

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 27, 2020
5:30pm**

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

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. 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.

Councilwoman Gonzales, at the request of the Administration asked that this item be removed from public hearing so they could be re-noticed and sent back to Planning and Zoning Board.

Mark Forglan, 44559 S. Corbon Road, owns parcel at 44663 Wainwright Drive which is just to the east and south of the property. Stated he does not oppose adopting this ordinance and annexing this property. He asked that the City only cuts as many trees as is necessary to accomplish the safety goals of this project and not to clear cut the entire property.

Mayor, City is doing environmental assessment of property and the City has requested FAA to allow a buffer. The City will leave as much as they can.

Councilman Wells entered Meeting

Brian Throsher, stated there is a motion to remove from the agenda and refer back to the Planning Commission. Why would there be public comments on an item that would be removed from agenda.

City Attorney, Andre Coudrain, stated the item is on the agenda and the public has the right to comment

Brian Throsher, perhaps the Council will entertain a motion to defer public comments until the items are actual on agenda and voted on and discussed at that time.

Andre Coudrain, comments are still public records, and the public has the right to address the Council on any item on the agenda.

There were no other comments

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to REMOVE from the agenda 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.

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

2. 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.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated the items that have been removed will return to planning and zoning which will allow public comment at their meeting November 5, and will return to Council for introduction November 10, and public hearing November 24th.

Michael Dvornek, 1042 Oak Hollow, they stated they will add a berm and this will not assist to help with noise and the other problem is traffic - does not know how this will be handled and there needs to be more planning and thinking.

Mrs., Dvornek, 1042 Oak Hollow, concerned about this annexation because it has not been thought through properly. If you drive down Industrial there are ditches that are currently being washed away and people are expressing themselves with concerns - who will have to pay for the results of this annexation - it will come back to the City. Are you annexing a problem? This has not been thought through enough - it sounds nice to include and forward thinking but there is not enough planning or thought. As representatives and as Politicians your careers and how you are perceived in the future will be identified by projects you supported or opposed for this community.

Hugh Dauschbach, 19 Pin Oak Lane, lives in Oak knoll Estates, has had water within 5-6 inches of homes - the creek that runs back behind Oak Knoll is the very same creek is on this property. Medline stated they wanted to use the 17 acres for a retention pond but, does not understand how the water will flow from the 41 acres to the 17 acres without backing up the creek that's there. Has there been an independent Hydraulic Study of the drainage in the area? The biggest concern is the traffic when Medline speaks of 60 tractor trailer trucks it's only their trucks this could be doubled to 120 in and out. If there is a backup on Industrial it could reroute drivers down Corbin, Morris, Pride, or Vineyard and Corbin Road cannot handle a lot of tractor trailer traffic. Asking Council and Planning & Zoning Commission do its due diligence and conduct more studies on traffic.

Cindy Lavergne, 47071 Vineyard Trace, if this goes back to Planning & Zoning is the work session on Thursday, 29th at noon and can the public attend the work session?

Councilwoman Gonzales, yes

There were no other comments

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to REMOVE from agenda 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: Steve Leon (Y), Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y).
Motion to Remove 5-0

3. 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.

There were no public comments

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to Remove from agenda 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.

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

4) 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.

Debra McQueen, 1002 Magazine Street, are the comments that are made tonight going to be on record at the Planning Zoning meeting or will they have to be repeated.

City Attorney, Andre Coudrain, the comments that are made tonight are public records of this meeting, but everyone is entitled to attend the Planning and Zoning meeting to make comments or additional comments.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to REMOVE from agenda 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: Steve Leon (Y), Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y).
Motion to Remove 5-0



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

October 27, 2020

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

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

II. ROLL CALL: Steve Leon (P), Kip Andrews (P), Carlee Gonzales (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Devon Wells (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 Wells, wanted to correct a mistake at Special Meeting concerning St. Tammany denial of a land clearing permit on October 6 and our Planning & Zoning Department approved rezoning a 41 acre on October 8th to come before council for final decision. When he has made a mistake, he will correct his own mistake. Asked about the status of a requested stop sign on Louisa W. and Washington Ave. This has been two weeks since this was voted on and passed and still no stop sign in place. The other problem on Mooney Ave., there have been 4 shootings in the last 5 weeks and what can we do to slow this down and completely stop it.

Mayor completely stopping it is not something that can just happen. The City can't control what people do on a regular day to day basis. There is an issue with gangs in our community.

Chief, Edwin Bergeron, he is working with the District Attorney's office because most people are repeat offenders. Also, he has reassigned detectives to try to suppress the crime in the area.

Councilman Wells, is there a way we could stop the cars from parking in the park?

Mayor, generally the Park Rangers has been in control of it,

Councilman Wells, asked to have signs placed in Mooney Parking stating no parking on the grass

Chief Bergeron, stated he would review any ordinances regarding parking on grass in the parks and work with park rangers.

Councilman Andrews, can this process at Zemurray Park be implemented at all parks in the City of Hammond

Chief Bergeron, this was implemented at Zemurray and MLK for patrols that had additional overtime funds for this to take place. As Chief would love the increase overtime funds to increase patrol in the parks. This goes through our Recreational Director, and HPD was to assist the Park Rangers with the large crowds.

Councilman Andrews, would like to something done across the board and there should be policy in place to cover all parks.

Chief Bergeron, will check into ordinance on parking on grass

Online Question: Debra McQueen 1002 Magazine Street, are there any current scheduled Police or community meetings if not will there be?

Councilman Wells, there should be meetings, but it never took place I have talked to Chief about it.

Chief Bergeron, multiple times he has reached out and had no response and I have asked for help setting up meetings.

Online Question: Debra McQueen 1002 Magazine Street, do we need a community leader to step up to plan this meeting between Police and Community?

Online Question Jeff Holmes, 4 Lynn Lane, would like someone to elaborate on the gang issue

Councilman Andrews, will review his calendar on a date due to this being a resident in District #1 and will get with Chief Bergeron for a meeting.

Councilwoman Gonzales, there is a Night out Against Crime on Friday in Zemmurray Park this is a good Community and Police Event.

Councilman DiVittorio, are Park Rangers at every park and how are they assisting

Mayor, they are generally at all parks

Chief Bergeron, thinks it is usually targeted - things are currently investigated and we are working on it

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about signage placement and who oversees posting signs and why we have signs of the wrong size?

Mayor, it is being corrected and signs have been removed and the residents will have time to express opinion.

Councilman Wells, how far will we go back on the signs since they were the wrong size?

Andre Coudrain, if someone believes the Council took an action that was wrong, they will have to file a lawsuit. The rezoning that has happened prior years if people didn't file a lawsuit, they lose the right to challenge it and this is why we pulled the current ones that are pending.

2. Mayor: there is another storm and sandbags are ready if needed and everyone needs to be prepared.

Halloween is this Saturday from 5:30pm – 8:30pm everyone should be cautious.

VI. Minutes:

A. October 13, 2020: There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020.

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

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to request for the police department to be required to wear body cameras at all time by law. Brandi Jones, 310 Mooney Ave., thanked the Council for placing this on the agenda. The 700 people that signed the petition would like the police to be required by law to wear body cameras this was a huge concern in the community.

Councilwoman Gonzales, provided Mrs. Jones a copy of HPD General Order 151 on Body Cameras.

Brandi Jones, this is what the requirements are?

Andre Coudrain, this is a policy of the department that requires all members who are issued body worn video cameras to wear while on duty or detail.

Brandi Jones, the concern is there not on all time, can be cut off and if they do it is the buddy system the community is concerned about it.

Councilman Divittorio, who manages if officers do not turn them on or enforces the consequences?

Andre Coudrain, the department

Brandi Jones, the Chief stated there was no way of knowing if the officers had the cameras on or off and these are the general orders that have been in place. Therefore, we need a system in place if it does happen an officer can face consequences.

Lacy Landrum, there have been officers suspended for not wearing or activating their body cameras

Andre Coudrain, during his time as City Attorney there have been some officers disciplined for not using body cameras, or car cameras.

Chief Bergeron, the new system should be in place by December 15, 2020 and the new system will be automatically activated with the officers it is a one single set. A lot of the community concerns along with the administration is we are looking to put in policy of mandatory checks by supervisors to make sure of accountability. First, the new cameras will make a big difference. Second, how to hold the officers accountable on the daily checks and get turned on properly. As soon as the Taser is activated is activates the body camera and the other good thing is if you're an individual officer and you're on scene and don't have your own if I come up and turn my camera it automatically activate your camera, get within a certain distance it activates, and it captures minutes prior.

Councilwoman Gonzales, with this general order perhaps with the new system there is some things that need to be updated.

Lacy Landrum, this update has started

Brandi Jones, the community requests to have this law in place.

Andre Coudrain, this is a policy of the department and approved by the Mayor and could be changed by the Mayor. If the Council wants to enact an ordinance that could not be changed by the Mayor, the Council could do that. The Council can create a policy. Stated that the Council should consult with Chief Bergeron so the Council do not get to deep into law enforcement procedures or protocols, but the Council could pass an ordinance really need to consult with the Chief.

Councilman Wells, suggests that this item be tabled until next Council meeting to review the general order policy.

Councilwoman Gonzales, informed Mrs. Jones if she has suggestions this would be helpful

Online Question, Debra McQueen 1002 Magazine Street, thinks the Chief should go on record saying that ultimately the responsibility should be his and his chain of command relative to making sure officers wear the body cameras. Stated she read up the new vendor and should be a representative that has a backup log that will be able to be recalled when necessary when the cameras are activated.

Councilwoman Gonzales, everything is stored in the cloud so it cannot be edited or removed at all

J Holmes, 4 Lynn Lane, how easy is it to review the video and what about public access

Andre Coudrain, depends on the circumstances but it could be in response of a public records request, depends on if it's a criminal proceeding still pending - typically do not release while criminal proceedings are pending. A public record request for videos could be requested- they may or may not receive it.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman Andrews to TABLE request for the police department to be required to wear body cameras at all time by law.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y).

Motion Approved 5-0

2. A resolution to purchase ten (10) Police Tahoe's from Gerry Lane Chevrolet for \$348,637.40 (State Contract# 4400020203). Councilman Leon wanted to bring this backup and thinks the questions have been answered and now we need to move forward. If there are issues in policies, issues in procedures that need to be changed let's discuss these changes - we shouldn't lose a whole year without vehicles. It is time to move forward with this purchase of the vehicles.

Councilman Wells, stated he asked for the public records request, but he has not finished reviewing the records

Councilman Leon, should move forward with the purchase while the information is being reviewed.

Jana Thurman, these Tahoe's are now available on State Contract. Gerry Lane Chevrolet is the vendor who was awarded the contract - if able to order tonight they will be in around January. We do not know exactly what the equipment cost in the future will be- this price will be just for equipment.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked for information on the millage- there is more than enough funds to cover the vehicles and upgrades.

Councilman Andrews, agrees to move forward but should implement some guidelines for accidents.

Councilman DiVittorio, proper way is to address it and then correct it then move forward with the purchase. He appreciated Cpt., Monistere calling and giving information.

Angelo Monistere, the plan is to implement defensive driving and will do it on an annual basis it can be done at the training facility. Stated most of the crashes are minor there are not a lot of major crashes.

Councilman Wells, when cars are totaled where does the money go?

Lacy Landrum, back to the millage fund

Councilman Leon, we need to review policy and procedures that we can agree upon

Lacy Landrum, Tahoe's are preferred units and sometimes accidents are caused by other drivers and the City should not hold off on the purchase.

Councilman Wells, how many cars do we need?

Cpt., Angelo Monistere, we need 10

Chief Bergeron, there is a need for training and retraining for defensive driving.

Kent Soileau, units are up to 12yrs., old - Police vehicles get more use and life expectancy is shorter.

Jeff Holmes, 4 Lynn Lane, what is the relationship with Gerry Lane & Mayor?

Mayor, I do not know the individual

Jeff Holmes, 4 Lynn Lane, requesting this to be reviewed as long as possible and would like this tabled

Sidney Guidry, 50 Pine Square, has there been an inordinate amount of vehicles wrecks of the Hammond Police that will stop them from buying vehicles on State Contract for an excellent price.

Jana Thurman, stated it does prevent from being on state contract. The Mayor has no decision on who wins the bids. The State bids out their own contracts and when it's the lowest bidder he cannot come in and change.

Michael Lindsey, 111 Edwin Neil Way, give the Police the cars they are needed thank you

Sgt., Thad Gautier, HPD the department needs new vehicles because they represent the City.

Brent Ridder, 129254 Country Club Lane, urges the Council to vote yes on this matter HPD deserve dependable vehicles to respond to us the citizens.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to purchase ten (10) Police Tahoe's from Gerry Lane Chevrolet for \$348,637.40 (State Contract# 4400020203).

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y).

Motion Approved 5-0

3. A resolution 1) accepting a \$7,875 grant from the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; 2) approving a \$7,875 cash match from the Hammond Police Department; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. Charles Borchers IV, stated this a follow up and was awarded was the amount requested there is a match and it comes from the police department budget.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Wells 1) accepting a \$7,875 grant from the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; 2) approving a \$7,875 cash match from the Hammond Police Department; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

Vote: Steve Leon (Y), Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y).

Motion Approved 5-0

4. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$17,088.15 grant application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for life-saving equipment (mechanical chest compression devices) for the Hammond Fire Department. Charles Borchers IV, there is no match required.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio supporting the submission of a \$17,088.15 grant application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for life-saving equipment (mechanical chest compression devices) for the Hammond Fire Department.

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

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption 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.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to REOVE from agenda 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.

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Motion Approved to Remove 5-0

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Motion Approved to Remove 5-0

3. Final adoption of 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.
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3) the manufactured home must meet all requirements of placement and must be constructed to meet the latest HUD Standards.

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Motion Approved to Remove 5-0

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE: NONE

Councilwoman Gonzales, thanked the IT Department for the TVs setup in the Foyer

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 the meeting 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 October 27, 2020

BEING 8 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.