

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
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
July 26, 2022
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
July 26, 2022
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes of the July 14, 2022 meetings

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the minutes of July 12, 2022.

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

VI. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to approve Sav A Lot located at 113 N. Morrison Blvd. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain a permit to sell packaged Hi/Low alcohol. The owner is Main's Hammond, LLC. (Kasey Daigle)

Kasey Daigle, stated that this was an existing business with a change of ownership all the information was submitted and in order.

Councilman Wells enters the meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve Sav A Lot located at 113 N. Morrison Blvd. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain a permit to sell packaged Hi/Low alcohol. The owner is Main's Hammond, LLC.

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

2. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$19,965 application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios and accessories for the Hammond Police Department. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, stated this was for a Federal Justice Assistance Grant, the \$19,965 is an annual allocation for FY22. He stated, in speaking with the police department between the two grants, the state and federal they should be able complete the purchase of radios for all patrol officers. They should be able to purchase about twelve radios and anything left over will be used for items such as batteries and shoulder straps.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve a resolution supporting the submission of a \$19,965 application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios and accessories for the Hammond Police Department.

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

3. A resolution to purchase Dash Camera's for the Hammond Police Department in the amount of \$125,850.00 State Contract 4400011240. (Marcus McMillian)

Marcus McMillian stated he came before the council before in reference to purchasing Axion body cameras. He stated a lot of the old cameras are going down and they would like to move the project forward and outfit the older units with cameras.

Councilwoman Gonzales asked if this included the subscription for software and if there was a term on it.

Marcus McMillian, stated that he thought it was over a five year term.

Councilwoman Gonzales asked if it was within budget.

Marcus McMillian, answered yes and he stated that this was the item that was tabled a few meeting back. They tabled it to make sure the contract was correct.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if the bodycams were Axion as well.

Marcus McMillian stated the officers that drove the newer units have Axion body cam and Axion dash cams.

Councilman Wells, asked if the cameras going to be in all police cars.

Marcus McMillian, stated the thirty units that do not have them are older units and their plan is to have one in every unit.

Councilman Wells, asked if the chief will have one in his vehicle.

Marcus McMillian, stated he wasn't sure.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve a resolution to purchase Dash Camera's for the Hammond Police Department in the amount of \$125,850.00 State Contract 4400011240.

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

4. A resolution to transfer \$41,350 from Water/Sewer Available Surplus funds (61636000) to a new project "Natchez/Skinner Force Main Relocation" to deconflict the sewer force main from the canal improvements at Natchez and Skinner. (Kasey Daigle)

Kasey Daigle, stated this was a new project to relocate a force main that was uncovered during the initial work on the canal improvements at Natchez and Skinner. He stated that the funds are available and there is \$101,000 in that account and taking the \$41,350 out will leave approximately \$60,000 in the available surplus funds in fund (616).

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked what is deconflict.

Mayor, stated there was a concrete wall and when they were putting this in the force main was underneath and they were concerned about it being so close that if anything adjusted it could crush the pipe. While they are there they decided to correct now rather than later.

Councilman Wells, stated that someone from Chuck Spangler office should have been present to explain, because the questions that he has Kasey would not be able to answer. He stated this was in his district and the contractor did not know the depth of the line. He asked if the city or contractor will incur the cost. He stated that the city did not know about the line and it was put down back in nineteen eighties and this is a sewer line.

Mayor, thanked Kasey and stated that Chuck Spangler called him and Devon and explained the issue. He stated that the city will absorb the cost because you don't know what you are going to find during construction, so they correct what they find and make it right for the future.

Councilman Wells, stated that when you have a contractor that has a bond, if the contractor defaults, the contractor pays for it. He stated that the city did not know and it wasn't the contractors fault.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve a resolution to transfer \$41,350 from Water/Sewer Available Surplus funds (61636000) to a new project "Natchez/Skinner Force Main Relocation" to deconflict the sewer force main from the canal improvements at Natchez and Skinner.

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

VII. 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)

- John Deere Backhoe Model 410G
- 4 Backhoe Tires
- 1997 Chevrolet Chassis Panel Truck Unit 611
- (2) STIHL BR 380 Blowers
- STIHL BR 340 Blowers

Jana Soileau, stated these are items in poor condition and the department's no longer use then and she is requesting council approval to sell on Govdeal.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the sale of the items listed to sell on Govdeal.com.

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

Public Hearing will be scheduled for August 9, 2022 at 5:30pm

2. Introduction of an ordinance regarding Joe Farris Drive and Susan Drive in Lakewood Subdivision (Councilman DiVittorio)

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that this was an introduction and they had an ordinance in 1983 and a neighbor had a copy of the ordinance that was approved. This to clean up and protect the integrity and quality of life of the neighborhood.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if the proper procedure would be for this to go to Planning and Zoning.

Andre Coudrain, Hammond City Attorney, answered yes and stated before the council would vote for final adoption it needs to have a recommendation from Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning will have something in writing and can make recommendations and the council will have that before voting.

Councilman Wells, asked if Planning and Zoning should get a copy of the ordinance that a resident from Lakewood Subdivision have.

Andre Coudrain, stated that there is an ordinance attached that Planning and Zoning will have.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that they had an ordinance in 1983 to abandon the twenty foot parcel. He stated that the building department could not find the document. They had a subdivision member that had the document on file and was able to present it.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if it was abandoned, who has ownership of it.

Andre Coudrain, the adjourning owners. They would get notice in the process.

