

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
October 13, 2020
5:30pm**

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

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An Ordinance for a rezoning request by Best Team in Town LLC of a lot being the W 2/3 of the NW 1/4 of Block 4 of the Iowa Addition located at 600 & 602 E. Morris Ave. in accordance with survey by Brett Martin from RM-2 to MX-C (Z-2020-08-00081) Recommend approval by Zoning Commission. Tracie Schillace, informed the board that this property is on E. Morris corner of Olive and Morris the Zoning Commission recommended approval from RM-2 to MX-C and meets all the Master Plan requirements.

There were no public comments

2. An Ordinance to 1) Accept the dedication of Covington Ridge Subdivision infrastructure improvements, 2) Approve final subdivision (Lots 1-17, CA-1, CA-2, & CA-3) all in accordance with final plat and as built plans by McLin Taylor, Inc., 3) Accept a 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$51,110.80, and 4) Accept a 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$336,040.00 5) Accept a 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 (SUB-2020-07-00134) Recommend approval by the Planning Commission with the following conditions: 1) Final approval from Sewer District for lift station test 2) Final approval for City street light test.

Tracie Schillace both conditions have been satisfied 1) Final approval from Sewer District for lift station test 2) Final approval for City street light test.

Councilwoman Gonzales, made a motion to amend the item to add a 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$70,000

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to amend to add a 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$70,000.

**Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (), Carlee Gonzales (Y)
Councilman Wells did not respond
Motion to Amend 4-0**

Tracie Schillace, the conditions has been satisfied received the approval letter from the Sewer District and the lift station is up and running and the street light test has been completed by the City and are functioning.

There were no public comments



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

October 13, 2020
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Gonzales, called Regular Session to order at 5:55pm

II. ROLL CALL: Kip Andrews (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Steve Leon (P), Devon Wells (P), Carlee Gonzales (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: **Councilman Andrews**, on October 31st will set up in MLK to allow kids from District 1 to come out and receive candy. Also, for the area out by the Airport will be setting up times to come out and distribute candy to those subdivisions. On November 7th will be the final cleanup in the district from 9:30am-12pm will meet up at MLK Park.

Councilman DiVittorio, Brandi Lane is looking good on drainage project. Councilman DiVittorio, asked about bid for sound system, and TV wanted to know if Music Express on the vendors list.

Lacy Landrum, referred to the Grants Department

Charles Borchers, receiving new quotes due to first quotes were higher. If there is a particular vendor you would like us to invite for a quote will be happy to contact that vendor there has to be a minimum of three to purchase.

Councilman Wells, invited Brandy Jones to speak

Brandy Jones 46013 Durbin Road, Hammond Louisiana 70401, on September 22nd a petition was on the agenda for the police to be required by law to wear body cameras. Stated she asked a question on you tube and her questions were not answered and she asked Councilwoman Gonzales could this petition be placed back on the agenda?

Councilwoman Gonzales, this petition was never on the agenda there was a purchase for body cameras on the agenda which passed.

Brandy Jones, stated the petition was for it to be required by law

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated a petition was presented at the meeting under the agenda item which was the purchase of the body cameras but this was not an item asked to be placed on the agenda thought the petition was in support of officers wearing body cameras.

Councilman Wells, she's asking about questions that were not answered

Lisa Lambert, stated Mrs. Brandy had asked questions in the beginning and then stated someone with her was present at the meeting and she didn't need the question answered.

Brandy Jones, stated she did say that the lady who was present was on her team then she stated the questions that she had were not still answered she submitted the petition in advance.

Councilman Wells, stated the petition was submitted with the item presented concerning the body cameras.

Council Clerk Tonia Banks, stated the night of the meeting Mrs. Hebert had questions concerning the body cameras and Councilman Wells stated that he had a petition that he wanted to be filed for the records and Mrs. Hebert provided the board with the petition and the reason for the petition. The petition is in the file for record purposes.

Brandy Jones, would like this item to be placed on the agenda. She wants this to be a law that requires police to wear body cameras and will provide contact information so this could be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Councilman Wells, there was a shooting in Mooney Park and would like the police to do a better job and ask the community about information concerning who have cameras. Before anything gets built in Park he wants cameras.

Councilwoman Gonzales, Cate Square Music in the Park and DDD is hosting event will be October 24th

2. Mayor: City is looking into the footage of the shooting in Mooney Park.

Sales Tax are up so far \$325,000 above projection

VI. Minutes

A. September 22, 2020: There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of September 22, 2020.

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

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the questionnaire. Lacy Landrum, this is the annual questionnaire that is required as part of the City audit.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the questionnaire.

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

2. A resolution to establish a Hammond City Charter Review Committee to determine if any provisions of the charter need simplification, clarification, amendment, addition or deletion and to make recommendations for revisions. Lacy Landrum, stated this is proposing the committee to review the Charter would like to do this on a regular basis and trying to make the final report by June 30th, 2021 which will put us at November 13th, 2021 election should there be propositions that citizens which to see moving forward from the review.

Councilman Andrews, in section 2 would like to see only the (5) Councilmembers have an appointee appointed to the board.

Councilwoman Gonzales, are we asking to remove the Mayor's (2)

Councilman Andrews, yes

Lacy Landrum, the Mayor will not have any appointments to the board and it will be a different composition than used last time

Councilman Andrews, can set him with (1) member with non-voting power

Lacy Landrum, the Mayor who is elected by all the people of Hammond will have no appointment to this committee that will be reviewing the City's Charter which is the foundation for the City

Councilman Wells, yes he's asking for the Council to choose a person and the Mayor to have (1) non-voting person.

Councilwoman Gonzales, ask City Attorney, Andre Coudrain can the Council choose which to place on ballot

Andre Coudrain, Council will have to vote to approve any item that would be put for a vote. The Council could put all, some, or none of the recommendation of the Charter committee.

Lacy Landrum, the Council will have to choose which propositions will go to the ballot of the people and then the people will vote on those propositions but you will have to pass resolutions on each propositions in order to be considered for the election. The Council will have the final say on what will go on the ballot for the people.

Councilman Wells, would like to add that do not have to live in Hammond

Councilwoman Gonzales, you want to remove that all members shall be residents of the City of Hammond

Councilman Wells, yes, I would like to remove they have to be residents of Hammond. Planning and Zoning has members who don't live in the City of Hammond.

Louise Bostic, 112 Elm Drive Hammond, La. Committee should have input from Mayor and asking for people who are not part of our City this sounds a little absurd as a Citizen and would like to know the logic behind it?

Councilman Wells, Planning & Zoning have members that are not from Hammond

Ken Ross, 610 W. Thomas Street, Hammond, La., need broad based opinion from public on Charter and the community should be consulted. This should not be Council controlled ask the community.

Councilwoman Gonzales, no reason not to take away Mayor Appointee

Councilman Leon, it seems like we should want more input not less don't reduce the committee from 7 to 5

Councilman Wells, think it should be given a chance don't criticize

Councilwoman Gonzales, this is a 6 month process that goes to the ballot more access, information and input lead to better ideas.

Lacy Landrum, did we have a residency requirement in the Housing Committee? The Charter forms the foundation of the City's laws and we believe we should outside of Hammond that not Hammond residents.

Councilman DiVittorio, the Planning and Zoning Committee is an important committee and they don't have no residency requirement.

Mayor, why not have someone from Administration

Councilman Wells, issue with Police Chief Mayor you're looking on your behalf and Mayor can't see how districts are destroyed.

Mayor, all districts get worked on and are addressed

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to amended to change to 5 Council Members appointees on Charter committee with the Mayor having (1) appointee non-voting.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (N), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (N)
Motion Amended 3-2

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to amend to remove residency of Hammond but being residents of Tangipahoa Parish.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (N), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (N)
Motion Amended 3-2

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman Andrews to adopt as amended to establish a Hammond City Charter Review Committee to determine if any provisions of the charter need simplification, clarification, amendment, addition or deletion and to make recommendations for revisions.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (N), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (N)
Motion Approved 3-2

3. A resolution to enable the YouTube's chat function during the livestream of the City Councils meeting allowing for public comment provided the citizens name, address are provided. Councilman Andrews, senior residents stated they enjoyed have this option especially during this time of the pandemic we should have some guidelines in place to keep this option available.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that she planned on turning the YouTube chat function off following the work session. This is opening up the City to complaints because we're unable to control the chat correctly given the platform that it is with people commenting on things that not on the topic. Stated love having comments and wants public participation.

Councilman Leon, there are possibilities of internet going down are bad weather so how do we handle this if it's policy

Councilman Wells, should continue to do it and place on a screen that everyone could see the questions and profanity can be bleeped out.

Joe Mier, 44065 High Oaks Trail, this is two unreliable and don't know if it is the actual person. It's also unsecure people can come to the meetings or got to their Council members this is opening up City to liability.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave., stated she participates in You Tube and it's a great asset. A law was passed effective June 12th, 2020 at number 302 reads "In part that the public body shall provide mechanism to receive public comments electronically both prior to and during the meeting". If you set up an email who is going to monitor it, and it can have lag time as well. "The public body shall properly identify and acknowledge all public comments during the meeting".

John Doe, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, No Comment

Lacy Landrum, the YouTube came in under the pandemic time this what allowed for these technology meetings and the Governor order has expired.

Andre Coudrain, YouTube is not required some other mechanism which could be by email

Patrick Strahan, 19480 John Lambert Drive, could live stream still be available

Councilwoman Gonzales, yes

Patrick Strahan should have some opportunity for public participation remotely

Councilwoman Gonzales, some questions still need to be answered

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to Table a resolution to enable the YouTube's chat function during the livestream of the City Councils meeting allowing for public comment provided the citizens name, address are provided.

