

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
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
January 10, 2023
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Dr. Daniel Crosby

IV. INDUCTION CEREMONY

Mayor - Pete Panepinto, Sworn in by the Honorable Judge C. Britain Sledge, III

Council District 1: Councilman Kip Andrews Sworn in by Erica D. Williams, Esq. and Pastor Charles E. Brumfield Jr, Esq.

Council District 2: Councilwoman Carlee White Gonzales Sworn in by the Honorable Judge Brenda Bedsole-Ricks

Council District 3: Councilman Devon A. Wells Sworn in by Mrs. Tracy Washington Wells, Notary Public.

Council District 4: Councilman Sam DiVittorio Sworn in by Mr. Frank DiVittorio, Esq.

**Council District 5: Councilman Steven J. Leon was absent
Honorable Judge C. Britain Sledge, III-**

V. ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS:

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and a second by Councilwoman Gonzales to elect Councilwoman Gonzales as City Council President for 2023.

Vote: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (N), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (N) Motion fails 2-2

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and a second by Councilman DiVittorio to elect Councilman DiVittorio City Council President for 2023.

Vote: Councilman Andrews (N), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (Y) Motion fails 2-2

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and a second by Councilman DiVittorio to elect Councilman Wells City Council President for 2023.

Vote: Councilman Andrews (N), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (Y) Motion fails 2-2

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews that the current president continue his service until the next meeting and this item be tabled to be taken up at the next meeting.

Vote: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (N), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (N) Motion fails 2-2

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and a second by Councilman Wells to elect **Councilman Kip Andrews** to remain City Council President for 2023. Councilman Andrews stated he respectfully declines.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and a second by Councilman DiVittorio to elect **Councilman Wells** City Council President for 2023.

Councilwoman Gonzales asked Andre Coudrain as a point of order, if you can vote for the same items that have already failed.

Andre Coudrain stated, if someone has changed their mind to let it go since there was a motion and second.

Vote: Councilman Andrews (N), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (Y) Motion fails 2-2

Councilman DiVittorio, asked Andre if there is a deadlock, what they do next.

Andre Coudrain, stated that there was a vacancy in the office of president and explained what is written in the charter. He also stated that they do not want a vacancy in the office of president. He stated that it was not good practice and because there was not a full membership of the council, he recommended that they keep the Council President until next month.

Councilman Wells and City Attorney Andre Coudrain, continued to discuss the presidency and vacancy of the City Council President.

Councilman Wells, asked if they wanted to go out back and have a discussion, because they need to have a president tonight.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked that they adjourn this portion and to table it until the regular session.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews to table the vote for City Council President until the regular session.

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

Andre Coudrain, stated the next item was Vice President

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that she was trying to table to entire election of council officers, so that we could move forward.

Andre Coudrain, asked her to make another motion for Vice President.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews to table the vote for City Council Vice-President until the regular session later this evening.

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

VI. CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Tim Moffety

VII. ADJOURN: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adjourn the special meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor and City Council will take a 20 minute break before moving into the public hearing.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
January 10, 2023
5:30pm**

Andre Coudrain, commented to everyone that the council currently does not have a president or vice president and the remaining officer of the council is the clerk. He stated that the clerk would be the presiding officer of the public hearing and the regular session until such time as the council elects its officers.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Lisa Cockerham, Hammond City Council Clerk

II. ROLL CALL: Councilman Andrews (P), Councilman DiVittorio (P), Councilwoman Gonzales (P), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (no vote)

Councilman Wells, stated we need to pick a president.

Andre Coudrain, stated this is the public hearing portion of the meeting and typically there are no votes taken at the public hearing. He stated they could recess this session and call a regular meeting. He stated that the vote is two to two and unless someone has expressed a willingness to change a vote, we need to move forward with the business of the council.

Councilman Wells, stated that he changed his vote and he would like to go ahead with the vote for president and vice president.

Andre Coudrain and Councilman Wells continued to discuss the item of the election of offices and that the item has been placed on the table until the regular session.

Councilman Wells made a motion to adjourn.

Lacy Landrum, stated that there were a lot of people present to hear the two cases that deals with mobile homes and they have waited a long time to be heard at the meeting.

Councilman Wells stated that he understands but we need a president.

Andre Coudrain stated that there was a motion on the table and asked if there was a second. There was no second to the motion.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to take bring the presidency election backup and vote.

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

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Wells** to elect **Councilman Kip Andrews** City Council President for 2023.

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

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and a second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to elect **Councilman DiVittorio** City Council Vice President for 2023.

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Candice T. Bush (owner and applicant) to allow for a mobile home located at 508 Washington Avenue per survey by William J. Bodin, PLS dated 5/18/22; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2022-11-00115). Recommended Approval by the Zoning Commission with the following conditions:

1. This is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use;
2. It meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code Article 3, Section 3.4; and
3. The survey submitted is signed and recorded for the official lot of record.

Lacy Landrum, stated this is to place a mobile home in District 3, there are mobile homes surrounding this parcel of land. The mobile home would have to meet the UDC requirements and be a HUD approved mobile home. The planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously in favor of this mobile home being installed.

Councilman Wells asked if the owner was present.

Robert McGee, stated that this was the McGee's property and they are the owners of the property.

Lacy Landrum, had a discussion with Mr. McGee regarding the location of the property and it was determined that they did not own the property.

2. An ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use by Willie J. Richardson (owner and applicant) to allow for a mobile home located at 17085 East Hoover Street per survey; Zoned RS-3. (Z-2022-11-00117). Recommended Approval by the Zoning Commission with the following conditions:

1. This is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use;
2. It meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code Article 3, Section 3.4; and
3. The survey submitted is signed and recorded for the official lot of record.

Lacy Landrum, stated this is located in district one. The former home that was at this location burned down and the Richardson's are seeking to place a mobile home. The planning commission unanimously approved. It is in a flood zone and would require an elevation certificate.

Delores Richardson, 17085 E. Hoover St., stated they are applying for the mobile home at that address.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA**

January 10, 2023

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Elder Ron Matthews

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Khloe Brown, Hammond Eastside Magnet, Upper 7th Grade
All veterans and active military, please render the proper salute.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the minutes of December 13, 2022.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Absent), Councilman Wells (abstain) Motion Approved 3-1

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Candice T. Bush (owner and applicant) to allow for a mobile home located at 508 Washington Avenue per survey by William J. Bodin, PLS dated 5/18/22; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2022-11-00115). Recommended Approval by the Zoning Commission with the following conditions:

1. This is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use;
2. It meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code Article 3, Section 3.4; and
3. The survey submitted is signed and recorded for the official lot of record.

Councilman Wells, asked if Ms. Candace was present and asked that the item be tabled until next meeting.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to table an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Candice T. Bush (owner and applicant) to allow for a mobile home located at 508 Washington Avenue per survey by William J. Bodin, PLS dated 5/18/22; Zoned RS-3 (Z-2022-11-00115).

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (absent), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved to table 4-0

2. Final adoption of an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use by Willie J. Richardson (owner and applicant) to allow for a mobile home located at 17085 East Hoover Street per survey; Zoned RS-3. (Z-2022-11-00117). Recommended Approval by the Zoning Commission with the following conditions:

1. This is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use;
2. It meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code Article 3, Section 3.4; and
3. The survey submitted is signed and recorded for the official lot of record.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells approve an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use by Willie J. Richardson (owner and applicant) to allow for a mobile home located at 17085 East Hoover Street per survey; Zoned RS-3. (Z-2022-11-00117). Recommended Approval by the Zoning Commission with the following conditions:

1. This is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use;
2. It meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code Article 3, Section 3.4; and
3. The survey submitted is signed and recorded for the official lot of record.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (absent), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to extend the moratorium on the acceptance and processing of subdivision plats, site development plans or zoning amendments for multifamily housing within the City of Hammond for an additional 180 days

Councilman DiVittorio stated that this was a moratorium that was in place and they hired consultants to conduct a housing study, infrastructure development, blighted properties and all zoning to give data on the city. While waiting on all the data to come in, he proposed that the moratorium be extended another six months.

Mayor Panepinto, stated they completed the three acre pond that was built for the future growth in the city. He stated that they do have a new pond in place in addition to the other three ponds they already had.

Jesse Jones, 1301 West Church St. B, he asked the council with all of the high rise developments, what is the benefit to the citizens that already live in Hammond. He was concerned about increase traffic and the strain on infrastructure and he doesn't see it as a benefit. He is against new high-rises and agrees with the moratorium.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 West, stated he is concerned about single family housing, they are needed more than the large complexes. He stated we need single family housing.

Councilman Wells, stated his concern because district three is the only district that has land left over and what's taking place is all of the apartment complexes as well as the problems are coming into district three.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated and it affects district four as well. He also stated that he received several emails that came through from people who could not attend who are in support of the moratorium.

Spiller Milton, 608 Susan Dr, Lakewood subdivision, he thanked the council for their support of the Lakewood Subdivision and dealing with the closing of the road and dealing with multi-housing development. He stated that

they have had some sewer issues in his neighborhood. He stated they are not just interested in his subdivision but the whole town and they want to development in a planned manner. He is in favor of the moratorium and a plan that will best move Hammond forward.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an ordinance to extend the moratorium on the acceptance and processing of subdivision plats, site development plans or zoning amendments for multifamily housing within the City of Hammond for an additional 180 days

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (absent), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

Public Hearing is scheduled for January 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution ratifying proposals and awarding the contract for "Mooney Avenue Park Playground" (Project 32203) to Planet Recess, Inc. in the amount of \$156,088.

Charles Borchers IV, stated they were the only bid and they came in under budget.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the ratifying proposals and awarding the contract for "Mooney Avenue Park Playground" (Project 32203) to Planet Recess, Inc. in the amount of \$156,088.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (absent), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

Councilman Wells left the meeting.

