ROLLING
DATE INTRODUCED 9-2-2021
ITEM NUMBER 2021-9-01
PUBLIC HEARING 9-2-2021
ADOPTED/TABLED 9-2-2021
EFFECTIVE 9-2-2021
BOOK # _____ PAGE # _____
RECORDATION # _____
AMENDED BY ORDINANCE # _____
DATE AMENDED _____

CITY OF COVINGTON
STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-15(E)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON ADDRESSING RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE IDA

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Covington has made a Declaration of Emergency dated August 27th, 2021, and effective August 27th at 6:00 P.M. CST; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida and its aftermath have created a public emergency affecting life, health, property, public safety within the meaning of Covington Home Rule Charter Section 2-14(A); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has provided notice of this Emergency Public Meeting and holds this public hearing in accordance with the emergency provisions of La R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(iv) et. seq.

WHEREAS, the City Council is able to conduct, and its members may attend and participate in the meeting virtually per La R.S.42:17.1(A)(1).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Covington, at its Emergency session convened, that the City of Covington does pass this Emergency Ordinance which, absent the assignment of a specific time herein, shall be enforceable for only sixty (60) days from the effective date of the Declaration of Public Emergency or until revocation of the Declaration of Public Emergency, whichever occurs sooner:

1) The City Council ratifies the Mayor's Declaration of Public Emergency; and
2) To the extent the Mayor deems it to be in the best interest of the Citizens of Covington, the City of Covington shall follow the emergency plan as implemented by the Parish of St. Tammany; and

3) To the extent the Mayor deems it to be in the best interest of the Citizens of Covington, the City of Covington shall follow its own emergency plan, deviate from the parish's emergency plan or deviate from its own emergency; and
4) All fines for violations of City of Covington Ordinances which exacerbate the emergency situation, or prey upon citizens made more vulnerable by the emergency, shall be doubled unless greater fines are set forth herein; and
5) The City will enforce the building permit requirement for damaged properties; and
6) The City temporarily waives building permit fees for the repairs of damaged properties;
7) The City temporarily waives special use permit fees for PODS for damaged properties;
8) The City temporarily suspends permit requirements for tree cutting and land clearing only in so far as necessary to remove trees damaged and other debris deposited by Hurricane Ida;
9) All contractors charging a fee for providing services to residents shall be required to possess a valid state contracting license. The City of Covington shall present an approval sticker to each contractor, upon verification of licensure. Any contractor who commences construction without verification of licensure shall be liable unto the City of Covington for a fee of $5,000.00 per violation and shall be permanently barred from performing such services in the City of Covington; and

10) In the City of Covington Historic District, no Certification of Appropriateness shall be required to return the property to the same condition in which it existed prior to the storm; and

11) The Mayor shall be authorized to engage in the following acts, and absent specific restrictions herein, the only requirement shall be that he report his actions to the Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting:

1) Execute any and all contracts necessary for the emergency repairs of infrastructure;

2) Transfer any unencumbered appropriation balance in the operating budget from one department, office or agency to another to meet budget shortfalls for emergency expenses other than capital improvements necessitated by Hurricane Ida, with immediate notification thereafter to the chairman of the Finance Committee. Any reimbursement of these expenses shall be reallocated in the budget to the original department, office or agency line item;

3) Take all steps reasonably calculated to lead the emergency relief, including the execution of contracts to carry out any of the matters authorized herein and to sign any documents necessary to seek reimbursement of City expenditures form the Federal Emergency Management Association or other Federal, state, or local sources.

WHEREUPON, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council, of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION by Botsford, seconded by Roberts, was then submitted to a vote; the vote thereon being as follows:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION by Verret, seconded by Botsford.

YEAS: 7 **ABSENT:** 0

NAYS: 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of September, 2021.

/s/ Larry Rolling
LARRY ROLLING
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

/s/ Jo Ann D. Rucker
JOANN D. RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Presented to the Mayor this 2nd day of September, 2021, at 5:16 o'clock P.M.

/s/ Jo Ann D. Rucker
JOANN D. RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Approved ✓ or Vetoed 2nd by the Mayor on this 2nd day of September, 2021.

/s/ Mark Johnson
MARK R. JOHNSON
MAYOR

Received from the Mayor on the 2nd day of September, 2021, at 5:17 o'clock P.M.

/s/ Jo Ann D Rucker
JOANN D. RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK