

Hammond City Council Members

Councilman Kip Andrews - President

Councilman Sam DiVittorio - Vice President

Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales

Councilman Steve Leon

Councilman Devon Wells

City Council Clerk, Lisa Cockerham

City Attorney, Andre Coudrain



**Hammond City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 9:30 am
312 E. Charles St, Hammond, Louisiana**

I. Council President, Kip Andrews called the Special Meeting to order

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

III. Prayer: Council President Andrews

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

V. FINAL ADOPTION

1. An Ordinance to adopt a redistricting plan for the City of Hammond. (William Blair, Strategic Demographics)
Attachment 1 – Presentation & Overview
Attachment 2 – Plan A Ordinance
Attachment 3 – Plan A Map
Attachment 4 – Plan B Ordinance
Attachment 5 – Plan B Map
Attachment 6 – Statistics

Bill Blair, stated that the presentation would be short because the material has been covered several times. He stated that the take away is we had to get our population within the proper deviation. He stated the current districts as of today are a bit out of the population deviation. He stated that they had to equalize the populations according to each district. Secondly, he had to examine the majority/minority districts to ensure they are maintained so that they can elect the candidate of their choice under section two of the voting rights act. He stated that both of the plans accomplished these things and it becomes a question of which configuration makes more sense for the residents of the City of Hammond for their representation. Both plans meet the requirements and the two plans are a function of the discussion and preferences of council members. Today in front of you is Plan A – bit more of a reimagining and Plan B the other. Substantially, there aren't radical changes. But both plans have some changes. The both accomplish the two significant goals to equalize population between the districts for fair vote and that they respect the minority and majority within the City of Hammond. He asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Leon, enters the meeting

Councilman Wells, asked to go to Plan A and he referenced District 3. He stated that Chappapeela and Cypress Point is closer to District 2 and it doesn't make sense for District 3 to go that far out when they don't really go into that area. He went on to say that Zemurray Park should be in District 3. He stated that he has been in that area all of his life and he supports Plan A and would like to get Zemurray back in District 3.

Councilman Andrews, asked if anyone from the public has comments?

Michael Showers, President of Tangipahoa NAACP, asked if the numbers were posted on the webpage on the city.

Joe Mier, 906 CM Fagan Dr., stated that he has been looking at the different plans and comparing them to the current district map plan and the population numbers, the object is to balance out with the least amount of changes as possible. District 2 was the only one that met all the population requirements. As a number of our residents stated in the previous council meeting, Plan B will do the least amount of disruption to all districts. Why not change other districts 3 and 4, one high and one low, those numbers should have been swapping from those two districts, rather than impacting other districts that meet the requirements and did not net any disruptions. He stated that he was asking the council to support Plan B.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that District 2 was in the middle, therefore it would usually be the most disrupted and sometimes moving the blocks doesn't add up the right way.

Councilman Wells, ask Mr. Meir if he knew how far Ms. Gonzales will be in District 3 if they picked plan A? He stated Washington Ave to Second Ave, which are bad communities. He stated that not one time in three years did Ms. Gonzales support anything in District 3. He stated that He never heard any of them talk about the sewer issues in District 3.

Joe Mier, stated that he has supported District 3 with housing issues and redevelopment. He stated he has done a lot for District 3, Greenville Park, new construction, single-family homes. He stated that he was for the City of Hammons and not just a single district.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that she wanted to clarify that the statement was made under the Plan B that Gonzales would go into District 3, currently the area around Zemurray which is Second Ave and borders on Washington Ave currently in District 2 and it has been for ten years and possibly twenty years. She does not going into District 3, she represents District 2 which encompassed the area of Zemurray Park including the areas around there. She stated that she has voted for many things for District 3. Including things he voted against. She just wanted to clarify that that statement was incorrect. We have all unanimously voted for many things to benefit district 3 and the other districts.

Osa Williams, stated that she thinks the point is historically. Zemurray Park was always in district 3. You look at the access/limitations. We don't have as much access.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked what is your limitations?

Osa Williams, stated the times when it is open.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated the times are the same for all the parks – sunrise to sunset.

Osa Williams, stated that the construction has been for economic development. Zemurray Park has always been a part of District 3. She stated that you don't have as much utilization and now you have to fill out papers. The origin of the park is district 3.

Councilman Wells: I know you all don't really know what she's saying. We never filled out a form to go to the park for a picnic. We didn't have to do that because we felt like Zemurray was home. Now, you can't park on the grass. In Mooney, you can go wherever you want. In Zemurray, police was there. In Mooney, police are never there. I asked for police to be in Mooney. No, you're not going to understand. The rules affect the blacks, not the whites. Be careful with the words.

Kent Carroll, 603 Rue St. Martin, stated that he has lived here all of his life and was the chair person for the safety committee and over crime watch. He stated that he don't like Plan A and he likes Plan B better.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and a second Councilman DiVittorio to approve Plan A for the City of Hammond Redistricting.

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

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second Councilman Leon to approve Plan B for the City of Hammond Redistricting.

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

IV. ADJOURN

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously 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 TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

HELD MAY7, 2022

BEING 3 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.