

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
MEETING MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
April 12, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER: President Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An Ordinance to Amend UDC #8 to add a Suburban Highway Overlay District (SH) to allow for new development to fit within the context of the proposed overlay district. (Z-2019-11-00015)

Jeffery Leuenberger, the planning commission wanted to come up with a better solution to minimize variances. On March 3, 2022 the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval. It was introduced and there was a press release and advertising for public comments. The received public comments.

The plan is to increase the build to line from 0-15 feet to 0-85 feet. A developer will be allow to set their building back 85ft. They are proposing an overlay district that will cover all lots fronting major arterials in the city.

Developers will be allowed to set their building back up to 85ft and be further away from the street for safety and required them to maintain the landscaping.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked if this was for all C-H zoned properties.

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated that this was for all zoned property that are within that overlay district.

Councilman Wells, asked if he had spoken to the realtor who had attended a previous meeting.

Lacy Landrum, stated that she thinks that was Beezie Landry and she thinks that what he was to increase it from 65 to 85ft.

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated at first it was 65ft which gave room for parking and landscaping, but by increasing it to 85ft that would allow them to preserve some of the right away along the road and a little landscaping along the front of the building.

Councilman Wells, asked about the meeting being opened to the public and he asked how many people attended. He wants to make sure the public was aware.

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated that no one came to speak for or against it.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked if any concerned citizens reached out to him.

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated he had a couple of concerns but nothing formally submitted. He had a few concerning pedestrian ability.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that she appreciated the press release and wanted to let the public know that this does not affect downtown.

2. An Ordinance to grant an Expanded Conditional Use (ECU) on a lot being 0.407 acres in accordance with a survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 2/9/2022 requested by Anthony and Joyce Cox located at 1106 South Pine Street. (Z-2022-02- 00098)

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated that duplexes are allowed in this zoning. The applicant wants to have a family member live in one side of the duplex and run a hair salon in the other side of the duplex. This requires an Expanded Conditional Use to do it and by granting an Expanded Conditional Use it expires at the change of ownership, at that time it will revert back to a duplex.

Councilman Wells, asked what district this request was in and he said that he spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Cox. He ask Jeffery if he went over the area to take a look and asked if he saw the new house that the Cox's built.

Jeffery Leuenberger answered yes.

Councilman Wells, thanked Mrs. Cox's and her husband for all that she has been doing in the community. He stated that the area needs to be cleaned up and he supports Mrs. Cox for what they are trying to do in the community.

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated that the planning and zoning commission recommended this 3-0

Joyce Cox, 404 Phoenix Sq. stated that she is requesting the duplex and one side will be residential and the other side for a beauty salon. The salon will operate by appointments only. She stated she spoke with several neighbors, she presented signatures from community members, a drawing of the plans and pictures. She stated they are trying to clean up and beautify the community.

Donald Burton, 311 Cedar Lane, Ponchatoula, La, stated that he is the son of Joyce and Anthony Cox. He supports the Expanded Conditional Use and he stated that they are trying to plant a seed into the community. He came behalf of his parents to say that he is standing in the gap with them to make a better place one establishment at a time.

Nicole Labbee, 16167 Blue Bayou St, Ponchatoula, stated she will be operating the salon and Joyce and Anthony Cox are her parents. Stated she grew up in the community and this would be good for the community.

Jacqueline Taylor, stated that this was her family and she was proud of her family and they are doing a good job cleaning up the neighborhood. She also thanked the city for putting up the stop sign.

3. An Ordinance to annex Farris Family, LLC property being a 0.181 acre portion of Tract A-1 per survey by David Patterson, PLS dated 2/2/2022 located at 2307 W. Thomas St to be zoned C-H and is in City Council District 4 (Z-2022-02-00099)

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated this was another annexation request that came from planning and zoning meeting on March 3, 2022 and the recommended approval was 3-0. They are wanting to annex a portion of property in the rear of existing property to complete what their business plan is for that sight plan.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that it's always good to welcome in business, especially when it's sales tax generating.

Councilman Wells, asked what district it was in.

Councilman DiVittorio, answered District Four



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
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I. CALL TO ORDER: President Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Pastor Andrew Jackson

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

V. ISSUE OF PROCLAMATION:

Albert Cusimano, was presented with a proclamation from City Council President Kip Andrews and Mayor Pete Panepinto making the City of Hammond a Purple Heart City. He in turn presented the Mayor and City with a plaque.

Mayor Pete Panepinto presented a proclamation to the Hammond Rotary Club members in honor of the Rotary Clubs 100th Anniversary.

VI. PRESENTATION:

- **Entergy update- Al Galindo**

Al Galindo of Entergy provided a recap of the damages from Hurricane Ida and gave a recovery update. He stated that their first priority was to restore power, then repair damage, they are still in restoration mode; transitioned to street light repair at the end of 2021. They brought in additional resources; they have added contractors to help with the repair work; He estimates that all repairs will be completed by Mid-May. He stated street light credits have been issued and to let them know of anyone that has been affected and are in need of a bill credit. LED lights will be installed at Mooney Park and new service for the concession stand. Entergy is replacing non LED to LED this is currently in their engineering group. He also stated that if there were any issues in the council district to let them know.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that Mr. Galindo made a comment about the pricing of LED compared to the Non LED, he asked when they are going to finish the valuation and if the cost is going to go down.

Al Galindo, stated that their regulatory team is starting this summer. He's anticipating they should have an answer on rate restructuring for LED light by the end of the year.

Councilman Wells, asked are residents with lights out, are they getting a credit.

Al Galindo, stated the do not know if lights were out on the customer's property unless they report it. Customers need to report it and it can be done through the website and credits will be issued based on when the light was repaired.

Councilman Wells, asked about increased costs because of storm damage and how much would be added on to the bills per month.

Al Galindo, stated there will be an added cost of about \$8 dollars per month and that's due to the Stafford Act.

Councilman Wells, stated that he has a lot of elders in his community and he's concerned about their bills.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked if there were policy changes since the storm on the removal of tree limbs and vegetation.

Al Galindo, stated that they have a full time vegetation crew that go out and observe areas that need to be trimmed back. He asked Chris Hammond if they had any feedback, stated that they could provide more specific information about what they are doing in Hammond from their vegetation supervisor.

Councilman Wells, asked who is responsible for the removal of hanging cables that's still hanging from the poles.

Al Galindo, stated that they have had others send pictures, but if he would let them know than they could share the information with their partners, AT&T and the cable companies to get those things taken care of. Pictures usually help them better understand who to call.

Councilman Wells, asked who he contacts.

Al Galindo, stated that he should contact Chris the local Entergy customer service manager.

- **Kushner LaGraize, LLC- City's Audit Report**

Michelle Treschwig, presented a summary of the city's financial statement she stated that it was a great year for the city. The audit has been reviewed and approved by the Legislative Auditor and is available for public inspection on their website. The type of report issued on the basic financial report was an unmodified opinion, which is the best that can be given. There was one finding, which was a significant deficiency to the financial reporting in accordance with General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). She stated this is a standard finding with government entities.

Councilman Wells, asked if they did this or if they hired someone else to do it.

Michelle Treschwig stated that the MD&A or Management Discussion Analysis, she stated that Lacy Landrum with assistance writes out the financial highlights, information on the variances and anything like that.

Councilman Wells, asked how much do they charge per year to conduct the audit.

Michelle Treschwig, stated that they normally charge around \$50,000 for the audit and some additional items.

Councilman Wells, asked when their contract would be ending.

Michelle Treschwig, stated that the contract was up and that this was the last year on the current contract.

Councilman Wells, asked how long have they been working for the City of Hammond.

Michelle Treschwig, state that they started in 2011.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, she read a statement from page 110 in the document and she said to Michelle that she mentioned that there was a significant deficiency but she didn't elaborate. She asked her to expound.

Michelle Treschwig, she explained the importance of financial statement being prepared in accordance with GAAP (General Accepted Accounting Principles). The city's financial statements were not prepared in accordance with GAAP. She stated that the finance director resigned and new personnel are now undergoing that training and she believes eventually by next year or so, they will have that knowledge to be able to review the financial statements and report in accordance with GAAP. She stated it is a significant deficiency and a lot of entities have this finding and it's a very common finding.

Councilman Wells, stated that he had met with her before and he doesn't trust people when it comes to the tax payer's money. He stated he requested financial information on a quarterly basis and still have not received any, taxpayers need to know where their money is being spent.

Lacy Landrum, stated that they did provide the budget to actual report to council. It shows what has been spent and it matches your budget binder. She stated what was requested earlier were some very detailed reports and those have been provided as requested.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to approve the March 8, 2022 minutes.

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

IX. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Final Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend UDC #8 to add a Suburban Highway Overlay District (SH) to allow for new development to fit within the context of the proposed overlay district as recommended by the city planner. (Z-2019-11-00015)

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated that this is the final adoption that has been discussed in the public hearing.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to adopt an Ordinance to Amend UDC #8 to add a Suburban Highway Overlay District (SH) to allow for new development to fit within the context of the proposed overlay district as recommended by the city planner with 85' build line.

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

2. Final Adoption of an Ordinance to grant an Expanded Conditional Use (ECU) on a lot being 0.407 acres in accordance with a survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 2/9/2022 requested by Anthony and Joyce Cox located at 1106 South Pine Street. (Z-2022-02- 00098)

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated that this is consideration for final approval.

Councilman Wells, asked about the parking and if it was adequate. He stated that it was brought to his attention about the parking and he spoke to the planning commissioner and he stated that there was more than enough parking.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to adopt an Ordinance to grant an Expanded Conditional Use (ECU) on a lot being 0.407 acres in accordance with a survey by Wm. J. Bodin Jr. dated 2/9/2022 requested by Anthony and Joyce Cox located at 1106 South Pine Street. (Z-2022-02- 00098)

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

3. Final Adoption of an Ordinance to annex Farris Family, LLC property being a 0.181 acre portion of Tract A-1 per survey by David Patterson, PLS dated 2/2/2022 located at 2307 W. Thomas St to be zoned C-H and is in City Council District 4 (Z-2022-02-00099)

Jeffery Leuenberger, stated this is consideration for final approval from the public hearing.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to adopt an Ordinance to annex Farris Family, LLC property being a 0.181 acre portion of Tract A-1 per survey by David Patterson, PLS dated 2/2/2022 located at 2307 W. Thomas St to be zoned C-H and is in City Council District 4 (Z-2022-02-00099)

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to renew insurance coverage for the City of Hammond for the period of May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023. (Don Stiel)

Don Stiel, stated that this was a renewal and there was a cost increase on some coverages. Travelers Insurance will be used for commercial, liability, law enforcement and fire units. He proposed the move to Midwest Indemnity for Workers Comp, airport liability, blanket bond, property and equipment.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Mayor to renew the insurance coverage for the City of Hammond for the period of May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Stiel.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0

2. A resolution to ratify and award bids received 4/7/2022 for “Canal Improvements [FY2022]” –project no. 420-12206. (Webb Anderson).

Webb Anderson, stated that they had received three bids for the canal improvements at Natchez and Skinner. The lowest bid came in from Carey R. Contractor, LLC. He recommends award to Carey R Contractors. He explained the total project budget is \$565,000.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked how much is budgeted for this project.

Lacy Landrum, stated that \$250,000 is budgeted for it total. She stated if you want to award the base bid only you will only need to award contingent on moving money to fund the remainder of the project. If you wanted to fund just the base bid of the total contract for the construction contract and the engineering you will need to move \$45,000 from the fund balance. If you want to fund the entire project which is the base plus the added alternate for the extra work, then you’re going to need to move \$315,000 from the fund balance.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked Webb Anderson to explain the alternate and why it is needed.

Webb Anderson, stated originally the project was to extend it, a year later they looked at it and a metal pipe underneath Natchez is deteriorating and Councilman Wells requested that they put it in, so they did it as an alternate.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if it was a drainage pipe.

Webb Anderson, answered yes it is and stated that two existing metal pipes will be replaced with a concrete.

Councilman Wells, stated that they looked at it and decided that they all needed to be replaced.

Lacy Landrum, stated that originally \$100,000 was appropriated for Natchez-Skinner and \$150,000 was appropriated for Arnolds Creek. These were billed as canal improvements as a total project. Councilman Wells requested as he just stated that the other parts come out so they can be replaced with the additional improvements.

Webb Anderson, stated the numbers started going up because of the larger area.

Councilman Wells, asked if the total cost of the project was \$565,000.

Webb Anderson, stated the total project budget, but if you were going to move for the base bid and the alternate you would be awarding for \$469,221.62 contingent on moving money.

Lacy Landrum, stated to Councilman Wells that he was correct and that the total project budget for the construction and the engineering is \$565,000. She stated that’s why they need to move \$315,000. Stated to the council that they will be voting to award the construction contract and it will be contingent upon the approval of moving money from the fund balance into the project. So under introduction of an ordinance we will amend the agenda if that’s the council’s pleasure. Then at the next meeting we would have a public hearing and final adoption if we are moving money from the fund balance into a project.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated she is trying to understand. The original project was in the plan and in the budget, but a little bit over. She doesn’t understand the alternate and she asked how dire that is because there are a lot of other things in the city that needs work, \$315,000 worth of work. She wants to know how necessary it is.

Webb Anderson, stated that it would start causing problems with the street and the right time to do it would be while you are doing the other work because it all will tie in together.

Councilman Wells, stated that while they are in the area he is going to recommend they do they work.

Mayor, stated he agrees and while they are out there and the equipment is there and it’s needed. We have the funds we should do it.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio recommend to award to the low bidder KCR Contractors, LLC. on the base bid and the alternate for \$469,221.62 contingent upon moving the \$315,000 from the fund balance to this project for "Canal Improvements [FY2022]" -project no. 420-12206.

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

3. A resolution 1) accepting a \$400,000 grant from the "Love Louisiana Outdoors" program for improvements to Martin Luther King and Zemurray Parks; 2) authorizing in-kind match in the form of project/program design, engineering, and/or administration by Grants Department staff; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, stated that a few council meeting back he presented a housekeeping resolution related to this application. On March 30th he received an award letter indicating that we had received \$400,000 with no cash match involved to make these improvements in the parks and he's asking the council to accept this award.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews 1) accepting a \$400,000 grant from the "Love Louisiana Outdoors" program for improvements to Martin Luther King and Zemurray Parks; 2) authorizing in-kind match in the form of project/program design, engineering, and/or administration by Grants Department staff; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

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

4. A resolution 1) accepting a \$225,000 grant from the Capital Outlay Program for roadside drainage improvements in the Ruth-Mitchell-Pine Drive subdivision (in District 1) and along Old Covington Highway between Range Road and Fern Street (in District 2); 2) approving a cash match of \$75,000 from the Grant Match Fund; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, stated that the request went in, late 2020 and they have been waiting for a while for the grant contract to arrive. They found out last year around July/August that they were approved for funding but they have been waiting since then for the grant contract which they have just received. He is asking the council to accept this and there is a \$75,000 cash match which will come from the grant match fund, it's a 25% match of the total project cost of about \$300,000.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if this money is ready to be given to us.

Charles Borchers, answered that we have waited for the last year or so and yes it is being given to us.

Councilman Leon, asked once the funding is accepted, how long you have to start the project.

Charles Borchers, stated capital outlay is expected to take a while so it can be a long process. Once the contract is executed it could take a month or more. It's kind of a slow process and possibly be started within six months.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews 1) accepting a \$225,000 grant from the Capital Outlay Program for roadside drainage improvements in the Ruth-Mitchell-Pine Drive subdivision (in District 1) and along Old Covington Highway between Range Road and Fern Street (in District 2); 2) approving a cash match of \$75,000 from the Grant Match Fund; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

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

5. A resolution supporting the submission of a grant application for \$23,000 to the Community Water Enrichment Fund for automatic water monitoring/treatment equipment for City water wells. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, stated we have been able to apply every year and our allocation is \$23,000 which is the city's portion of what the parish receives. This grant will be used to install automatic monitoring equipment for water wells testing.

Councilman Wells, asked who is monitoring the equipment.

Charles Borchers, answered, the water and sewer department.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio supporting the submission of a grant application for \$23,000 to the Community Water Enrichment Fund for automatic water monitoring/treatment equipment for City water wells.

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

6. A resolution supporting the submission of a grant application for \$23,000 to the Local Government Assistance Program to purchase security cameras for City parking malls, parks, and other public spaces. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, stated that they apply for these funds every year and equipment is an eligible category. Cameras are considered equipment and they are proposing to use these funds.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked what parks are included, how will it be allocated.

Charles Borchers, stated that how the money is allocated is yet to be determined.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked that he make sure that Jackson Park get some cameras.

Councilman Wells, asked when was the grant applied for.

Charles Borchers, stated that it has not been applied for yet.

Councilman Wells, stated he been asking for cameras in District 3, He thanked Charles for getting the cameras downtown and for all the parks.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated to be clear \$50,000 was already allocated in the budget, so this would be a supplement to that.

Charles Borchers, answered yes

Councilman Well, stated he wants the park covered and he wants the park to be safe.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales supporting the submission of a grant application for \$23,000 to the Local Government Assistance Program to purchase security cameras for City parking malls, parks, and other public spaces.

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

7. A resolution authorizing the purchase of a KX040-4R1AP Excavator for \$65,279.53 for the Water and Sewer Department. State Contract # 4400017852 (Jana Soileau)

Jana Soileau, stated that this was approved originally in the water and sewer budget for this year

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if this was within budget.

Jana Soileau, answered yes

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, asked what an excavator is used for.

Mayor, stated for cleaning ditches

Tracy Wells, stated that the ditches are not being cleaned and they are not getting the services of ditches being cleaned on a regular basis.

Councilman Wells, stated that the ditches are about a month and half behind in being cleaned in District Three.

Lacy Landrum, stated that there was an earlier question and the amount was \$70,000 that has been budgeted.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews authorizing the purchase of a KX040-4R1AP Excavator for \$65,279.53 for the Water and Sewer Department. State Contract # 4400017852.

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

8. A resolution authorizing the purchase of a Tow-behind Carlton SP 7500 Series Stump Cutter from Ditch Witch of Louisiana for the Total of \$73,750.00 RFP 22-21 (Jana Soileau)

Jana Soileau, stated that this was another item that was approved in this year's budget and Ditch Witch was the only company that submitted a proposal.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked how many stumps we have that needs to be grinded.

Robert Williams, answered about 32 stumps

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about the maintenance, who's going to use it and why not sub this out.

Robert Williams, stated that there's more than that since the storm, trees are being cut and sometimes it's needed when ditches are cleaned.

Councilman DiVittorio, state that the math doesn't add up and he ask whose going to run it, and there are some liabilities issue and a lot of maintenance. We could lease one when needed and return it back.

Councilman Wells, asked if Mr. Williams reached out to someone about pricing for the grinding, then he stated he was concerned about safety and the lack of staff. He asked if a tracking device was going to be on the stump grinder. It belong to the city and needs to be used by city workers when they are at work and not for their personal jobs. He stated new equipment needs to have a tracking device. He also stated that we were behind on cleaning the ditches.

Lacy Landrum stated, that's how equipment is currently used and that's how it is stated in the policy.

Mayor, stated that we do sub-contract the stump grinders to come in when we need them. He further stated that the department has asked for this piece of equipment for a long time. It's been asked for and budgeted and needed.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that it doesn't make any financial since.

Councilman Wells, asked Jana Soileau if the stump grinder has a tracker on it. He asked that she get a tracking device on the equipment

Jana Soileau, stated that she didn't thank it had one, but it could possibly be added.

Councilman Andrews, asked Jana if the item is approved can she check on the tracking device and if that would change the price of the item.

Jana Soileau, stated that she did not thinks so and a tracking device did not have to come from that company.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews authorizing the purchase of a Tow-behind Carlton SP 7500 Series Stump Cutter from Ditch Witch of Louisiana for the Total of \$73,750.00 RFP 22-21

VOTE: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (N), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (N). Motion Approved 3-2

9. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement between the Industrial Development Board of the City of Hammond, Inc and the City of Hammond for the use of the police training center at 47038 Conrad Anderson Boulevard. (Lacy Landrum)

Lacy Landrum, stated that the police training center is at this building and has been occupied by the police department for many years. She stated that it came to their attention through the city attorney that the Industrial Development Board owns the building and they are discussing whether to transfer the entire building over to the police department. In the interim they are asking for the council's approval of the cooperative endeavor agreement for the city to formalize the arrangement. She state that the other benefit to this item is that the sheriff office also uses that building for training as well. The Hammond Police Department has primary use and the sheriff office has secondary use and they agree to split the cost of replacing the roof with the City of Hammond 50/50, which is the next item.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if the amount on the next item is the full price. They would be covering half of that.

Lacy Landrum, stated that was correct.

Councilman Wells, asked who was on the board.

Lacy Landrum, proceeded to answer and explain.

Councilman Wells, asked when the last time the board had a meeting was and if they were a non-profit.

Lacy Landrum, stated that the Industrial Development Board was a non-profit.

Councilman Wells, asked the City Attorney, would it be an issue if you are on a board and they are asking for money, is he allowed to vote on it.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, stated yes, as long as you or members of your immediate family don't have a personal interest. Because you are a member of a non-profit board that does not automatically disqualify you.

Lacy Landrum stated for clarity that the Industrial Development Board is not receiving any money. The do not charge the City of Hammond or the Hammond Police Department any rent.

Councilman Wells, he asked about the utilities and who pays for them and why five years.

Lacy Landrum, asked why five years for the arrangement and said that was standard and she asked the city attorney.

Andre Coudrain, stated that the city has had free use of the building and now they are putting money into it and you would want to be sure that you capitalize on what the expense of the roof is. He stated five years is not automatic and it could be a different number.

Councilman Wells, stated he is concerned for the next city council.

Andre Coudrain, stated that under this agreement the city can terminate this on a ninety days' notice. The five years was to protect the city and capture the investment of the roof, but it can be cancelled but h City within ninety days.

Councilman Wells, stated that he is against it because he doesn't want to do five years and he feels like they are cheating the next city council and he doesn't understand why they are not using their own budget.

Mayor, stated that the Assistant Chief can provide input on how long they have had and use the building.

Assistant Chief Monistere, stated that the training center is in use almost every day and they offer classes for Hammond Police Department and other agencies and training.

Councilwoman Gonzales, states that splitting the roof is a good deal. She would rather see the building come to the city and she state we had done a lot to the building and we should get ownership. She also asked if they had insurance and who does the maintenance on the building. She asked the city attorney if we had insurance and will we get insurance and why it didn't cover the roof.

Councilman Wells, asked if the nonprofit is active

Lacy Landrum, stated that they are, they are paying for half.

Robert Williams, stated that the streets department uses the building for training.

Tracy Wells, asked how you can pay insurance and utilities on a building that the city does not own and not come before the council. How can you use taxpayer money to pay insurance on a building that the city does not own?

Mayor, stated that we use the building and it has been given to us to use for about thirty years. The tax payers are getting training out of this building for their police officers, fireman and other departments.

Tracy Wells, ask Mr. Coudrain, City Attorney, can money be used legally to pay an entity that has no contract in place with the city.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, stated yes because the City has an insurable interest in the building. He stated we want to have something in writing and that is why they are proposing this agreement.

Tracy Wells, stated that if this is the Industrial Development Board at 1515 Martin Dr. Suite 136, she stated that this non-profit have not been active with the state of Louisiana was May 17, 2021. The last report filed for this entity was April 10, 2018.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, stated that they do have record title for that property.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the cooperative endeavor agreement between the Industrial Development Board of the City of Hammond, Inc and the City of Hammond for the use of the police training center at 47038 Conrad Anderson Boulevard, pending the board getting their status in good standing with the Secretary of State.

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

10. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Partin Roofing, LLC for \$125,900.00 to remove and replace the existing roof at the Police Training Center. RFP 22-17 (Jana Soileau)

Jana Soileau, stated that they put an RFP out and Partin Roofing was the lowest proposal. She closed this bid out on January 31st and have had to ask for one extension and they granted the extension. They gave them until the 13th to give them the answer of approval.

Councilman Andrews, stated that the sheriff department is paying for one half of the bill.

Councilman Wells, asked if the sheriff department is splitting the bill, why we have to pay \$125,000.

Jana Soileau, stated that we are going to pay that and they are going to refund the city.

Lacy Landrum, stated that the city will invoice the funds.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Partin Roofing, LLC for \$125,900.00 to remove and replace the existing roof at the Police Training Center. RFP 22-17

VOTE: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Abstain). Motion Approved 4-1 (abstain)

11. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract on behalf of the City of Hammond with DPC Enterprises in the estimated amount of \$59,472.00. ((Jana Soileau)

Jana Soileau, stated that this was a re-bid of the past contract of the chlorination of our or water wells and asking for approval to move forward on the bid from DPC Enterprises.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Wells** authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract on behalf of the City of Hammond with DPC Enterprises in the estimated amount of \$59,472.00.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0

12. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract on behalf of the City of Hammond with Rail Technical Services in the estimated amount of \$28,170.00. (Jana Soileau)

Jana Soileau, stated that this was another contract that came to an end and this is a re-bid of the past contract. This is for our monthly and annual inspections.

Councilman Wells, asked where the money was coming from.

Jana Soileau, stated that it is budgeted in the streets department account.

Lacy Landrum, stated that she wasn't sure if it was budgeted under consultant or rail fees.

Jana Soileau, stated that it came out of consultant fees.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract on behalf of the City of Hammond with Rail Technical Services in the estimated amount of \$28,170.00.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0

13. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Pointer Smith Contracting for Railroad Track Repairs in the amount of \$29,452.00. (Jana Thurman Soileau)

Jana Soileau, stated that this the lowest bid received. The inspection report revealed that there were twenty five cross tie, ten switches at different locations that are in need of repair as soon as possible and they are asking for council's approval to go forward with the contract for repairs.

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Pointer Smith Contracting for Railroad Track Repairs in the amount of \$29,452.00.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0

X. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the sale of the items listed below to sell on Govdeal.com. (Jana Soileau)

1. WOODS 6 FOOT FINISHING MOWER- MODEL# PRO 7200- SERIAL# 128382- AIRPORT
2. UNIT# 1060 KUBOTA 4 WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR- MODEL# 14630- SERIAL# 35978- AIRPORT
3. UNIT# 1057 GRAVELY ZERO TURN MOWER MODEL #1602 SERIAL# 008148- AIRPORT
4. MEN 'S SILVER WEDDING RING
5. ASSORTED WALLETS- 25 DIFFERENT COLORS AND STYLES
6. LARGE LEVEL
7. ASSORTED MEN'S WATCHES- 9 DIFFERENT BRANDS
8. BOX OF ASSORTED CLOTHES, NIKE BAG WITH CLOTHES, NIKE SHOES, CAMERA BAG WITH CLOTHES, PAIR SLIPPERS, CREW SOCKS, MESH BOOK BAG WITH CLOTHES, JACKET & COAT.
9. ASSORTED GUN HOLSTERS- 5 DIFFERENT COLORS ANDSTYLES
10. ASSORTED CD'S AND BAG
11. NINTENDO
12. ASSORTED CAMERA ITEMS. CAMERA BAG, CAMERA, KIE & PHONE, CAMERA CASE, SHARPER IMAGEIGITAL CAMERA, AND CANON CAMERA
13. ASSORTED PURSES- 10 DIFFERENT COLORS AND SIZES
14. FISHING POLE
15. 6 CONTAINERS OF GAIN DETERGENT AND 3 BOTTLES OF JACK DANIELS AND 1 BOTTLE OF GATORAID.
16. LEXMARK COMPUTERx83
17. PORTABLE DVD PLAYER
18. BINOCULARS
19. SOCKET SET
20. NYLON BAG, SAINTS BAG
21. BRINKS HOME SECURITY LOCK BOX
22. ASSORTED RADIO PARTS- RADION FACE PLATE, PARTS AND FACE PLATES, CAR STEREO(RUSTY)
23. ASSORTED T-SHIRTS, AND BOXERS
24. WINNIS THE POOH BACKSACK
25. ASSORTED OIL AND SOAP
26. 4 PORT CABLE GATEWAY ROUTER
27. ASSORTED VEHICLE PARTS-VEHICLE PARTS, VEHICLE PARTS WITH STEREO EQUIPMENT
28. DOG BED
29. USED SILVER CLIPBOARD
30. DE-WALT TOOL BAG AND TOOLS
31. 50 PCS STUBBY TOOL SET GREAT NECK BRAND
32. HATCHET, AND HAMMER WITH BLACK HANDLE
33. SKILL DRILL BIT SET IN BLACK CASE
34. DEWALT DRILL AND FLASHLIGHT 20V MAX
35. CRAFTMAN UNIVERSAL TOOL SET
36. BATTERY
37. ASSORTED MAG: 2 GLOCK 22, I SIG 9MM PISTOL MAG CONTAINING 4 ROUNDS, MAG BULLET, 2 BLACK MAG
38. MULTI PURPOSE TOOL IN A NYLON CASE
39. BLACK BAG W/CLAW HAMMER, AND MISC ITEMS
40. 1 BOX OF 9MM LUGE-R AMMO (MONARCH)

41. ASSORTED ELECTRONICS ITEMS
42. BLACK BAG CONTAINING AN ENVELOPE, PICK TOOL AND REMOTE
43. SOLID COLOR BACK PACK
44. ASSORTED HAND TOOLS, TOOLS IN GREEN BOX, AND RUSTY HAND TOOLS
45. DEWALT TOOLS, AND DEWALT AIR POWERED NAILGUN.
46. ASSORTED PERFUME AND SEAN JOHN AND GUCCI COLOGNE
47. CELL PHONE
48. DRUM & SYMBOL IN A BLACK BAG
49. ASSORTED BAGS OF CLOTHING

Jana Soileau, asked that the three bottles of Jack Daniels be removed from item # 15, and a Vizio Television be added which would be item # 50.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to amend item number 15 to remove three bottles of Jack Daniels and add the Vizio TV.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0 to amend

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to introduce the ordinance as amended to declare as surplus and authorize the sale of the items listed below on to sell on Govdeal.com.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0

Public Hearing will be scheduled for April 26, 2022 at 5:30pm

2. Introduction of an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to enter into a 30' right of way agreement with Entergy for electrical service to the treatment plant expansion on Fagan Drive. (Webb Anderson)

Webb Anderson, stated that the have been working with Entergy and this is an existing project that they have had going on and it's to get the service from Fagan Drive to the plant.

Councilman Wells, asked where they are getting the service from now.

Webb Anderson, stated they have an existing service to the plant by the Head Works and one by their offices, but this is the service for the new blowers they put in for the new aerators.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to introduce an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to enter into a 30' right of way agreement with Entergy for electrical service to the treatment plant expansion on Fagan Drive.

Public Hearing will be scheduled for April 26, 2022 at 5:30pm

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0

XI. REPORTS:

Mayor: No Report

Council:

- **Housing Committee Report**

Karen Walston, 404 S. Cherry St gave a report of the Housing Committee, stated they selected the consultants for the housing study. They are working with CIVIX and they were able to get them to reduce the price of the study, they signed the contract and are working on a kick off day for April 22, 2022. She invited the city council to attend.

Lemar Marshall, thanked the council for giving them the responsibility and funding.

Councilman Wells, thanked the whole committee.

• **Charter Review Committee Report**

Frank DiVittorio, Chair of the Charter Review Committee, handed out a written report of the committee to the administration and council. He proceed to explain the written report and the committees finding.

Lemar Marshall, asked about department head evaluations and stated that they serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Frank DiVittorio, stated that balances could be changed in the charter.

Arlene Knighten, stated that the evaluation would be for the benefit of the community.

Councilman Wells Asked about the debt on number one related to bond debt

Frank DiVittorio, stated the council and the city cannot just incur debt, they would have to have an election as it relates to a bond.

Tracey Wells, stated that it was a pleasure working with the committee.

Councilman Leon, thanked the committee and stated that we should get the document archived because of the amount of work that went into it.

City Council members, thanked everyone for working on the committee for no compensation and doing a good job and it's important to have residence that want to improve the city.

Councilman Wells, thanked the city council, that they have made him a better person. Thanked Pastor Jackson and Mr. Showers for coming out. Thanked the representatives for presenting the information about street lights. He stated that they have a problem with getting ditches and streets cleaned. He stated Pastor Andrews and Pastor Showers are a part of his report.

Pastor Jackson, thanked God for the community and council and he wants to see everyone come together he stated it all comes down to love and it doesn't matter who you are and where we come from, we are one Hammond and that's what we should work toward.

Michael Shower, President Greater Tangipahoa Parish NAACP, stated he was here to clarify some comments that were made in the Daily Star and the last City Council meeting concerning the booking room incident. Stated from the NAACP perspective, what happened in the booking room was wrong and that people need to be held accountable. He stated there were two meeting and they talked about what happened in the booking room and they wanted the Mayor to know the sentiments of the community and they offered solutions. He stated that the expert offered recommendations and he asked has any of those recommendations been taken or acted upon. He stated that the easiest recommendation that he thought should have been addressed is that the Hammond Police Department should ensure that its organizational chart is accurate and up to date. He also stated that the Daily Star posted an article with comments he did not make and they could have called and verified the comments but they did not. He wanted to clear the record regarding what was printed in the newspaper stated he did not say what they printed. He stated that the community is looking for accountability and the city must restore public trust with the police department and city government.

Councilman Wells, Asked Mr. Showers if he met with the Mayor two weeks ago regarding the booking room.

Mr. Showers, stated he meet with the Mayor two years ago when this first came to the NAACP knowledge and has not met with the Mayor since.

Councilman Wells, stated that the reason he asked, was because he wanted it to go on the record because people were thinking that he and others met with the Mayor about a month ago. He Stated that he wanted him to say that it's been two years ago. They did install one new camera in the jail and he is still lost and confused and would like questions answered. Thanked him for coming and apologized that he had to stay so long.

Councilman Andrews, Stated that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt from 10am at Martin Luther King Park. He stated that he is still receiving phone calls on water bills not being read and accurate.

Lacy Landrum, stated that any time someone thinks that they have an inaccurate bill they need to report it.

Councilman Wells, asked what happened to the electronic meter reading devices that they purchased and spent over a about a half million dollars on. He stated that they cannot keep coming up with these misread meters. He asked about the equipment.

Lacy Landrum, stated that you did not spend \$500,000 on new equipment, you spent money to update the software. She stated that there were 1500 out of 7100 meters that are radio electronically.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated a lot of money was spent paying a contractor so it was brought in house. We should have just keep the contractor, because we are not doing it well in-house. He is still getting calls about the bills.

Mayor, stated that when there is problem we address them.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about the policy regarding replacing lights with Entergy from regular light to the LED light.

Lacy Landrum, stated we do not have a policy on that.

Mayor, stated the Robert Morgan generally handles that.

X. ADJOURN:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews to Adjourn.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y) Motion approved 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned

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

TRANSACTIONED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD APRIL 12,

2022

BEING 12 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.