

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, Lisa Cockerham
City Attorney, Andre Coudrain



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
September 28, 2021
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An ordinance declaring movable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety. Six Digital Ally Body cameras and one docking station. (Jana Thurman)

Jana Thurman, recommended that they be donated to Springfield Police Department to help out that agency.

No Public Comment

2. An ordinance to declare used Cate Street playground equipment as surplus and no longer needed by the City and to donate it to the Hammond Area Recreation District. (Jana Thurman)

Jana Thurman stated the equipment will be donated to CT Mitchell Park

Councilwoman Gonzales asked if the equipment could be used by the recreation department.

Jana Thurman, stated she reached out to the recreation department and they have no use for it

No Public Comment

3. An ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the sale of the items listed below to sell on Govdeal.com. (Jana Thurman)

Surplus sale items:

Unit 826 2010 Ford F150 – VIN# 1FTEW1CW7AFB33475
Unit 596 2005 Dodge Durango VIN# 1D4HD38N45F593216
Unit 150 2002 Nissan Altima VIN # 1N4AL11DX2C211510
Unit 128 2008 Nissan Rogue VIN# JN8AS58T88W023940
Unit 582 2004 Ford F150 VIN# 2FTRZ17W84C79046
Unit 741 2008 Crown Victoria VIN# 1FAFP71V6X160976
52” SCAG Mower Serial 3870110 Model # STT50B
31 cloth stackable chairs
Honeywell Electric Safe
Kole Audio Amplifier
Box of phone chargers
Box of school supplies (paper, pens)
Knife

Sanyo VHS
GE VHS
2 – L shaped wood desk
Metal Bed Frame
Black Futon
F-250 ServiceTruck Bed
Kubota Rubber Tracks
Panasonic VCR
Sanyo TV
Sylvania TV
Emerson TV/VCR
Troy Bilt Weedeater

Jana Thurman, stated this was unclaimed or damaged property and asked to sell it on Govdeal.com

No public comment

4. An ordinance to transfer \$86,819.96 from the Sales Tax Fund balance to purchase a Kubota tractor for the Airport on state contract (#AG-4400017852) from Star Equipment. (David Lobue/Lacy Landrum

David Lobue, stated they need to replace a tractor that needs major repairs and that it would cost between \$40,000-\$50,000 to repair and keep it operational.

Councilman Wells, Asked why the money can't come from the airport budget.

David Lobue, stated that we couldn't predict the tractor being broken when the budget was prepared

Councilman Wells, Asked what does the airport bring to the city.

David Lobue, stated it brings commerce to the city, about 250 to 400 operations per day and about 70% of it comes from outside of the parish.

Councilman Wells, stated, last year a tractor was purchased. Why can't you get grant money for this.

David Lobue, explained that grant money was for the up keep of the airport and tractors and hangers are not normally eligible for grant money.

Councilman Wells, stated that his district gets left out when money goes to the airport and asked why he doesn't use money from the airport's budget.

David Lobue, proceeded to explain the budget and expenditures.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked if the city has looked at possible contracting the grass cutting services out.

David Lobue, stated that if the grass cutting was contracted out it would eliminate jobs and they did look at it about five years ago and the cost was about the same.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked, what the life of a tractor is.

David Lobue, stated about ten years.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked what happens to the old tractor.

David Lobue, stated it would be sold as surplus

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked, where does the money go, does it go back the general fund.

Mayor, it goes to the general fund, we're just buying a tractor not bush hog and he stated that five cuts a year was way low and inaccurate ask David to clarify.

David Lobue, clarified the cutting process.

Councilman Wells, stated the airport needs to start taking care of itself. His district is coming up short.

No Public Comment



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
September 28, 2021
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Council President Andrews

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

V. REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor stated that we are near 100% of homes having power from Entergy, with the exception of those homes where the meters has been ripped from the home. Debris removal is in progress, we need more assets to remove debris. One of the biggest frustration is from people who had trees in their homes, getting access to trailers etc. to live in while repairs are made Asked that people give the city a call with issues.

Councilman Andrews, asked about the debris pickup.

Mayor, stated that the city is working with the Parish to get more assets.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked, can the city do the pick-up

Lacy Landrum, stated, not to be reimbursed by FEMA, the Parish is contracted with FEMA and they have about twenty of the double trucks. The city cannot direct the efforts of Parish contractors. The city does not schedule pickups.

Councilman Andrews, asked, can the city plan better for storms.

Lacy Landrum, yes the city needs more pre-disaster planning and contracts, we learned a lot from this storm.

Councilman Andrews, stated all of this falls in line with the email he sent out asking for department heads to attend the meeting to give a review of what they learned during the storm, what did or didn't work so if we ever experience this again, we would know how to respond. Thankful for the information that is being provided.

Lacy Landrum, the Ida communication pages that is on the city's website provides a lot of information for to citizens.

Councilman Wells, address the email the council president sent out and he wants department heads at the next meeting to discuss Ida.

Lacy Landrum, stated that a meeting was already planned for next week to discuss with all the department heads internally. The city needs more time to determine what happened, it will be done internally, then brought to the council.

Council Wells, thanked Council President Andrews, Parish President and Councilman Sam.

Claude Sims, 806 Mooney Avenue, talked about accountability, responsibility and credibility.

Councilman Wells, stated that several neighborhoods still stink from debris.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated he would like a meeting with the department head and council to get a better grip on hurricane issues. He also talked about getting the canals cleaned out and we need to work with the drainage board.

2. Council:

Laura Knighten, Colorado St., stated she has trash piled up in her areas and they should go to each other's districts to see what is needed.

VI. Minutes

A. Minutes of September 16,2021

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Wells** to approve the minutes of **September 16, 2021**.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Absent), Approved 4-0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to accept the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant as required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and specified in the City of Hammond discharge permit. (Guy Palermo) Nathan Levi (Lab Manager)

Guy Palermo, stated this is the annual report for DEQ all testing and showing the City is in compliance. This lab data on waste water plant is from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if he could explain what they were looking at.

Guy Palermo, stated it was lab data and that the lab manager was present. It was a copy of the samples that they run daily and monthly at the waste water plant.

Nathan Levi (Lab Manager), there were some excursions, due to heavy rainfall and there was some overflow, but everything was kept contained. He looks at input and outflow. The plants did not discharge any raw waste. He proceeded to explain the report.

Councilman Wells, asked, what about overflow in houses. He proceed to ask questions about sewer in houses and questioned portions of the report.

Guy Palermo, stated, that is not part of this report, it is a different report. This report is not about sewage.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Avenue, (YouTube), stated sewer backed up in homes before Hurricane Ida.

Lacy Landrum, thanked everyone for appropriating the money, she stated this has been a long process of a system that has been broken for a long time. She explained the funding that was going to sewer upgrades and she thanked Guy and stated he's doing amazing job, he and his staff. Thanked Nathan for coming out and everyone involved in the process.

Mayor, asked Councilman Wells not to fight against us to fight with us.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, asked the administration to address why before now there were no overflows were ever reported to the DEQ.

Lacy Landrum, stated there were overflows reported in the past but the manhole specific overflows were not that prevalent, there was a different understanding of those overflows.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve a resolution to accept the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant as required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and specified in the City of Hammond discharge permit.

Vote: Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Wells (N) Councilman Leon (absent) Motion Approved 3-1

2. A resolution to approve Hi-Ho Bar B Q # 1 Located at 2610 W. Thomas St., Hammond, LA 70401 for High/Low alcohol approval on premise. The ownership is Z and L Enterprises LLC. (Laura Hammett)

Laura Hammett, stated this is a change of ownership, all the requirements have been met and they are

seeking approval. The new owners, Zachary and Lacy are in the audience.

Zachary Russell, (owner) stated he was with the company for seven years and they will keep things the same.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Wells** to approve a resolution Hi-Ho Bar B Q # 1 Located at 2610 W. Thomas St., Hammond, LA 70401 for High/Low alcohol approval on premise. The ownership is Z and L Enterprises LLC

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

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Final adoption of an ordinance declaring movable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety. Six Digital Ally Body cameras and one docking station. (Jana Thurman)

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by **Councilman Andrews**, declaring movable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety. Six Digital Ally Body cameras and one docking station.

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

2. Final adoption of an ordinance to declare used Cate Street playground equipment as surplus and no longer needed by the City and to donate it to the Hammond Area Recreation District. (Jana Thurman)

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by **Councilman DiVittorio**, to declare used Cate Street playground equipment as surplus and no longer needed by the City and to donate it to the Hammond Area Recreation District.

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

3. Final adoption of an ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the sale of the items listed below to sell on Govdeal.com. (Jana Thurman)

There was a motion by Councilwoman DiVittorio and second by **Councilman Wells**, to declare as surplus and authorize the sale of the items listed below to sell on Govdeal.com.

Surplus sale items:

Unit 826 2010 Ford F150 – VIN# 1FTEW1CW7AFB33475
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GE VHS
2 – L shaped wood desk
Metal Bed Frame
Black Futon
F-250 ServiceTruck Bed
Kubota Rubber Tracks
Panasonic VCR
Sanyo TV
Sylvania TV
Emerson TV/VCR
Troy Bilt Weedeater

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

4. Final adoption of an ordinance to transfer \$86,819.96 from the Sales Tax Fund balance to purchase a Kubota tractor for the Airport on state contract (#AG-4400017852) from Star Equipment. (David Lobue/Jana Thurman)

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews**, to transfer \$86,819.96 from the Sales Tax Fund balance to purchase a Kubota tractor for the Airport on state contract (#AG-4400017852) from Star Equipment.

Vote: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilman Wells (N), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Absent.) Motion Approved 3-1

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

X. ADJOURN: There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to Adjourn, all members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned. 4-0

CERTIFICATION OF CLERK

I LISA COCKERHAM, 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 SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 BEING 6 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL

Persons needing accommodations or assistance should contact City Council Clerk Lisa Cockerham at **985-277-5610**. Request should be made at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.