

**Hammond City Council Members**

**Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales- President**  
**Councilman Sam DiVittorio- Vice President**  
**Councilman Devon Wells**  
**Councilman Kip Andrews**  
**Councilman Steve Leon**

**City Council Clerk, Tonia Banks**  
**City Attorney, Andre Coudrain**



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
July 28, 2020  
5:30pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Gonzales, called to Public Hearing to order at 5:30pm**

**II. ROLL CALL: Steve Leon (P), Devon Wells (P), Carlee Gonzales (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Kip Andrews (P)**

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. An ordinance to accept completion of work on the Commerce Street improvements and cul-de-sac, to release performance bond/letter of credit in the amount of \$287,935.00, and acceptance of 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$28,793.50 in accordance with as built plans by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 6/17/2020 (Case#ROW-2019-07-00009).** Tracie Schillace, thanked Larry Tycer and his family for making improvements everything is inspected and up to par. The required 2 year maintenance bond has posted.

**There were no public comments**

**2. An ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Vashaun L. Moore to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting all code requirements on Lots 8 & 9 Blk 10 Greenville Park Subdivision located at 108 & 110 W. Louisa West Street; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2020-05-00076). Recommend approval (4-1) with the following conditions by the Zoning Commission:**

- a) This approval shall be with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon a change in ownership of Vashaun L. Moore; and**
- b) Must meet all placement requirements for a manufactured home.**

Tracie Schillace, stated that Mr. Moore must meet the required conditions and this is not in a proposed mobile home area but, there are mobile homes in the area.

**Vashaun Moore, 107 West Stovall Street was presents**

**There were no public comments**

**3. An ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Dianne W. Hooks to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting all code requirements on Lot 20 Rosehill Park Subdivision located at 2401 Center Ave.; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2020-06-00077). Recommend approval (5-0) with the following conditions by the Zoning Commission:**

- a) This approval shall be with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon change in ownership of Dianne W. Hooks; and**
- b) Must meet all placement requirements for a manufactured home.**

Tracie Schillace, stated this property is located in a proposed mobile home area

**Dianne Hooks was present at the meeting**

**There were no public comments**

**4. An ordinance to create the Accrual Buyout Fund.** Lacy Landrum, stated this is to create a fund reserved for retirement buyout and accrued time which must be paid by the City.

**Councilman Wells, stated this is not about retirement but about accrued time due by City for retirement**

Lacy Landrum, yes that is correct

There were no public comments

**5. An ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for FY 2020 - 2021 and to transfer \$300,000 from the Police Administration Retirement line item into the Accrual Buyout Fund.** Lacy Landrum stated this would move money from HPD line item to accrual buyout fund.

**Question from Public Online:** are funds available to be paid out not just at the time of retirement?

**Lacy Landrum:** this is not to be used to cash out K time- the City will still have K time and vacation buyouts to be absorbed by the department but not with this fund.

There were no public comments



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA**

**July 28, 2020**

**6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Councilwoman Gonzales called Regular Session to order 5:45pm

**II. ROLL CALL:** Steve Leon (P), Devon Wells (P), Carlee Gonzales (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Kip Andrews (P)

**III. PRAYER:** Councilman Andrews

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All veterans and active military, please render the proper salute.  
Councilwoman Gonzales

**V. REPORTS:**

**1. Council:**

**A. Nicholas Stoulig ( Not Present)**

**Councilman Wells** stated Mr. Stoulig wanted a flag for the City of Hammond - this will be discussed later.

**B. Demetrius Carter:** stated he came before the Council last year concerning the demolition scope of work and what needs to be done. The paperwork that the contractors need to go by has not been put together for contractors to go by for demolitions and as a contractor we need that so everyone would be on the same page. Also, he mentioned not receiving the correct information from the City. Stated he would like to know where the City is at with providing this information.

**Mayor,** stated demolitions will now go through purchasing as with all other bids and the City Attorney will be involved with documents and thinks this will be clarified.

**Lacy Landrum,** City will have a checklist for demolition and if you win that project you will receive a letter that will give you notice about a notice to proceed of a start date and when you need to be finished. There will be also be a pre demolition meeting with the contractor that wins each project that consists of someone in Code Enforcement to confirm the address, the location, and confirm the checklist. If any changes need to be made during process we can use a Change Order process.

**Councilman Wells,** we're still doing it the old way and wants to see how the construction is done.

**Councilwoman Gonzales,** asked that the checklist be sent to the Council so they will know how it works

**C. Jamal Mosley:** informed the Council that he was the contractor that tore down the wrong house. There were 2 houses at the same location and he was told to go by the address for demolition and he tore down the home with that address and has not been paid for the work. He stated he submitted the lowest bid for last round of demolition work and was told all bids were rejected. He lost money because he rented storage units and put together a crew but work was not awarded due to all bids were rejected.

**Bobby Mitchell, City Code Enforcement Officer** stated there were confusions between contractors but not the City. There were 2 houses on the same lot 2413 Center the blue house was on the picture that was provided to the Council and all contractors and in the bids - but the brown house was torn down. He stated Mr. Mosley should have raised questions with the City before he tore it down.

**Jamal Mosley,** stated it wasn't clear which location because it was by the picture or address – he asked prior to starting asked go by picture or address and was told address. He informed the Council he has spent money on a location not being clear of the address and on bids that were rejected and lost money on both ends.

**Lacy Landrum,** stated you had not received the demolition permit

**Jamal Mosley,** stated he applied for the bid and was waiting for permit and also preparing for the project not aware the bids were going to be rejected.

**Councilwoman Gonzales,** stated as to what you lost Mr. Mosley in your claim, the Council cannot award you money you should speak with the Administration and Legal to see if any of that money is recoverable

**Attorney, Andre Coudrain,** stated the City cannot pay something that's not due. In this case the wrong house was torn down but it was not because of misinformation provided by the City it was acknowledged by the contractor that there was a discrepancy and it should have been cleared up by the contractor with the City before the house was torn down. On the other expenses occurred, this was before Mr. Mosley received the demolition permit from the City, so this was the contractors' risk.

**Question from Public Online:** were you notified by the City that you were awarded the recent bid

**Jamal Mosley:** yes

**Lacy Landrum:** stated there was not an official letter or permit

**Councilman Wells,** asked Mr. Mosley how know you were awarded the bids

**Jamal Mosley,** stated he received a text saying won the bids

**Bobby Mitchell,** by request, he sent out text if contractors are not in attendance of what the bids opening were, they will send a copy of the list of bids. This is to just to verify the numbers, not to start the work.

**Councilman Andrews,** stated it sounds to him that receiving that text just gave them the ok but would want this process to be clear for the contractors

**Jamal Mosley** stated Mr. Mitchell stated they will try to recover money back and he didn't know if it was going to be from the City or the owners of 2413 Center Street.

**Bobby Mitchell** stated he informed Mr. Mosley he could speak with the owners of 2413 Center to recover his funds due to him tearing the wrong house down.

**2. Mayor:**

**A. Amwaste Report: Representatives are present from Amwaste**

**Mayor**, stated the City recycles twice a month and Amwaste contracts for curbside pickup for recycling and the City received complaints on recycling. The City also has issues with trash pickup.

**Dustin Fortenberry, District Manager Amwaste: 732 East Railroad Ave., Independence** is familiar with the City work and with prior administration- the biggest change was recycling. There is an increase in volume since March and that increases route times. The second hurdle is the number of employees to work - it's hard to get employees. There are also mechanical issues to keep equipment serviced. We're working hard to provide the service and think there have been improvements and brought in new equipment. He thinks recycling needs to be changed - the old system is not working because only 30% is sellable the rest goes to landfill but AmWaste will still pickup recycling until system can be changed.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, stated he has not received any complaints this week

**Councilman Wells** stated he appreciates what they are doing in district #3 and talked to the employees who work on the truck and they said there is more trash.

**Mr. Dustin Fortenberry left cards with his phone number**

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**Councilman DiVittorio**, stated he received a call about a development on Natchez and Corbin and it's a tax credit development called the Burrow – he has talked to residents who oppose the development. He wants to address this before it gets carried away.

**Tracie Shillace**, stated she received a phone call from the developer and they were putting together a site plan to present it to the Planning Commission and they will try to get on the September agenda.

**Lacy Landrum**, stated there are 3 possible developments and these developments did not apply to the Louisiana Housing Corporation for building permits - they are approved for tax credits not permits.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, the City and residents need to be notified and asked that a public hearing be held to review and discuss.

**Lacy Landrum**, stated we need to have information on projects to have public hearing.

**Tracie Schillace**, stated no public hearing has been set

**Mayor**, Friday July 31, 2020 from 9 to 12 at Hammond Westside there will be the Back Pack giveaway drive thru. The Police & Fire Millage vote is important for people to go out and vote.

Lacy Landrum, stated the election is August 15 - early voting has started and goes on for the next two weeks it is a renewal not a new tax.

**Councilman Wells Left the Meeting**

**V. Minutes of July 14, 2020: There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of July 14, 2020**

**Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (A), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)**  
**Motion Approved 4-0**

**VII. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$19,776 grant application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase radio equipment for the Hammond Police Department.** Charles Borchers IV, stated this is an annual allocation for grant program and will be used to purchase radio equipment - there is no match.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews supporting the submission of a \$19,776 grant application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase radio equipment for the Hammond Police Department.**

**Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)**  
**Motion Approved 4-0**



2. A resolution 1) accepting a \$44,400 grant from the Traffic Safety Grant Program for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. Charles Borchers IV, stated this is an annual program, the City applied for \$45,000 and received \$44,400

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews 1) accepting a \$44,400 grant from the Traffic Safety Grant Program for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 4-0

3. A resolution accepting "Air Traffic Control Tower Build-out" (Project 31706) as substantially complete and beginning the 45-day lien period for payment of retainage. Charles Borchers IV, stated this project was to deliver 3 floors and install an elevator and is happy to say everything has been completed

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio accepting "Air Traffic Control Tower Build-out" (Project 31706) as substantially complete and beginning the 45-day lien period for payment of retainage.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 4-0

4. A resolution to purchase one (1) Pierce Enforcer 75-foot Ladder Truck from Siddons Martin Emergency Group, LLC for a total amount of \$799,510.07. Chief Daniel Folks, stated this is an addition to the fleet- the existing truck can be used, but the new truck is better for fire service and for public safety.

#### **Councilman Wells Returned to the Meeting**

Mayor, stated the dept. has been saving for 6 years for this

Lacy Landrum, stated the new ladder truck can go higher and go low and better for firefighter safety

Chief Folks, stated the millage money will be used for this

Sal Nicolosi (public)- stated this is an expensive truck - did the City get other bids

Question from Public Online: did the City consider other bids

Chief Folks stated this is on State contract and it goes through that bid process to get the best price

Mayor stated this is what the millage is for and it's vital to the City of Hammond and this is the State contract price

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to purchase one (1) Pierce Enforcer 75-foot Ladder Truck from Siddons Martin Emergency Group, LLC for a total amount of \$799,510.07.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 5-0

5. A request to appeal a decision made by the Hammond Historic District Commission of an application to relocate the structure at 206 East Morris Street. This Application was presented and approved by the Hammond Historic District Commission on June 17, 2020. Melanie Ricketts, stated she is appealing the decision to move the building at 206 E Morris. This is a contributing building and no preservation action was taken and no information was presented that the structure was unsound. This house should be protected- the vote from the Planning Commission was 3 Yeas, 1 No, 1 Recusal. The decision not backed on preservation and is inconsistent with prior Commission decisions. This should be about preservation of the building. This is not about Economic Development - the guidelines were not followed. She asked the Council to to overturn the decision.

Jennie Garcia (Historic District) – stated the minutes of the meeting were sent to Council members

Scott Bellward, owner of project was present and stated he is available to answer any questions- he wants to combine offices

Mayor, stated he is glad to have them in the Community

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to deny the appeal and uphold decision made by the Hammond Historic District Commission of an application to relocate the

structure at 206 East Morris Street. This Application was presented and approved by the Hammond Historic District Commission on June 17, 2020.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Abstain), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 4-0

#### VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to accept completion of work on the Commerce Street improvements and cul-de-sac, to release performance bond/letter of credit in the amount of \$287,935.00, and acceptance of 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$28,793.50 in accordance with as built plans by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 6/17/2020 (Case#ROW-2019-07-00009).

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to adopt an ordinance to accept completion of work on the Commerce Street improvements and cul-de-sac, to release performance bond/letter of credit in the amount of \$287,935.00, and acceptance of 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$28,793.50 in accordance with as built plans by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 6/17/2020 (Case#ROW-2019-07-00009).

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 5-0

2. Final adoption of an ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Vashaun L. Moore to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting all code requirements on Lots 8 & 9 Blk 10 Greenville Park Subdivision located at 108 & 110 W. Louisa West Street; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2020-05-00076). Recommend approval (4-1) with the following conditions by the Zoning Commission:

- a) This approval shall be with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon a change in ownership of Vashaun L. Moore; and
- b) Must meet all placement requirements for a manufactured home.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt an ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Vashaun L. Moore to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting all code requirements on Lots 8 & 9 Blk 10 Greenville Park Subdivision located at 108 & 110 W. Louisa West Street; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2020-05-00076). Recommend approval (4-1) with the following conditions by the Zoning Commission:

- a) This approval shall be with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon a change in ownership of Vashaun L. Moore; and
- b) Must meet all placement requirements for a manufactured home.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 5-0

3. Final adoption of an ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Dianne W. Hooks to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting all code requirements on Lot 20 Rosehill Park Subdivision located at 2401 Center Ave.; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2020-06-00077). Recommend approval (5-0) with the following conditions by the Zoning Commission:

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There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt an ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Dianne W. Hooks to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting all code requirements on Lot 20 Rosehill Park Subdivision located at 2401 Center Ave.; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2020-06-00077). Recommend approval (5-0) with the following conditions by the Zoning Commission:

- a) This approval shall be with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon change in ownership of Dianne W. Hooks; and
- b) Must meet all placement requirements for a manufactured home.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y)  
Motion Approved 5-0

4. Final adoption of an ordinance to create the Accrual Buyout Fund.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to adopt an ordinance to create the Accrual Buyout Fund.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Abstain), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Abstain), Kip Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 3 - 0

5. Final adoption of an ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for FY 2020 - 2021 and to transfer \$300,000 from the Police Administration Retirement line item into the Accrual Buyout Fund.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to adopt an ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for FY 2020 - 2021 and to transfer \$300,000 from the Police Administration Retirement line item into the Accrual Buyout Fund.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Abstain), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Abstain), Kip Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 3- 0

IX. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE: NONE

X. ADJOURN: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned.

CERTIFICATION OF CLERK

I TONIA BANKS, CLERK OF COUNCIL DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECITATION OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD July 28, 2020 BEING 7 PAGES IN LENGTH

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TONIA BANKS

HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

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PRESIDENT, CARLEE WHITE GONZALES

HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL

Persons needing accommodations or assistance should contact City Council Clerk Tonia Banks at 985-277-5610. Request should be made at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.