ORDINANCE # 2024-23
INTRODUCED BY BOTS FORD
DATE INTRODUCED 11-12-2024
ITEM NUMBER 2024-11-02
PUBLIC HEARING 12-10-2024
ADOPTED/TABLED 12-10-2024
EFFECTIVE 12-25-2024
BOOK # _____ PAGE # _____
RECORDATION # _____
AMENDED BY ORDINANCE # _____
DATE AMENDED _____

ADOPTION

INTRODUCTION

**CITY OF COVINGTON**
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-23**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARCHON INFORMATION SYSTEMS, L.L.C., D/B/A CIVICSOURCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF AN ONLINE AUCTION AND SALE OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Covington previously conducted its own property tax sales and immovable properties were adjudicated to the City of Covington for the non—payment of ad valorem property taxes; and

**WHEREAS,** these adjudicated properties remain on the adjudicated property tax roll until such time as these properties are redeemed by the full payment to the City of Covington of all taxes due and full payment to the City of Covington of any applicable recorded liens assessed to the property by the City of Covington, or are sold or transferred as indicated hereinafter; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Covington does not have the adequate resources to market and satisfy the legal requirements to handle the sale of its inventory of adjudicated properties; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Covington cannot offer any assurance of clear title or availability of title insurance to prospective purchasers of its adjudicated property through its current process; and

**WHEREAS,** many of these adjudicated properties are abandoned and contribute to blight; and

**WHEREAS,** the goal of the City of Covington in the sale of adjudicated

properties is to encourage the redemption of these properties or return them to commerce, productive use and to the active tax rolls, to stimulate economic development, to increase property tax and other tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Covington is of the opinion that an online sale and auction of adjudicated properties, with the promise of title insurance, will increase the redemptions of adjudicated properties and increase the number of sales of adjudicated properties in the City of Covington;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that the Mayor of the City of Covington be and is hereby authorized to enter into and execute a professional services agreement with Archon Information Systems, L. L. C. d/b/a Civic Source for the establishment and administration of a market-driven process to sell eligible adjudicated properties of the City of Covington by online public auction and/or through an adjoining landowner program and for execution and oversight of all legal due diligence efforts necessary for compliance with applicable Federal, State and local laws and to ensure title insurance shall be available to the purchasers of such properties.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the Mayor of the City of Covington is hereby authorized on behalf of the City of Covington to execute any and all other documents legally required and reasonably necessary to effectuate the transfer of all legal rights, title, and interest in and to the adjudicated properties purchased at the online public auction or adjoining landowner program as set forth above.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of

this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**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 Inman.

**YEAS:** 6 **ABSENT:** 1

**NAYS:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 10th day of December, 2024.

MARK VERRET
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOANN RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Presented to the Mayor on this 10th day of December, 2024, at 1:27 o'clock P.M.

JOANN RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Approved ✓ or Vetoed ___ by the Mayor on this 10th day of December, 2024.

MARK R. JOHNSON
MAYOR