



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
July 25, 2023
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Kip Andrews

II. ROLL CALL: Councilman Kip Andrews (P), Councilman Sam DiVittorio (P), Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales (P), Councilman Steve Leon (P), Councilman Devon Wells (absent)

III. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
July 25, 2023
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Kip Andrews

II. ROLL CALL: Councilman Kip Andrews (P), Councilman Sam DiVittorio (P), Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales (P), Councilman Steve Leon (P), Councilman Devon Wells (absent)

III. PRAYER: Kip Andrews

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

Councilman Wells enters the meeting

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2023 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon approve the Minutes of July 11, 2023.

**Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (N)
Motion approved 4-1**

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

OLD BUSINESS

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to increase the monthly garbage fee from \$14.08 to \$20.98.
Lacy Landrum gave a review of the available options and stated the city put out a survey on Survey monkey. Lacy stated they had received 310 responses back. The responses were as follows: 206 Keep twice a week, 104 once a week. There were 300 responses to recycling with 186 keeping recycling and 114 ending recycling.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy 190 west, stated he is not in favor of the proposal to increase fees.

Vic Couvillion, 802 Rue Cannes, stated he is in favor of twice a week collection.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, stated the survey should have been sent in the water bills and the city should cover the increase.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated she did a Facebook poll and her constituents want twice a week and recycling and the city should not subsidize garbage fees.

Councilman Leon stated his constituents want twice a week with recycling.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated his constituents wants twice a week and the city should not have terminated the prior agreement.

Mayor, stated the prior company did not do a good job and they wanted an increase.

Councilman Andrews, stated his constituents wants once a week with recycling.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve an ordinance to increase the monthly garbage fee by \$6.90 for a total charge of 20.98 for twice a week collection with recycling at 190.

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

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to approve an ordinance to increase garbage fee by \$3.31 for a total charge of \$17.39 for once a week garbage collection with recycling.

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

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve an ordinance to increase the monthly garbage fee by \$6.40 for twice a week collection with recycling.

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

IX. INTRODCUTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an Ordinance to amend the UDC re: reception/Banquet Halls.

Councilman Leon is asking that the language be reviewed and updated by planning and zoning to differentiate businesses operated as bars & nightclubs, that are permitted as reception/banquet halls.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, explained the possible changes and the process.

Councilman Wells, asked questions about the changes and stated he did not think this was good for District 3.

Derrick Bahom, 102 Pine Dr. asked about the changes and expressed his concerns.

Effren Brown, Mooney Ave, asked how they determine where the problems are.

Tanya Turner, stated she has a problem with the wording of the proposed ordinance. She has worked at some of these facilities and she thinks the wording needs to be changed.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to introduce an Ordinance to amend the UDC re: reception/Banquet Halls.

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

X. RESOLUTIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to accept the proposal for recycling services at the 190 facility.

Lacy Landrum asked that this item be tabled.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to table a resolution to accept the proposal for recycling services at the 190 facility.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to appoint Brandon Recotta to the Hammond Historic District Commission for the remainder of a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024. This will complete the term served by Jennifer White.

Mayor Panepinto, stated Brandon is a lifelong resident of the city and has served on several boards and he is asking for the council's approval.

Brandon Recotta was present and available to answer questions.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio approve a resolution to appoint Brandon Recotta to the Hammond Historic District Commission for the remainder of a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024. This will complete the term served by Jennifer White. **Vote:** Kip Andrews (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y) Motion Approved 5-0

2. A resolution to appoint Tanya Turner to the Hammond Historic District Commission for the remainder of a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024. This will complete the term served by Shauna Seals. **Mayor Panepinto**, stated Tanya was a lifelong resident who is passionate and would like to serve and he is asking for the council's approval.

Tanya Turner, was present and available to answer questions.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales approve a resolution to appoint Tanya Turner to the Hammond Historic District Commission for the remainder of a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024. This will complete the term served by Shauna Seals.

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

3. A resolution to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 4:00pm-9:00pm. The event boundaries include the 100 block of N. Cypress St. and Morrison Park Alleyway up to (but not including) N. Cherry St. Note: Brews Arts Festival is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include craft-beer tasting, art vendors, and live music and food trucks.