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

4. A resolution to approve alcohol renewals for 2021. Laura Hammett, this is the annual renewal and there are no new businesses.

Councilman Andrews, there are (2) stores inside of his district that he has been receiving complaint about and according to the law no alcohol is to be sold within 300 ft., of feet of a church or a school.

Rev. McCarthy, 508 E Colorado St, Pastor of St Paul Baptist Church there is a building that is becoming an eyesore it's a lot of loitering, and drinking the members of the church are afraid and it's too much this location is B& J Groceries.

Deborah McQueen, 1002 Magazine Street, Hammond, La. 70401, stated she is a community member of District #1, Community Advocate and a Ministry- Promise Keeper Ministry. Mrs. McQueen stated that her Ministry Promise Keeper Ministry has done several events for the kids in the community an B& J Groceries, and Magazine Food Mart has stepped up to assist the community, to see about the children, and made sure she had everything she needed. She was able to start a community library and both stores were her bigger donors never told her no. She held a Keeping 100 in MLK Park feed 100 people, registered 100 voters, had 1000 books donated for the library that was started and these (2) community stores were the only ones to step up. The people that are standing outside are our community and our people these are the people we see about and feed and have nowhere to go. This seem to a personal issue but, remember where you come from and thanked both stores for assisting and she would not mind helping these stores cleanup their area.

Rev. McCarthy, never said the store was an eyesore the loitering, drinking, trash and what goes on outside the store.

Ihmadan Warrad , Owner of B& J Grocery never had problems at B & J Grocery and he has employees who cleans up around the building and he gives to the community he's trying to make a living.

Phil Tran, Owner of Magazine Food Mart: stated he feels bad about the complaint he's trying to do good for the community and he there to assist with the elderly when they come to the store.

Councilman Andrews, stated there several police reports on people hanging out.

Phil Tran, stated he does not allow hanging out and yes there are some trouble makers that hangout and threaten him when he ask them to leave. He wants fairness and tries to do his best and he does not want any trouble.

Jennifer Davis, 400 E. Colorado, Street Hammond, La., lives near B& J Groceries and she's sick of this store they sit out at this store all day long drinking, sell drugs, and no one stop them the police pass by and still don't do anything. Stated she's complained no one does anything. The new owners of this store allow everyone sit in front of the store see it every day because she lives by it. I want you to drive by there to see it for yourself they do not care about our community.

Fred Hammond, 1201 E. Church Street, he now both owners and have seen them tell people to leave store and they won't. These owners are decent folks.

Ahmad Warrad, 406 E. Colorado Street, been in store 3 years and no disrespect the lady that spoke she's mad because her store has challenges and their business picked up. He has respect for everyone and there are signs saying no loitering. There is good and bad and we do not allow fighting when there is a problem we called the police. Our store is a good store like family and we have nothing against anyone.

Councilman Andrews, stated has nothing against the owner of these stores but something has to be done with people hanging out in front of these stores and the police informed him they cannot do anything because its private property. He's getting comments and complaints about these issues and it's a bad site he has seniors worried about passing by getting to their homes.

Councilman DiVittorio, should this fall in line with Code Enforcement or police

Councilman Andrews, stated the police told him this is private property

Tracie Wells, asked is this within 300ft., of a church?

Councilman Andrews, yes

Tracie Wells, did they get permission from the Pastor before issued a liquor license?

Councilman Andrews, he was told both stores are grandfathered in

Tracie Wells, this needs to be revisited because if you have rules and procedures in place especially if a pastor has concerns and it's a part of your ordinances.

Councilman Wells, the community is hurting and it's nothing against them given mask and books. The Community is informing Councilman Andrews of their concerns it's time to come out and speak at Council meetings to inform the ones who don't live in our community to know what's going on in our communities. We're not expecting the City to save our community we have to work with one another but, we're expecting the City to help us because these are taxpayer's and registered voters. I'm not against the store owners and people don't understand the law and once it's explained they should know nobody should be in front of the stores drinking. The City will have to do a better job seeing what our problems are in the community.

Councilman Andrews, never said anything about closing anyone store down. It's time to make a change because he drives by both location and he see the hanging out and it looks terrible.

Councilman DiVittorio will there be a grace period given before receiving their liquor license.

Andre Coudrain, there are reason businesses could loss liquor licenses and there are standards to comply that's set by **Ordinance in Section 5.35 Grounds for Revocation, Suspension, or Non Renewals**. There are requirements they have to follow to keep their licenses.

Laura Hammett, at this time everyone is in compliance

Councilman Wells, asked when does the liquor license expire

Laura Hammett, December 31, 2020 and they have requirements that are needed such as sales tax clearance and will be mailed out end of October due December 1, 2020 with 30 day grace period. This is for the City of Hammond

Councilman Wells, asked Andre what can be done

Andre Coudrain, these two stores could be tabled and approve the others

Ken Ross, 610 W. Thomas, the problem is the loitering, and drinking of alcohol outside of the store. The property owners can authorize the police to remove individuals from in front of the stores.

Frank DiVittorio, under prior Chief had a trespassing problem and he had to fax a letter to police department stating anyone that's not living there is trespassing.

Online Question, Daniel Lambert 116 N Cate St, what laws and ordinances has these stores broken to be removed for approval

Councilman Andrews, 300 ft., within a church or a school

Councilman Wells, how can these two could be tabled and whatever we decide it needs to be on paper and filed.

Councilman Andrews, would like to remove these two stores so he could set up time to meet with store owners to come with a solution to these problems. He stated he would like to meet with the Pastor of St. Paul, residents of the area, and the store owners to work together.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to TABLE the approval of Magazine Food Mart & B& J Grocery.

**Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Abstain)
Motion Tabled 4-1**

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve the remaining businesses alcohol renewals for 2021.

**Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Abstain)
Motion Approved 4-1**

5. A resolution 1) accepting a \$19,776 grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios for the Hammond Police Department; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. Charles Borchers IV, this is a follow up to the approval of the application and was funded in the full amount requested. There is no match

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews 1) accepting a \$19,776 grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios for the Hammond Police Department; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

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

6. A resolution (1) approving Hammond Northshore Regional Airport's 2021-26 Capital Improvement Plan; (2) requesting that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Division of Aviation provide funds required to complete the airport improvements specifically described in the Airport's CIP Application; (3) agreeing to certain assurances related to the preceeding; (4) authorizing the Mayor and Hammond City Council President to sign CIP documents; and (5) authorizing the Hammond City Council Clerk to attest to these signatures. David Lobue, the attached documents are a part of our 6 yr. CIP. The 2021 plan is what we're looking for the coming year and this shows the (3) projects we're looking to fund. #1 will be our AIP project 90% Federal Grant 10% from State no City of Hammond match. The next two projects are State projects and the first of these projects is the Air Space Study for recent land purchases this is a safety priority no City of Hammond match, the last is Airfield lighting and signage rehab Phase I construction next year funded in the amount of \$680,000 with a \$20,000 grant match from City that comes out of the Grant Match funds.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to (1) approving Hammond Northshore Regional Airport's 2021-26 Capital Improvement Plan; (2) requesting that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Division of Aviation provide funds required to complete the airport improvements specifically described in the Airport's CIP Application; (3) agreeing to certain assurances related to the preceeding; (4) authorizing the Mayor and Hammond City Council President to sign CIP documents; and (5) authorizing the Hammond City Council Clerk to attest to these signatures.

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

7. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement for the collection of ad valorem taxes between Daniel Edwards, Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector for Tangipahoa Parish, and the City of Hammond. Lacy Landrum, one of the opportunities is \$20,000 flat fee that the City will pay and Ponchatoula has already committed to this with a similar agreement with a \$10,000 flat fee based on their parcels. The move will be more efficient and can be paid online and will be paid all at one place this is recommended by the Accounting and IT Department. The tax roll comes in November and 2 years ago we had four employees up here at Thanksgiving holiday that had to enter in data manually because of 1 keystroke error. This year the Tax assessor changed their software.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked about the agreement so its \$20,000 per year and it's for 4 years with an automatic renewal does the automatic renewal stay at \$20,000

Lacy Landrum, this is not specified and it's not locked into the contract, but it is a contract for 4yrs.

Councilman DiVittorio, do we know the system that the Sheriff office is using?

Marcus McMillian, using the system we are looking at now. The current software we're looking at now the prices that we will pay will in the things we would invest into getting that to be on the same level to do at the City of Hammond we're actually saving to actually allow them to do it.

Councilman DiVittorio can this software branch off to other duties like collecting permit fees or anything else or strictly taxes.

Marcus McMillian, it does taxes, occupational licenses it is a management for those types of functions to give you templates to put your license together. The system that we currently have in place every tax year we have to go in

and make changes to and if there's an error you would have to manually enter the data. This was written in house and to keep it going it's tying up man hours, taking chances there are no warranties, and we can't call up no one for this software.

Councilman Wells, how much overtime are we using

Marcus McMillian, a lot of overtime hours and we would have to purchase the software this direction saves salary if the Sheriff office collects

Councilman Andrews, what happens to Laura Position?

Lacy Landrum, we will not hire for a Revenue Supervisor will ship Laura position as a controller position

Councilman DiVittorio, would like some type of option out if this does not work

Lacy Landrum talked to Parish and the School board and they have not had any problems with the Sheriff Office collecting the taxes.

Buck Brignac, 25 Pine Court Hammond, he is an Assistant Consultant stated he works with E. Baton Parish, Jefferson Parish doing a lot of tax collections and software. This is a good opportunity for City this will allow the department to do their functions. Should let the Sheriff collect it in a full one system and there sure be a secure system.