Mr. Spiller Milton, 608 Susan Drive, Lakewood Subdivision, stated that he has a copy of the ordinance from 1983 stating that this should not be opened. The roads in the subdivision are narrow and there will be more problems if the opened it up to through traffic. He also stated that he appreciated the work done by his councilman.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if it was introduced on August 9th would that be sufficient time to for Planning and Zoning, since they meet the second week of the month.

Andre Coudrain, stated they may not have it in two weeks and they need to get the Planning and Zoning recommendation and once that is received then it can be scheduled for the next meeting for public hearing and final adoption.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an ordinance regarding Joe Farris Drive and Susan Drive in Lakewood Subdivision and submit to Planning and Zoning for recommendations.

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

3. Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend the Hammond Unified Development Code Regarding Subdivision Approvals. (Councilman DiVittorio)

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that this would apply to all neighborhoods around the city. It's cleaning up the language and providing more notice to the residents. Having the Planning and Zoning look at the impact on neighborhoods.

Joe Meir, 44065 High Oaks Trail, asked if any of the changes have a cost impact to home ownership that may impact affordable housing.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated not to his knowledge it just to clean up policy and procedure.

Councilwoman Gonzales asked Andre if he drafted the document.

Andre Coudrain, answered yes and he stated the document does two things, it gives notice to existing neighborhoods and it expresses if that's the desire of the council to give primary consideration to how this development is going to impact this existing neighborhood. He stated that this would be the same that would go Planning and Zoning for their review and recommendations. There's a motion introduced and it should be referred to Planning and Zoning for their recommendation.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews to introduce and to send the ordinance to amend the Hammond Unified Development Code Regarding Subdivision Approvals to Planning and Zoning.

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

VIII. REPORTS:

Mayor:

Mayor stated this Friday the back packs & supplies for kids will be distributed from 9am to 12pm at Hammond Westside Montessori School.

Council:

Councilman DiVittorio, called up Ms. Betty Cole to talk about her experience with getting a speed bump on Rosewood Dr.

Ms. Betty Cole of 126 Rosewood Dr., stated she spoke with Robert Morgan and they went through the process of what they needed to do and where they could put it and the names they needed to have and they needed to have the owners name. She stated that Mr. Robert Williams told here that the tenants are supposed to sign.

Mayor, stated he thinks the tenant can hear so the noise from the speed bumps at night when they are sleeping are sleeping. That's generally why they have them sign the petition.

Betty Cole, stated that they do not have a problem with the owner but the tenants need to sign.

Mayor, stated that was correct because they live there.

Ms. Betty Cole, stated that they need the speed bumps.

Councilman Wells, stated that he wanted to make a correction, the speed bump was put on Harrell St and not Natchez. He state what Ms. Betty was saying was that everything was approved when Robert Morgan was in office.

Mayor, stated that he would speak with Robert Williams.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that he wanted to clarify that it was approved and it needs to clarify with the department heads.

Council Wells, stated that there was still debris that needed to be picked up and ask when it will be picked up.

Mayor, stated he would speak with Robert Williams.

Councilman Wells, stated that community in District 3, about ten streets would like speed bumps, if they could get the police to patrol the area they would not have a need for all the speed bumps.

Assistant Police Chief Angelo Monistere, stated they just started an initiative this past week to have patrol units patrol different neighborhoods on every shift. They are logging all of the information and they are trying to get law enforcement more involved in the communities.

Councilman Wells, asked about them logging the information in and they have no proof that they were in the areas. He thinks if there was tracking devices on all city vehicles we would know where they are at all times.

Councilman Andrews, asked if it was ok if they provide some hot areas for them to patrol.

Assistant Police Chief Angelo Monistere, responded yes and stated that hopefully they are hitting those areas, get the information to them.

Councilman Andrews asked if they are basically dealing with some of the speeding on the streets.

Assistant Police Chief Angelo Monistere, stated their enforcement for speeding, has not necessarily been in the residential districts and if they have issues within their districts to let them know. He talked about putting up the speed trailer or physical officers out to write citation they can do that.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked how many of the speed machines they have and if they plan to get any more. **Assistant Police Chief Angelo Monistere**, stated they have one and they are having discussions about getting more.

Councilman Wells, stated that Live Oak has been a hot area for a long time and they know the areas for drugs etc. but are not cleaning those areas up. He stated we need to clean up the issues.

Councilman Andrews, presented a certificate to the Old School Organization in recognition of their community service. He also presented a certificate to the Jackson Family, in honor of Ms. Carolyn Jackson. He also stated that on this Saturday in Martin Luther King Park starting at 9:00 am they will have school supply giveaway. This Thursday and Friday he and Councilwoman Gonzales will be attending the Louisiana Municipal Association Conference. Reminder; Special meeting for the Charter Review will be on Wednesday August 3.

Joe Meir, 44065 High Oaks, stated that in reference to the Charter Review, stated it was moved from 5pm to noon and he is not going to make that, but he wanted to be there because he had some comments. He stated in the past there were some gray areas about residency. Those need to be cleared up. He read from the Charter and stated there were some gray areas related to residency. He thinks that when the charter updates are taking place it would be appropriate to make clear of the matter by requiring verification of the actual legal domicile that candidates resided in the districts of which the qualified. He can't make the meeting so he wanted to bring it to the city council and administration. He asked if that was being addressed with the Charter Review.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked if he knew about the meeting they had and if he had ever brought that up.

Joe Meir stated, his question was is that what they have done in the last twenty meetings or is that a part of what they have addressed and that he has not been at those meetings and he is asking if that is one of the things being addressed in the recommendations.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that is not one of the recommendations.

Joe Meir, stated he may not make the meeting and would like to have the residency issues brought up at the meeting.

IX. ADJOURN

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Approved 5-0**

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
TRANSACTIONED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD JULY 26, 2022
BEING 5 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL