

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
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 12:00pm
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Gonzales, called the Special Meeting to order at 12pm

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

III. PRAYER: Councilman Andrews

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

V. A resolution to accept the proposed health insurance package for calendar year 2021. Henry Powell, 110 West Morris Hammond, stated this is the renewal from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. This was sent out to Companies in Louisiana to receive competitive proposal did not receive any and Blue Cross/Blue Shield came back with a 4.5% rate increase last year it was at 29% increase. To the City of Hammond it's an \$85,000 increase over the current overall \$138,000 increase. Blue Cross is expected to pay out \$3.2 million in claims. HRA funding is where the City give employee's money to help cover their deductible actual about \$90,000 under this year which is good. The part of what's driving our cost in the City is diabetes, hypertension, and prescription drugs. Proposed to the insurance committee that we bring in a company that will assess each employee's health and assist in coaching will not provide names but, bring in a program to assist with the highest concerns. Part of the high utilization of prescriptions are Insulin.

Councilwoman Gonzales, can you coach someone to not need insulin thought this was always needed

Henry Powell, trying to figure out but it appears to be an ongoing pattern. 1) why is the most expensive insulin made and prescribed to individuals 2) can we reduce the severity of the diabetes. This is where the company comes in and do the health assessments and it will be confidential have seen it in other accounts and it has helped.

Councilman DiVittorio, the most expensive brands are being prescribed but, how would the patient know this

Henry Powell, there is a protocol that Blue Cross has that allows a pharmacy vendor to try to provide a lower cost drug.

Councilwoman Gonzales, did the insurance committee agree to allow this company to come

Henry Powell, no this is just to put on your radar currently negotiating cost

Councilman Andrews, how long will the contract last for the company that will do the wellness

Henry Powell, there are different levels the health assessment and coaching is one level then will come and target that one group. Then they will come back and target the entire account. In December the City will receive a 15% refund on the premium which will cover about half of your rate increase. Asking to approve the renewal of the benefit package as well as the funding for the benny card.

Councilman Andrews, asked about the process of the benny card

Henry Powell, reviewed the steps of the benny card and what the employee is responsible for out of pocket from the benefit package that was provided.

There were no public comments

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to accept the proposed health insurance package for calendar year 2021

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

V. **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.

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 **November 17, 2020** BEING 2 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.