Tracy Wells, what is the cost to upgrade system

Lacy Landrum, \$30,000

Tracy Wells, the Sheriff office will also be responsible for the tax sales and they currently use Civic Source so will they continue to use Civic Source for the City of Hammond

Lacy Landrum, assume so

Tracy Wells, Civic Source charges quite a bit of money to the taxpayer if they have to go to a tax sale. Mrs. Wells passed out handouts to the Council to show different county that use Civic Source reviewed the fees of Civic Source. The cost is exorbitant to use civic source to redeem property. Take in consideration when you make this decision the cost it would cost the citizen when it's time to redeem their property if they miss that December 31st deadline. If you are not sure the fee that Civic Source is charging do not make a decision tonight.

Marcus McMillian, taxes are coming up in November and if not voted tonight would probably have a delay in processing taxes.

Councilman Wells, voters should decide what to do and need more research this is last minute

Syeda Naeem, fees are for uncollected taxes only a few people do not pay I would say less than 1%

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Mayor to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement for the collection of ad valorem taxes between Daniel Edwards, Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector for Tangipahoa Parish, and the City of Hammond.

Vote: Kip Andrews (N), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (N), Carlee Gonzales (Y)
Motion Approved 3-2

8. A resolution to authorize the City Council to retain Michael Adams and his law firm DeCuir, Clark & Adams, LLP regarding the issue of the investigation of the 2017 Police Booking Room video according to the terms of his proposed engagement letter and authorizing Councilman Kip Andrews or other appropriate representative to execute the proposed agreement; and in the interest of efficiency and limitation of cost to designate a Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and _____ as primary contacts for communication between the Council and Mr. Adams. Councilman Andrews, now that we have the entire video, we can have it reviewed to have clear cut answer to what took place.

Attorney, Michael Adams, 732 N Blvd., Baton Rouge La. partner with the firm of Decuir Clark & Adams we are a commercial general practice law firm. Stated he has been involved with representing boards and commissions and been practicing law for 34 yrs., and he has been appointed by the courts to investigate to recover assets for consumers.

Councilman Leon, what are you asked to do?

Attorney, Michael Adams, full review of what happened and were protocols followed.

Councilwoman Gonzales, the engagement letter does not say that, and the scope of engagement should be specific.

She asked is there a cap on hourly fee, is this a flat rate or hourly rate, who would be the other license professionals, depositions. Stated the scope of work is needed

Attorney, Michael Adams, it is the Council job to tell the scope of what you want and yes this is a standard engagement letter understand the cost can get expensive that's why it important to be in communication with lawyers and clear scope of work.

Councilwoman Gonzales stated the resolution has Councilman Andrews and another person as primary contact this causes concerns because the direction you're sent on may not be the will of the voting Council. Stated her concerns to have one person directing the engagement without better scope, cap, and timeline. This is not narrow enough in her opinion. Councilwoman Gonzales, asked Attorney Adam if he has any Civil Service experience?

Attorney, Adams, there is a partner in our firm that practice exclusively Civil Service. There will be a second Attorney for communication purposes, cohesiveness, and consistency. To timely return to a report or finding it should be more than just him working on the file. In 120 days could have a report brought back to the Council.

Councilman Wells recommend getting an attorney because we keep covering it up goes back to 2017. There is an incident out that have not been solved and the City one was investigated and no investigation was done. It is like we're trying to cover it up and we keep getting pushed back this needs to take place and move forward. The City is hurting and still having problems.

Councilman Andrews, in conversation thought an Attorney was needed because we need to move forward it is an eyesore on Hammond.

Councilwoman Gonzales, this would cost City \$50,000

Patrick Strahan, 19480 Dr. John Lambert Drive, stated he reviewed Attorney Adams credentials and stated he has outstanding accomplishments. The City needs healing in the City and if doing an additional investigation helps with this it helps with healing. Asked about the FBI review, can city hire Seth without Attorney, why we need attorney, can other consultants in State do that? What are rates and fees? Why not expert analyze it immediately?

Online Question, Dion Grasnickle, 41138 Cubbie Run, the investigation will easily be \$150,000 should have a cap please do not send over \$50,000

Morris Meshon, 42482 Lakeborn Drive what grounds does the Council have to hire an independent person such Seth

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated the Charter allows Council to hire special counsel and experts

Councilman Andrews, the only agenda is the truth

Chris Gideon, 4031 Park Rail is there a reason why this not being investigated by the experts at Louisiana State Police or Attorney General's Office

Councilwoman Gonzales State Police will not investigate this unless it's for criminal chargers

Online Question Morris Meshon, this is a witch hunt and the taxpayer's citizens don't agree with the claims

Online Question Ryan Gonzales, 905 Dakota Street please state for the record the Attorney Fee Schedule Partners \$300 per hour

Associates \$225.00 per hour

Legal Assistants (Paralegals) \$100 per hour

Law Clerks \$50.00

Councilman Andrews stated there is no hidden agenda at all the only agenda is the truth.

Online Question Ryan Gonzales, was there a request for proposals for either the Attorney or the investigation

Councilwoman Gonzales, no RFP for Attorney or expert

Ken Ross, 610 W. Thomas, the resolution is necessary and should get consultant first then lawyer after. This will be expensive and there needs to be a budget this is too open ended.

Tracy Wells, it's good to define what the scope is, what if investigation leads you down another road. What does the Council have available? It has been proven that an investigation was not performed and Civil Service Attorney said no investigation was done so it's time to move forward. \$50,000 is not too much to spend and this should move forward.

Councilwoman Gonzales, could kick back to Civil Service
Councilman DiVittorio, what about cap

Attorney, Michael Adams, can put cap on it there is no open ended arrangement for cities and it's all negotiable

Councilman Leon, do you work with other consultants

Attorney, Michael Adams, there were a couple but, was asked to look out of State to get unbiased opinion.

Councilwoman Gonzales, not ready to vote on this proposal and this should not be a free for all and it's very open ended. There was no RFP done and it should be tailored down.

Councilman Leon, stated he agrees this is too open ended and needs to be spelled out & how much will we spend.

Attorney, Michael Adams, if we are detained we would develop a scope of work. I can't answer about the cap because we don't know what is out there but, we will need corporation in getting all information requested. There should be a timeline for preliminary findings.

Councilwoman Gonzales, many times councilmembers ask for delays

Councilman Wells, an investigation is needed

Councilman Leon, this is too open ended

Councilman Wells, Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and **Councilman DiVittorio** as primary contacts for communication between the Council and Mr. Adams.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the City Council to retain Michael Adams and his law firm DeCuir, Clark & Adams, LLP regarding the issue of the investigation of the 2017 Police Booking Room video according to the terms of his proposed engagement letter and authorizing Councilman Kip Andrews or other appropriate representative to execute the proposed agreement; and in the interest of efficiency and limitation of cost to designate a Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and Councilman DiVittorio as primary contacts for communication between the Council and Mr. Adams.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (N), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (N)
Motion Approved 3-2

9. A resolution to authorize the City Council to retain Seth W. Stoughton regarding the issue of the investigation of the 2017 Police Booking Room video according to the terms of his proposed engagement letter and authorizing Councilman Kip Andrews or other appropriate representative to execute the proposed agreement; and in the interest of efficiency and limitation of cost to designate a Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and _____ as primary contacts for communication between the Council and Mr. Stoughton. Councilman Andrews, stated he reached out to different agencies and Mr. Stoughton recommend by Attorney, Adams in which he worked with before.

Councilwoman Gonzales, do not think this appropriate because proposals were not put out

Councilman Leon, constituents wants the truth but, not be irresponsible. Asked Attorney, Adams if he could provide 2-3 consultants to consider.

Councilman Andrews, can another list of experts be provided

Attorney, Michael Adams, yes, other experts can be provided but would need to get to it quickly

Patrick Strahan, 19780 Dr. John Lambert Drive, thinks an investigation should happen if it heals the community. Would a zoom function or anything else be used with Mr. Seth ensure all cost and analyze to make part of the contract. The resolution as it reads is regarding the booking room video only states video does not state anything else no other statements or paperwork. If we want a full unbiased investigation by an expert it should be amended to include all of those things leaving every stone unturned.

Attorney, Andre Coudrain, the booking room video according to the terms that proposed engagement letter you would need to look at the engagement letter and fill in the blanks. Discuss the blanks and the retainer agreement for the consultant

Councilwoman Gonzales, zoom is a great idea

Courtney Forbes, 156 Oak Hollow, thank you for taking the time to look at the video and appreciate what the board is doing

Daniel Lambert, 116 N Cate do contracts need to be put out for public bid for attorneys

Councilwoman Gonzales, not for professional services

Carol Harrell, 2208 Cherie Drive, in our region we have wealth of Use of Force experts certified by our federal circuit courts. Will the Council please put out a call for bids for those experts consultants?

Councilwoman Gonzales, thinks that is a great idea

Morris Machon, the agenda is always published and can we consult other attorneys?

Lacy Landrum, the source the funds in your budget Council has the \$100,000 allocated for the Council Attorney and a line item for consultant services you can transfer

Councilwoman Gonzales, how much is in consultant services

Lacy Landrum, \$2000 this will be a resolution already budgeted funds if it come from the ending fund balance it's an ordinance.

Tracy Wells, if you ask Mr. Adams why he chose Mr. Seth he could give you the answer why he selected him instead of going back to search and find 3 more if you gave him a task to select a SME to do this job and that's who he selected are you questioning his professional choice or you choosing to delay?

Councilman Wells proposed Councilman DiVittorio

Attorney, Andre Coudrain the scope of agreement is blank

Attorney, Michael Adams, would keep consistent to review, advise, and opine with the incident that happened in the booking room.

Attorney, Andre Coudrain, recommendation to investigate and provide a review of and advice surrounding the 2017 booking room incident that occurred within Hammond Police Department

Carlee Gonzales, our resolution required a written report we sure make sure we ask for that scope of work.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the City Council to retain Seth W. Stoughton regarding the issue of the investigation of the 2017 Police Booking Room video according to the terms of his proposed engagement letter and authorizing Councilman Kip Andrews or other appropriate representative to execute the proposed agreement; and in the interest of efficiency and limitation of cost to designate a Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and Councilman DiVittorio as primary contacts for communication between the Council and Mr. Stoughton.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Carlee Gonzales (N)
Motion Approved 4-1

10. A resolution to approve a (4-way) stop sign at Washington and Louisiana West. Tracie Schillace stated it should be West Louisa West instead of Louisiana West.

Councilman Wells, residents have been complaining about a lot of near misses at this location and informed the residents will bring this information to the City. What are the right procedures to get a stop sign put in place?

Mayor, get with Robert Morgan the put stop signs up for traffic congestion, then Chuck Spangler, DOTD and then decision

Lacy Landrum need to review crash reports

Councilman Wells, asked for all data and information on Mooney, Cherry and Coleman. He wants the right way to do it.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to approve a (4-way) stop sign at Washington and W. Louisa W.

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

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

- 1. Final adoption of an Ordinance for a rezoning request by Best Team in Town LLC of a lot being the W 2/3 of the NW 1/4 of Block 4 of the Iowa Addition located at 600 & 602 E. Morris Ave. in accordance with survey by Brett Martin from RM-2 to MX-C (Z-2020-08-00081) Recommend approval by Zoning Commission.**

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt an Ordinance for a rezoning request by Best Team in Town LLC of a lot being the W 2/3 of the NW 1/4 of Block 4 of the Iowa Addition located at 600 & 602 E. Morris Ave. in accordance with survey by Brett Martin from RM-2 to MX-C (Z-2020-08-00081)

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

- 2. Final adoption of an Ordinance to 1) Accept the dedication of Covington Ridge Subdivision infrastructure improvements, 2) Approve final subdivision (Lots 1-17, CA-1, CA-2, & CA-3) all in accordance with final plat and as built plans by McLin Taylor, Inc., 3) Accept a 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$51,110.80, and 4) Accept a 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$336,040.00 5) Accept a 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 (SUB-2020-07-00134) Recommend approval by the Planning Commission with the following conditions: 1) Final approval from Sewer District for lift station test 2) Final approval for City street light test.**

Both conditions have been satisfied 1) Final approval from Sewer District for lift station test 2) Final approval for City streetlight test.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to Amend to add 2 yr., maintenance bond in the amount of \$70,000.

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

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt an ordinance to 1) Accept the dedication of Covington Ridge Subdivision infrastructure improvements, 2) Approve final subdivision (Lots 1-17, CA-1, CA-2, & CA-3) all in accordance with final plat and as built plans by McLin Taylor, Inc., 3) Accept a 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$51,110.80, and 4) Accept a 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$336,040.00 5) Accept a 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 6) Accept a 2 year maintenance bond in the amount of \$70,000. (SUB-2020-07-00134)

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

- 3. Final adoption of an ordinance to re-adopt ordinance #20-5626 to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2020, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage (rate(s) are: Lacy Landrum, informed Council that the ad was published incorrectly in the local journal. Informed these are the same rates from last year and if anyone has any questions the public is welcome to speak.**

	Adjusted Rate	2020 Levy
General Alimony, General Fund (5207001)	9.010 Mills	9.040 Mills
Fire/Police (5207002)	9.970 Mills	10.000 Mills
Public Works (5207003)	1.990 Mills	2.000 Mills
Total	20.970 Mills	21.040 Mills

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to adopt an ordinance to re-adopt ordinance #20-5626 to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2020, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage (rate(s) are:

Adjusted Rate**2020 Levy**

General Alimony, General Fund (5207001)	9.010 Mills	9.040 Mills
Fire/Police (5207002)	9.970 Mills	10.000 Mills
Public Works (5207003)	1.990 Mills	2.000 Mills
Total	20.970 Mills	21.040 Mills

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction for an Ordinance to Annex three parcels being 11.311 acres & 13.663 acres (parcel#21T6R80000114), 17.55 Acres (parcel#21T6R80000087 & 21T6R80000113) all owned by the City of Hammond located at the NE and South intersection of Industrial Park Rd. and Hwy 190 East as per legal description by Mark T. Chemay dated 9/21/2020, to be zoned S-2 (Hammond Airport District), and City Council District #1. (Z-2020-0900084) Recommended approval by Zoning Commission. Tracie Schillace, setup for annexation and placed in Council District 1 which is a recent purchase.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an to Annex three parcels being 11.311 acres & 13.663 acres (parcel#21T6R80000114), 17.55 Acres (parcel#21T6R80000087 & 21T6R80000113) all owned by the City of Hammond located at the NE and South intersection of Industrial Park Rd. and Hwy 190 East as per legal description by Mark T. Chemay dated 9/21/2020, to be zoned S-2 (Hammond Airport District), and City Council District #1. (Z-2020-0900084) Recommended approval by Zoning Commission.

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

Public Hearing is set for October 27, 2020

2. Introduction for an Ordinance to rezone 41.75 acres from RS-8 to I-L requested by Round Table Investments, LLC in accordance with survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 12/9/1980 located at 2100 Industrial Park Rd. (Z-2020-09-00083) Recommend approval with conditions:1) No manufacturing only distribution, 2) Freight vehicles shall be limited on Vinyard Rd and Industrial Park Rd is the primary route of travel, 3) Install fence or dirt berm on the Vinyard Rd property line, 4) All ingress/egress shall be on Industrial Parkway, 5) Drainage plan must meet or exceed the 100 year flood plain requirements. Tracie Schillace, asking to be set for next meeting annexed in 1998 into the standard zoning into light industrial.

Courtney Forbes, 156 Oak Hollow Drive, live in vicinity and strongly oppose to be zoned industrial would create flooding problems there should be other options for this property. This will bring the area down and it needs to stay residential.

Buck Brignac, 25 Pine Court, the master plan is to enhance the neighborhoods. There are already flooding issues now and the neighborhoods should not be disturbed.

Sid Guedry, 50 Pine Square, Oak Knoll Estates, sent an email with list of problems there is better use for the property.

Kirk Jackson, 46349 N Coburn Rd., people were told not to come or room would packed. He has property adjacent to property and was told this would be residential and a gated community. The masterplan is for what community desires it to be.

Councilman Andrews, stated he received a lot of emails and phone calls he stated he will host a Special Meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020 at the Hammond Rec Center at 5:30pm and have the Medline Representative available to discuss.

Ed Hoover, owner of property and there is a lot of misconception. This should be commercial

Trion Hogan, Oak Creek, thanked Council for the meeting. Take some due diligence to this that applied to everyone else. Asked is there a timeline to submit petitions

Councilwoman Gonzales, Thursday before October 27, meeting

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an Ordinance to rezone 41.75 acres from RS-8 to I-L requested by Round Table Investments, LLC in accordance with survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 12/9/1980 located at 2100 Industrial Park Rd. (Z-2020-09-00083) Recommend approval with conditions:1) No manufacturing only distribution, 2) Freight vehicles shall be limited on Vinyard Rd and Industrial Park Rd is the primary route of travel, 3) Install fence or dirt berm on the Vinyard Rd property line, 4) All ingress/egress shall be on Industrial Parkway, 5) Drainage plan must meet or exceed the 100 year flood plain requirements.

Vote: Kip Andrews (N), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (N), Carlee Gonzales (Y)
Motion Approved to Introduce 3-2

Public Hearing is set for October 27, 2020

3. Introduction for an Ordinance to approve Expanded Conditional Use request by Rosiland Pines (Owner) & Constance Pines (applicant) to allow placement of a Manufactured Home meeting all code requirements on proposed Lot C of the Pines resubdivision survey located at 810-C Natchez St; Zoned RS-3 (ECU-2020-09-00082) Recommended approval with following conditions by the Zoning Commission.

**1) Resubdivision survey must be completed as proposed before issuing any permits; and
2) this approval is with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon a change in occupancy or ownership by Rosiland Pines or Constance Pines
3) the manufactured home must meet all requirements of placement and must be constructed to meet the latest HUD Standards. Tracie Schillace, proposed surveyed if approved**

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an Ordinance to approve Expanded Conditional Use request by Rosiland Pines (Owner) & Constance Pines (applicant) to allow placement of a Manufactured Home meeting all code requirements on proposed Lot C of the Pines resubdivision survey located at 810-C Natchez St; Zoned RS-3 (ECU-2020-09-00082) Recommended approval with following conditions by the Zoning Commission.

**1) Resubdivision survey must be completed as proposed before issuing any permits; and
2) this approval is with the understanding that such use is a personal right that expires upon a change in occupancy or ownership by Rosiland Pines or Constance Pines
3) the manufactured home must meet all requirements of placement and must be constructed to meet the latest HUD Standards.**

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

Public Hearing is set for October 27, 2020

4) Introduction for an Ordinance to approve Expanded Conditional Use request by Bessie Hunter (owner) & Shaunta Mack (applicant) to allow placement of a Manufactured Home meeting all code requirements located at 504 E. Michigan St.; Zoned RM-2 (ECU-2020-08-00080) Recommend denial by the Zoning Commission. Tracie Schillace, there are no mobile homes near except this area.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an Ordinance to approve Expanded Conditional Use request by Bessie Hunter (owner) & Shaunta Mack (applicant) to allow placement of a Manufactured Home meeting all code requirements located at 504 E. Michigan St.; Zoned RM-2 (ECU-2020-08-00080) Recommend denial by the Zoning Commission.

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

Public Hearing is set for October 27, 2020

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

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 October 13, 2020
BEING 15 PAGES IN LENGTH

TONIA BANKS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

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.