2. A resolution ratifying proposals and awarding the contract for "Clarke Park Playground Improvements" (Project 12316) to Planet Recess, Inc. in the amount of \$144,661. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers IV, stated this this project is being funded by a budget item that was passed by the council during the last budget session. It came in under budget and it's for new equipment and to repair damage from Hurricane Ida.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the ratifying proposals and awarding the contract for "Clarke Park Playground Improvements" (Project 12316) to Planet Recess, Inc. in the amount of \$144,661

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (absent), Devon Wells (Absent). Motion Approved 3-0

3. A resolution 1) accepting a \$5,000,000 grant from the Water Sector Program for improvements to Hammond's sewer system; 2) approving a local match of \$1,720,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers IV, stated he applied for this grant in the fall/winter of 2021. They were denied but they resubmitted and were funded. These are Federal funds that came through the state through ARPA and different Covid related grants. They are going to use some of the Covid related money from ARPA for the match and with the match the total is \$6.72 million dollars sewer rehabilitation project.

Lacy Landrum, thanked Charles Borchers for his hard work on the grant.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing 1) accepting a \$5,000,000 grant from the Water Sector Program for improvements to Hammond's sewer system; 2) approving a local match of \$1,720,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (absent), Devon Wells (Absent). Motion Approved 3-0

4. A resolution authorizing Lisa Cockerham, Hammond City Council Clerk, to certify authorized signatories and signatures for the City's Water Sector Program grant.

Councilman Wells, returned to the meeting

Charles Borchers, stated this is to complete and authorize signatories, they are required for these grants.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews to authorizing Lisa Cockerham, Hammond City Council Clerk, to certify authorized signatories and signatures for the City's Water Sector Program grant.

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

5. A resolution 1) accepting a \$23,000 grant from the Local Government Assistance Program to purchase security cameras for City parking malls; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

Charles Borchers IV, stated they applied over a year ago. The money received is enough to put cameras up in the parking mall downtown.

There was a discussion of cameras in the parks and other areas of the city

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to approve 1) accepting a \$23,000 grant from the Local Government Assistance Program to purchase security cameras for City parking malls; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents

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

6. A resolution 1) accepting a \$10,881 grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios for the Hammond Police Department; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

Charles Borchers, this grant was submitted about six months or so ago. It will be enough to purchase about seven radios with accessories, extended battery and speaker microphones. There is no match requirement.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve 1) accepting a \$10,881 grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios for the Hammond Police Department; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

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

7. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$45,000 application to the Traffic Safety Grant Program for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement.

Charles Borchers, state that they apply for this grant every year, there is no match and it funds overtime operations for officers and allows them to put more officers on the road.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to approve a resolution supporting the submission of a \$45,000 application to the Traffic Safety Grant Program for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement.

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

8. A resolution to approve the Mayor to enter into contract with Harper Metal Building Services, Inc. for \$195,206.00 for the Maintenance Shop Addition. RFP 23-39 (Contingent on the additional funds being appropriated)

Jana Soileau, stated this is to add an additional two thousand six hundred and forty additional feet to the maintenance shop. It's an additional long bay and short bay. She stated that they budgeted \$181,000 and the next resolution will make up the difference of the additional funds needed if the council approves.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked how many bids they had.

Jana Soileau, stated they sent an email out to six people, five contractors came to the site visit and only one came back with a bid.

Councilman Wells, asked if the following resolution for \$14,200 is used to make up the difference in funds.

Jana Soileau, stated yes to make up the additional funds needed.

Councilman Wells, asked if the shop manager was present and asked him to come to the front. He asked him to explain to the public why and what this is needed for.

Kent Soileau, he explained the addition and why it is needed.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Harper Metal Building Services, Inc. for \$195,206.00 for the Maintenance Shop Addition. RFP 23-39 (Contingent on the additional funds being appropriated)

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

9. A resolution to transfer \$14,206 from General Administration - Consultant Fees (10015800-520124) to Maintenance Building Addition/Garage Improvements (Project 12213). (Lacy Landrum)

Lacy Landrum, stated this is to fund the contract item in resolution number eight.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the transfer \$14,206 from General Administration - Consultant Fees (10015800-520124) to Maintenance Building Addition/Garage Improvements (Project 12213).

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

IX. REPORTS:

Mayor: stated that the sewer pond that the voters approved 2.2 bond million dollars is now operational and sewer work is continuing.

Council:

Councilman DiVittorio, asked Lacy if she could follow-up, regarding cameras in Jackson Park and check with Bobby about the house on Lato Lane that has been under construction.

Councilman Wells, congratulated the mayor and city council and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked the mayor about sewer lines in Rosewood/Carter St area.

Mayor Panepinto, stated he would check and send him an email.

Councilman Wells, stated to Lacy that they are having issues with garbage pick-up.

Councilman Andrews, invited everyone out to Martin Luther King Park on Monday for MLK Day.

X. ADJOURN:

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adjourn the meeting. Motion Approved 4-0 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 TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD JANUARY 10, 2023.

BEING 7 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.