

**CITY OF COVINGTON**  
**COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**EMERGENCY MEETING PERTAINING TO HURRICANE IDA**  
**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 02, 2021**

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM VIDEO**  
**CONFERENCE AND YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM**

**Council President Rolling** called the emergency meeting to order addressing the aftermath of Hurricane Ida that occurred on August 29, 2021.

**Roll call was as follows:**

**PRESENT:** Peter Lewis Sr., John Botsford, Mark W. Verret, Rick Smith, Joey Roberts, Cody Ludwig and Larry Rolling.

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Mayor Mark R. Johnson, Chief Administrative Officer Erin Bivona, and City Attorney, Rod Rodrigue

**Council President Rolling** stated we have suffered some damage in the City of Covington and surrounding areas. We have all been affected in some sort of way and the citizens of Covington have suffered a lot of damage. It's heartbreaking. He stated he wanted to thank the Mayor and Administration, the Department heads, and City Employees. The City Council members have been out there working hard in the community. He thanked Erin , City of Covington CAO for doing a wonderful job communicating and getting the meeting together.

**INTRODUCTION OF ITEM NO. 2021-09-01-** An Emergency Ordinance Of The City Of Covington Addressing Response And Recovery In The Aftermath Of Hurricane Ida. (Rolling)

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2021-09-01-** An Emergency Ordinance Of The City Of Covington Addressing Response And Recovery In The Aftermath Of Hurricane Ida. (Rolling)

**Mrs. Erin Bivona, Chief Administrative Officer** gave an overview of why this ordinance is being presented to the Council for consideration. She stated we are in a response mode after the storm. An emergency declaration was issued prior to the storm, to allow us to respond. She continued to explain the reasoning for the emergency ordinance saying it will allow us to informally recognize the emergency and allow us to enter into contracts as needed and report back to the council.

**Councilman Rolling** opened the discussion up for public comments. There were no public comments

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

**Councilman Botsford** stated he just wanted to let everyone know something he had clarified with Erin. If a contractor is licensed through the State of Louisiana, they are insured.

**Councilman Lewis** asked a question on the contractor license.

**Rod Rodrigue** explained that the contractor had to have a State Contractor License so it would have to be shown to the Building Inspector or Code Enforcer when asked.

**Mayor Johnson** stated that the permitting process can be done by email. Lora Matherne is working remotely and handling that. In addition, they can still go online and print the application and drop it in the night box and let Chris Brown, Building Official know.

**Mayor Johnson** asked **Erin Bivona, CAO** is there was something in the ordinance concerning state of emergency and how that would affect payroll and how we are limited on who can stay on staff and who cannot?

**Mrs. Erin Bivona, CAO** stated once an emergency declaration is issued, the master plan goes into effect. We are only focusing on employees working that are responding directly to the emergency or that need to come in that need to make sure that essential governmental services or infrastructure are still functioning.

**Councilman Lewis** asked the timeline for FEMA reimbursements.

**Mrs. Erin Bivona, CAO** explained that cannot be answered at this time

**Councilman Verret** made a motion to adopt Item No. 2021-09-01 **seconded by Councilman Botsford**. **Roll Call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2021-09-01. Item No. 2020-09-01 was adopted.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
LARRY ROLLING  
Council President

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
JOANN RUCKER  
Council Clerk