

Hammond City Council Members
Councilman Kip Andrews- President
Councilman Sam DiVittorio- Vice President
Councilman Devon Wells
Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales
Councilman Steve Leon

City Council Clerk, Tonia Banks
City Attorney, Andre Coudrain



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
February 9, 2021
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Andrews, called public hearing to order at 5:30pm

II. ROLL CALL: Councilman Wells (A), Councilwoman Gonzales (P), Councilman Leon (P), Councilman DiVittorio (P), Councilman Andrews (P).

III. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
February 9, 2021
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Andrews, called public hearing to order at 5:31pm

II. ROLL CALL: Councilman Wells (A), Councilwoman Gonzales (P), Councilman Leon (P), Councilman DiVittorio (P), Councilman Andrews (P).

**III. PRAYER: Tim Moffett
Woodland Park Baptist Church**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All veterans and active military, please render the proper salute.
Kennedi Perry 3rd Grade
Hammond Westside Montessori School**

Councilman Andrews thanked Tim Moffett and Kennedi Perry

Councilman Wells, entered the meeting

V. REPORTS:

1. Mayor: There was an outstanding sales tax report and thanked everyone for supporting businesses and the City.

2. Council: Councilman Wells, stated Black History month is this month. There was a killing in the neighborhood and the guns are getting out of control and hopefully he and Mayor could get together. He suggests that a police substation be placed in District 3- his concern is the little kids will end up getting hurt that don't have nothing to do with it. Councilman Wells thanked the Mayor for getting the stop sign on Washington Ave., and Louisa Street. The community is excited about a stop sign and this should be given to any Councilman whose constituents ask for this to be placed in the community and hopefully no one else has to go through the measures he went through for a stop sign. On Friday & Saturday he was dealing with a sewer issue and on Saturday morning he received calls that residents cannot flush their toilets- this seems like this is getting worse instead of better. We need to sit down and correct these issues- looking at all the new planning that's coming up in the community and we're having issues with the sewer- hopefully in the next few months we could sit down and solve this problem.

Councilman DiVittorio, we're having our first Housing Committee Meeting tomorrow at 5:30pm here in Council Chambers and it's opened to the public.

Councilwoman Gonzales, on Thursday, February 18th will be having a meeting for Cate Square Park playground this is a public input meeting at 5:00pm here in Council Chambers.

Councilman Andrews, on Monday of next week will have conference call with the committee for the Wilbert Dangerfield Award of Excellence to get everything together for our next Council meeting. Councilman Andrews presented to two presentations:

- 1. Love One Another group of African American Men was presented certificate of appreciation for given back to the community.**
- 2. Titus Showers was recognized for his accomplishments and being a part of the US Presidential Inauguration.**

VI. Minutes of January 26, 2021: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021

Vote: Councilman Wells (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 5-0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter contract with USA Pools of Louisiana for maintenance and operations of Zemurray Pool in the amount of #38,570.00 annually. Jana Thurman, stated the RFP 21-14 for the operation and cleaning of the pool was sent. There were 3 proposals- the lowest proposal was not signed and deemed nonresponsive, she is asking to go with the 2nd lowest proposal which is USA Pools of Louisiana and a responsive proposal.

Councilman DiVittorio asked why it was not signed.

Jana Thurman, not sure why it was not signed and without them signing it's not a documented contract. It's a non-responsive proposal.

Councilman Wells, this is a \$23,000 difference.

Desirae Dotey, stated this is a one-year contract.

Councilman Wells, what is the difference between rebidding for demolitions verses this being rebid.

Jana Thurman, the previous demolition bids I did not put out but, there was no uniform in the specifications. The bids that are now being put out for demolitions has a uniform specification and there is always error to improve.

Mayor, we didn't have to rebid but can we rebid?

Andre Coudrain, not always- if there are responsive bids. There are strict laws on the bids once sent out different from demolitions because the way it was bid.

