

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
December 22, 2020
5:30pm**

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

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An Ordinance to rezone property located at 807 E. Church Street currently zoned as RM-2 Expanded Conditional Use to allow prepared food to MX-C request by Anthony Perkins (Z-2020-07-00079).

Tracie Schillace, stated this property is located on E. Church Street its currently a drive thru restaurant and several years ago asked to be rezoned from RM-2 to Expanded Conditional Use to sell packaged food as the business expanded he wanted to cook food an asked to change the Expanded Conditional Use allowing cooked and prepared food. Mr. Perkins is asking to rezone to MX-C.

Councilwoman Gonzales, does MX-C allow all restaurants

Tracie Schillace, yes, it allows for duplexes, modular without chassis, apartments, all restaurants, all retail sales, and all self-storage under the UDC. This is located in Councilman Andrews District.

Owner Present: Anthony Perkins, 807 & 809 E. Church Street Hammond 70401

There were no Public Comments



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
December 22, 2020**

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Gonzales, called Regular Session to order at 5:50pm

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

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, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Asking everyone to continue practicing social distancing and washing hands and don't lose focus on what this season is all about. On December 31, 2020 in MLK Park will be feeding the community and anyone who would like to volunteer their services your welcome to email him and he will give more additional information on that day. He informed Chief Bergeron that they have started back with the dirt bikes in the neighborhood and will provide the information to him.

Councilman Leon, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Asking everyone to be aware of your surroundings due to crimes that have been taking place in District 5. Be aware when you're out shopping and out.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about the nonprofit process due to budget coming up

Mayor, nonprofits can ask for funds but, it's up to the Council to decide and the process is to come to the administration to provide to the Council

Lacy Landrum, the Council was to create a process and there is an application form but in terms of the money is up to the Council.

Councilman DiVittorio, on demolitions have any been issued? Asked about the property on Linden and Coleman have we found out who is the owner?

City Attorney, Andre Coudrain, stated he will check on it

Councilman DiVittorio, wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Councilman Wells, asked about a home in his district that has been demolished and would like to know the process, what took place, who was the contractor, and how much was it? The location is George Perkins Sr. Street.

Councilman DiVittorio, is Jana handling demolitions or Bobby

Lacy Landrum, it's moving now to purchasing

Councilman Wells, it was issued and the contractor won the contract but City rebid it out and removed the contract from the contractor because there were issues on how to handle the bid process and then we put in place new guidelines that purchasing will be handling demolitions.

Andre Coudrain, there were bids that went out then there was a challenge to the bids because of the process. The gentlemen who made the challenge stepped back a bit. Andre stated he had discussion with the building department and the question became is it fair to honor other low bids that had the same time after discussion to go back with the low bid. Stated he will go back and check the information.

Councilman DiVittorio, is there a different bidding agreement

Andre Coudrain, yes going forward entirely a new process that will be going through the Purchasing Department. Stated will check into the information for clarity.

Councilman Wells, the home on George Perkins Sr. still looks the same but will follow up on this demolition. Councilman Wells, asked about the Sewer issue on Vernado Lane?

Mayor, actually have a bid opening coming up and have done work and will do some videoing of the area

Guy Palermo, stated he meet with Mrs. Georgia and replaced her Sewer lines from her clean out all the way to the main line back in July of last year. The main line was checked nothing was blocked all the way from Mississippi Canal to Mooney. Since repairs were done in August on Mooney and Mississippi there has been less overflow to the manholes and there have been no reports.

Councilman Wells, the overflow on Mississippi Street I've move forward with DEQ and you have not reported overflows on Mississippi Street spoke with Lacy to receive the after hour number for the Police Department I have reports through the after hour number and I have pictures I've been in contact with DEQ and this problem will be solved the beginning of next year. Also, on Mississippi Street see the truck came out to clean the manhole but, everything was left on the street that came out of the manhole. Asked Guy Palermo to check the area to make sure it's clean from the debris.

Guy Palermo, will go to check the area

Councilman Wells, asked about Stop sign on Washington Ave. & Louisa West

Mayor, nothing will be done we went to the area cleared trees and talked to the residents. There is clear vision when you get to the signs there was 1 accident in 10 years.

Councilman Wells, next year 2021 there will be a resident that will attend Council meeting that had an accident in this area but, did not report it due to the individual not being insured.

Councilman Wells, wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, & Happy New Year's. Stated his family is present but they will not have a Merry Christmas or Happy New Year's the reason his nephew is still missing and Christmas will make 100 days. The issues were having are between the Sheriff Office and Hammond Police Department and he's missing out of Councilman DiVittorio District. We have a human being been missing imagine what this family has to go through. Stated he called Lacy to receive the report of the hours the detectives work on the case.

Crystal Jackson, 43200 N. Baham Lane, Hammond, the Sheriff Department appeared as if they were going to proceed in her brothers case and do everything that was in their power to find out what happened to him. Ms. Jackson stated her family is not in a good place and her brother has been missing since Labor Day September 7th, 2020 and there has been phone calls made, different community members speaking with Sheriff, Lieutenants, and detectives on the family behalf's. Stated she's contacted the newspaper, radio station and anyone could assist her she has reached out. Stated she realize this is not TV but, after 3 months she expects someone should be able to inform her what's going on but nothing has happened. She stated she was supposed to meet with a Lieutenant Jacob Swavbel and he has cancelled twice. There is a concern of this community for someone just to come up missing and nothing to be done it was on TV once, and ran through crime stoppers twice and this was it. Stated TPSO is here and Hammond Police Department here in our community and nothing has been done about this and yes Councilman Wells requested information from HPD it looked like a whole lot of nothing and she's very emotional stated her brother lived in Hammond Louisiana in Lakewood Subdivision off of Old Baton Rouge Highway. She needs help and her mother needs peace.

Councilman Wells, when millage comes up it's voted on and we need help. Stated he votes on everything for everybody and yet there is an issue. No it's no one else problem because no one is missing out of your family. This is a City and Parish problem that keeps being bypassed stated he's tired and he ask for his constituents of things that's needed in his district anything Mooney Ave., needs he's asking every department head knows him because he's been calling before he was a City Councilman and we have to do better. Stated he's asking for his constituents what's needed and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Gonzales, wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2. Mayor: Ms. Crystal my prayers goes out to you and your family. Asked Chief to come up and give process. No one wants to have someone missing everyone would love closure especially the family and we do not compare this to any animal this is a human being. Stated his prayers go out to the family. Mayor, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and go out to see the lights & the town, shop local and be safe.

Councilman Wells left the meeting

VI. Minutes:

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated there is an amendment to the Minutes of December 8, 2020 requested by Councilman Wells

Andre Coudrain, Councilman Wells asked that the minutes include a dialogue with the issue on the Sewer on Mississippi Street and a review of the video captured the following dialogue.

DW: you are asking for money for sewer improvements and there is a problem with sewer coming out of the manhole cover on Mississippi St.

LL: believes the manhole covers have been secured

DW: he has pictures. The City needs to find a way to keep the manhole down and fix the sewer problems. He needs help in his area.

LL: the City will look at it

A. December 8, 2020: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to amend the minutes of December 8, 2020 to add the following dialogue.

DW: you are asking for money for sewer improvements and there is a problem with sewer coming out of the manhole cover on Mississippi St.

LL: believes the manhole covers have been secured

DW: he has pictures. The City needs to find a way to keep the manhole down and fix the sewer problems. He needs help in his area.

LL: the City will look at it

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

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020 as amended.

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

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution approving the holding of an election in the Hammond Downtown Development District, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 24, 2021 to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein. Brennan Black, with Foley & Judell law firm is assisting the DDD with this election. This is an approval required by the authorizing legislation.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked this is the residents who live in this district that gets to vote on this

Brennan Black, that's correct

Janice Carter Beard, 806 Natchez Street asked with this tax only the district gets to vote on it and who's paying the taxes.

Brennan Black, it's a property tax not a sales tax only people who live vote and property owners with properties within the DDD pay the tax

Councilman DiVittorio, is this a renewal

Brennan Black's, yes this is a renewal expiring in 2023 and it's not increasing

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio approving the holding of an election in the Hammond Downtown Development District, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 24, 2021 to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

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

2. A resolution to purchase Fifty (50) Dell Latitude Laptops from Dell in the amount of \$40,457.50 (State Contract #4400002525). Jana Thurman, stated the laptops will be for Patrol Officers and they will replace broken ones and upgrade the current ones that are outdated. This is the low quote.

Councilwoman Gonzales, what happens to the old ones?

Chief Edwin Bergeron, the last order that was purchased was in 2014 and there are 23 that are from 2009. The Computers are crashing and need this to move forward IT is assisting with the malfunctions of the current computers. There are 32 from 2014 out of these 11 are non-functional and 23 purchased in 2009.

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to purchase Fifty (50) Dell Latitude Laptops from Dell in the amount of \$40,457.50 (State Contract #4400002525).

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

3. A resolution to approve the appointment of Evan Singer, representing the Largest Assessed Property Owners to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Chelsea Tallo, stated Evan Singer is replacing Eric Dosch. Evan lives downtown and has background in real estate and works at First Guaranty Bank.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to approve the appointment of Evan Singer, representing the Largest Assessed Property Owners to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

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

4. A resolution to approve the appointment of John Daniel Guerin, representing the Largest Assessed Property Owners to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Chelsea Tallo, stated this is a reappointment and John is the current Chairman.

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Leon** to approve the appointment of John Daniel Guerin, representing the Largest Assessed Property Owners to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

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

5. A resolution to approve the appointment of John Exnicios, representing the Largest Assessed Property Owners to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Chelsea Tallo, stated John is a resident of downtown and owns property and has a business in the DDD. Also, he is a member of the Historic District commission and this will assist with communication with the Historic District.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman Leon** to approve the appointment of John Exnicios, representing the Largest Assessed Property Owners to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

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

6. A resolution to approve the appointment of Bryan Wong representing the Westside Business and Property Owners, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Chelsea Tallo, stated this would be Bryan's 2nd term, he is currently on the board and an owner of 113 Restaurant.

Chelsea, informed Councilmembers there will be a Board training on January 13, 2021 with inspirational speakers and invite them to attend.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to approve the appointment of Bryan Wong representing the Westside Business and Property Owners, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

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

7. A resolution supporting the submission of a grant application for up to \$50,000 to the Community Water Enrichment Fund to install a water main along Pride Drive West. Charles Borchers IV, stated there is an opportunity now to offset the cost by about half with this \$50,000 potential grant.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio resolution supporting the submission of a grant application for up to \$50,000 to the Community Water Enrichment Fund to install a water main along Pride Drive West.

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

8. A resolution to approve the proposal submitted by Principal Engineering, Inc. and to authorize work on Task 1, "Data Gathering and Preliminary Analysis," as part of a larger project studying the entire city limits area to revise the City's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) and adjust Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). Funding for Task 1 will come from the \$100,000 allocated in the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan for a flood study. Tracie Schillace, stated this project started with the previous Council that wanted to get the Flood Study going north of the railroad tracks. Homes are being built up high because of the flood elevations that FEMA set out and those regulations have to be followed. Also they adopted stricter regulations to assist with Flood insurance rates to making them build higher than what's required by FEMA. The city believes the based flood elevations could be wrong in certain areas and would like to move forward with the project. Principal Engineering, has proposed some funding of how to do this in steps, it's a lengthy process this will start the process it is technical and complicated.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated he's excited about moving forward and has talked to the Parish about contributing funding. This will assist a lot of people in the community with premiums

Councilwoman Gonzales, improving your home too much in value could knock you out of the ability to get flood rates and it's a big problem because you lose value in your home. The information that has been presented tells us the FEMA data is wrong and this is a great project and her district is in favor.

Tracie Schillace, sometimes your flood insurance premiums are more than your house note

John Exnicious, as a real estate agent he's excited about this project because as an real estate agent it has been difficult to sell property. Stated existing elevations has and will prevent people from moving here.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve the proposal submitted by Principal Engineering, Inc. and to authorize work on Task 1, "Data Gathering and Preliminary Analysis," as part of a larger project studying the entire city limits area to revise the City's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) and adjust Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). Funding for Task 1 will come from the \$100,000 allocated in the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan for a flood study.

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

9. A resolution to approve funding for a sidewalk improvements project at 206 East Morris Avenue with a three-way, equal share of the total cost, estimated at \$43,995.55, between STOA, the Hammond Downtown Development District, and the City of Hammond. The City's contribution will be \$14,665.18 and will be used from "Miscellaneous Sidewalk Improvements - FY 2020." Lacy Landrum, stated STOA headquarters will be at this location on Morris & Cherry. They are proposing to build out a sidewalk and contribute a third, along with the DDD and the City will pay a third if approved. This is a fiscal year 2020 allocation that has not been spent. This is a good project and benefit for this area.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve funding for a sidewalk improvements project at 206 East Morris Avenue with a three-way, equal share of the total cost, estimated at \$43,995.55, between STOA, the Hammond Downtown Development District, and the City of Hammond. The City's contribution will be \$14,665.18 and will be used from "Miscellaneous Sidewalk Improvements - FY 2020."

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

10. A resolution to approve Budget Change Form 21-05 transferring \$470,000 into "South WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant)" (project 616-31807), specifically with \$80,000 from "Generator Chevy Well" (project 616-11903) and \$390,000 from "Lift Station Upgrades - FY 2021" (project 616-12102). Webb Anderson, started this project in 2017 and bids came in and need to move money - the Chevy Well is complete. The Lift Station upgrades will be pushed back because the Plant has to be completed.

Councilman DiVittorio, what was the delay?

Lacy Landrum, it is a lengthy process for applying for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan fund then we had to move forward with the 2019 election that was needed and you cannot change funding while you're going through the process.

Councilwoman Gonzales, will this wipe out the Lift Station Upgrades for fiscal year 2021?

Webb Anderson, Yes, on the next item moving all the funds will leave a surplus of \$15,000

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to approve Budget Change Form 21-05 transferring \$470,000 into "South WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant)" (project 616-31807), specifically with \$80,000 from "Generator Chevy Well" (project 616-11903) and \$390,000 from "Lift Station Upgrades - FY 2021" (project 616-12102).

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

11. A resolution to ratify and award bids received on December 17, 2020, for "South WWTP Upgrade" (project 616-31807). Webb Anderson, the bid summary is presented and received 6 bids. The lowest bidder is Lemoine Company- he recommends awarding the contract to the lower bidder in the amount of \$2,246,350

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to ratify and award bids received on December 17, 2020, for "South WWTP Upgrade" (project 616-31807).

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

12. A resolution to award the contract to S&P Liner, LLC, for "Sewer Rehab [FY2021] - Iowa Addition & University Subdivision" (Project 616-12104) in the amount of \$194,330.00. Webb Anderson, this was appropriated over a year ago. Stated they used the unit prices from the City of Ponchatoula - the amount is \$194,330.00 and recommends to move forward.

Lacy Landrum the project number is Project 616-12104

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman DiVittorio to award the contract to S&P Liner, LLC, for "Sewer Rehab [FY2021] - Iowa Addition & University Subdivision" (Project 616-12104) in the amount of \$194,330.00.

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

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE

1. Final adoption of an Ordinance to rezone property located at 807 E. Church Street currently zoned as RM-2 Expanded Conditional Use to allow prepared food to MX-C request by Anthony Perkins (Z-2020-07-00079).

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt an ordinance to rezone property located at 807 E. Church Street currently zoned as RM-2 Expanded Conditional Use to allow prepared food to MX-C request by Anthony Perkins (Z-2020-07-00079).

**Vote: Carlee Gonzales (N), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Kip Andrews (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Steve Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 3-1**

IX. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction for an Ordinance to annex 16.889 acres (parcel#16TR80000033) requested by Hudson Industrial Park, LLC located at the NE corner of Industrial Park Rd and Shelton Rd. in accordance with survey by George D. Sullivan, Zone as I-L, and to be placed in City Council District #1 (Z-2020-09-00086) Recommend approval by the Zoning Commission. Tracie Schillace, stated this property is on the corner of Industrial & Shelton Road. This property is in conjunction with the Medline site that involves the retention pond. It is currently outside City limits currently and is proposed to be zoned as I-L to be placed in District #1.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an Ordinance to annex 16.889 acres (parcel#16TR80000033) requested by Hudson Industrial Park, LLC located at the NE corner of Industrial Park Rd and Shelton Rd. in accordance with survey by George D. Sullivan, Zone as I-L, and to be placed in City Council District #1 (Z-2020-09-00086) Recommend approval by the Zoning Commission

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

Public Hearing is set for January 12, 2021 at 5:30pm

2. Introduction of an Ordinance to transfer \$14,665.18 from the Downtown Development District Fund (207) Balance to the line item of Sidewalk Improvements within the DDD Fund (20775100 - 570302). Chelsea Tallo Little stated this is the sidewalk project with STOA.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an Ordinance to transfer \$14,665.18 from the Downtown Development District Fund (207) Balance to the line item of Sidewalk Improvements within the DDD Fund (20775100 - 570302).

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

Public Hearing is set for January 12, 2021 at 5:30pm

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

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 **December 22, 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.