Councilman DiVittorio, legally there is nothing that can be done.

Andre Coudrain, it was not a responsive bid.

Jan Thurman, legally it was not a responsive bid and they came in under budget. We were budgeted for \$50,000.

Councilman Wells, people are looking for raises for the City it's not a contract it's a proposal and he's concerned about the \$23,000 difference.

Councilman Wells, the children's party for the pool who sets the party and who the money goes to?

Desirae Dotey stated she will set the prices and the funds will go to the City.

Councilman Wells, what are the ages for children parties.

Desirae Dotey will discuss with US Pool once approved looking at children and teens with capacity limit.

Councilman Wells, knows about the past pool parties.

Desirae Dotey, there will be age limit and capacity limit.

Councilman Wells, we can't just allow kids to have parties - the adults pay taxes.

Desirae Dotey, it will be reviewed but there will be a cap on how many could attend.

Councilman Wells, there needs to be rules and guidelines in place.

Desirae Dotey, rules will be in place and everyone will have a fair chance.

Councilman Wells are there prices for swimming lessons.

Desirae Dotey, at this time we don't

Councilman Wells, according to research African American are most likely to drown. The concern is the rate for individuals that are less fortunate.

Desirae Dotey, we will be more affordable we look at low-income families and the prices will be low and there will be assistance.

Councilman Wells don't have answers to questions, but you want me to vote on this item.

Mayor, this contract is for pool maintenance the program will go through with Desirae.

Councilman Wells, City buying chemicals and will access to the chemicals.

Desirae Dotey, we're looking for someone to manage and operate the pool once approved then we would look at hiring a supervisor, planning committee for the pool, these are all things that will come after this is approved.

Councilman DiVittorio are these proposals are they went through the public bidding.

Jana Thurman, a proposal not an invitation to bid.

Sam DiVittorio what is the regulation to reject to a proposal.

Andre Coudrain will have to review, thinks you are bound by what the proposal says. The proposal gives you criteria and what is required. If a proposal requires you to have a signature to be there, it has to be there.

Jana Thurman, it states it in the proposal package and if not signed it says you are nonresponsive.

Lynn Charles, 805 E. Church Street, you are saying that one proposal was not signed. Proposal is just telling you what is offered not an offer not actually soliciting.

Jana Thurman, we do solicit and send out specification. It's a Request for Proposals that is advertised and sent to companies that issue that type of service not an invitation to bid.

Lynn Charles, is there any regulation that will prevent you from going back out and inquiring what the lowest quote has entered because you do not have a competitive range should this be re proposed?

Jana Thurman, it came in under the budget.

Lynn Charles, how are you saving money?

Jana Thurman, proposals are different and if responsive City needs to accept.

Councilman Wells asked if this could this be rebid out.

Andre Coudrain, if we have a bid that is responsive and meets all the requirements of the RFP and its under our budget there is no reason not to award it. At some point you must stick with what went out and who was responsive.

Councilman Wells, there needs to be policy and procedure where a 10 yr., old can understand.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to authorize the Mayor to enter contract with USA Pools of Louisiana for maintenance and operations of Zemurray Pool in the amount of #38,570.00 annually.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (N), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 4-1

2. A resolution supporting the submission of an \$18,000 application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase dashboard cameras for the Hammond Police Department. Charles Borchers IV, stated this is the State version which comes from our State agency which will provide funding for the police units. There is no match.

Trudy Foster Landry grew up around law enforcement she started taking the community program with the Hammond Police Department. Hammond Police program is exceptional and very impressed with the Chief of Police and the professionalism of officers that are in the course. Asking Council to support the department.

Councilmen Wells left the meeting.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon supporting the submission of an \$18,000 application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase dashboard cameras for the Hammond Police Department.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

3. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$5,000 application to the Healthy Communities Grant Program to reduce litter and waste in historic downtown Hammond and City parks. Charles Borchers IV, stated the City is looking at placing additional signage downtown to assist with directing residents and visitors and installing pet waste stations. There is a like kind match coming from Keep Hammond Beautiful volunteer time.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews supporting the submission of a \$5,000 application to the Healthy Communities Grant Program to reduce litter and waste in historic downtown Hammond and City parks.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: NONE

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Introduction for an Ordinance to accept final subdivision plat and construction plans for "PS-2" Major Subdivision (22 single family lots & greenspace), acceptance of dedication of all public improvements in accordance with final plat by John E. Bonneau & Associates, Inc. and construction drawings by Webb M. Anderson dated revised 12/23/2020, and acceptance of 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$428,520.00 request by Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, Inc. located at 1105 Hewitt Rd; Zoned RS-11.A (SUB-2020-10-00138) Recommend Approval by Planning Commission. Tracie Schillace, stated the property is located in District #3 and the Planning Commission is recommending approval based on all the construction drawings being reviewed and built to City standards also asking for an acceptance of a 1-year performance bond that cover all the infrastructure improvements at 100% cost.

Councilman Wells re-entered the meeting.

Councilwoman Gonzales asked if all documents could be re-emailed.

Tracie Schillace usually Chuck Spangler reviews all City construction drawings but, he was hired to design this project so, a review engineer had to be hired and the City received approval from that engineer.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance to accept final subdivision plat and construction plans for "PS-2" Major Subdivision (22 single family lots & greenspace), acceptance of dedication of all public improvements in accordance with final plat by John E. Bonneau & Associates, Inc. and construction drawings by Webb M. Anderson dated revised 12/23/2020, and acceptance of 1 year performance bond in the amount of \$428,520.00 request by Gulf Coast Housing

Partnership, Inc. located at 1105 Hewitt Rd; Zoned RS-11.A (SUB-2020-10-00138) Recommend Approval by Planning Commission..

VOTE: Councilman Wells (N), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (N), Councilman Andrews (N). Motion Fails 2-3

2. Introduction for an Ordinance to rezone a lot being 50' x 150' in the South 1/3 of the SW 1/4 of Blk 7 of the Iowa Addition from RM-2 to RM-3 requested by Tracy Washington located at 211 S. Elm St.; Iowa Addition Overlay (Z-2021-01-00088) Recommendation to deny by the Zoning Commission.
Tracie Schillace, this property on the corner of South Elm- the owner is asking to rezone to RM-2 to RM-3.

Councilman Wells, stated this is in District #1

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an Ordinance to rezone a lot being 50' x 150' in the South 1/3 of the SW 1/4 of Blk 7 of the Iowa Addition from RM-2 to RM-3 requested by Tracy Washington located at 211 S. Elm St.; Iowa Addition Overlay (Z-2021-01-00088) Recommendation to deny by the Zoning Commission.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Abstain), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 4 Yeas, 1 Abstain

Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, February 23, 2021

3. Introduction for an Ordinance to rezone a lot being 0.162 acres from RS-3 to RM-3 in accordance with a survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 5/26/2020 requested by Adrien Wells located at 905 S. Mooney Ave. (Z-2021-01-00089) Recommendation to approve by the Zoning Commission. Tracie Schillace, stated Mr. Wells requested re-zoning and planning and zoning commission granted a variance on lot size.

Councilman Wells left the meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to introduce an Ordinance to rezone a lot being 0.162 acres from RS-3 to RM-3 in accordance with a survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 5/26/2020 requested by Adrien Wells located at 905 S. Mooney Ave. (Z-2021-01-00089) Recommendation to approve by the Zoning Commission.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

Councilman Wells re-entered the meeting

Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, February 23, 2021

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

CERTIFICATION OF CLERK

I TONIA BANKS, CLERK OF COUNCIL DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING IS ATURE AND CORRECT RECITATION OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD **February 9, 2021** BEING 5 PAGES IN LENGTH

TONIA BANKS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
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.