Melissa Griffin, Executive Director, provided a description of the event and stated the goal was to give art access to everyone.

Councilman Wells left meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon approve a to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 4:00pm-9:00pm. The event boundaries include the 100 block of N. Cypress St. and Morrison Park Alleyway up to (but not including) N. Cherry St. Note: Brews Arts Festival is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include craft-beer tasting, art vendors, and live music and food trucks.

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

4. A resolution to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 4:00pm-9:00pm. The event boundaries include the 100 block of N. Cypress St. and Morrison Park Alleyway up to (but not including) N. Cherry St. Note: Brews Arts Festival is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include craft beer tasting, art vendors, live music and food trucks. (Melissa Griffin)

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 4:00pm-9:00pm. The event boundaries include the 100 block of N. Cypress St. and Morrison Park Alleyway up to (but not including) N. Cherry St. Note: Brews Arts Festival is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include craft beer tasting, art vendors, live music and food trucks.

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

5. A resolution to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center and its approved merchants to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during a Wine & Cheese Stroll held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 4:00pm-7:00pm in coordination with the Hammond Downtown Development District's Hot August Stroll event. The event boundaries are E. and W. Robert St., N. and S. Cherry St., E. and W. Coleman Ave., and N. and S. Magnolia St. (Michelle Kendall and Melissa Griffin)

Michelle Kendall, described the event and the collaboration with the Hammond Regional Art Center **Councilman Wells** re-enters the meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center and its approved merchants to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during a Wine & Cheese Stroll held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 4:00pm-7:00pm in

coordination with the Hammond Downtown Development District's Hot August Stroll event. The event boundaries are E. and W. Robert St., N. and S. Cherry St., E. and W. Coleman Ave., and N. and S. Magnolia St.

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

6. A resolution to authorize Benny's Place to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Hammond Downtown Development District's Hot August Stroll event held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM. The event locations are 106 NW Railroad Ave in Railroad Park and the 100 block of W Charles St near Cate Square Park.

Michelle Kendall, stated that Benny's Place was doing the event.

Councilman Wells leaves the meeting

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to authorize Benny's Place to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Hammond Downtown Development District's Hot August Stroll event held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM. The event locations are 106 NW Railroad Ave in Railroad Park and the 100 block of W Charles St near Cate Square Park.

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

7. A resolution to grant a waiver of the City of Hammond's Open Container Law for the Hammond Downtown Development District's Hot August Stroll event on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM hosted in coordination with Hammond Regional Arts Center and Benny's Place. The event boundaries are E. and W. Robert St., N. and S. Cherry St., E. and W. Coleman St., and N. and S. Magnolia St, and include 106 NW Railroad Ave in Railroad Park and the 100 block of W Charles near Cate Square Park. (Michelle Kendall)

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to grant a waiver of the City of Hammond's Open Container Law for the Hammond Downtown Development District's Hot August Stroll event on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM hosted in coordination with Hammond Regional Arts Center and Benny's Place. The event boundaries are E. and W. Robert St., N. and S. Cherry St., E. and W. Coleman St., and N. and S. Magnolia St, and include 106 NW Railroad Ave in Railroad Park and the 100 block of W Charles near Cate Square Park.

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

8. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement between Tangipahoa Parish and cities within the parish regarding Acadian Ambulance Services.

Dwain Meche, described the services offered by Acadian and the proposed contract.

Councilman Wells re-entered the meeting.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement between Tangipahoa Parish and cities within the parish regarding Acadian Ambulance Services.

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

9. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an annual support agreement with Tyler Technologies Inc. for the Munis software system estimated annual cost \$175,000.

Marcus McMillian explained the item and requested approval for the annual contract up to \$175,000 with this provider.

Council discussed an amendment to the contract amount.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to amend the annual support agreement with Tyler Technologies Inc. for Munis software system to up to \$75,000.

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

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the Mayor to enter in an annual support agreement with Tyler Technologies Inc. for the Munis software system as amended to \$75,000.

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

10. A resolution to authorize the position of assistant city attorney for civil service and related matters. **Andre Coudrain**, Hammond City Attorney, explained the reason for the resolution and how pending issues would be handled or resolved.

George Bergeron, Hammond Fire and Police Board, stated he was concerned of a conflict of interest.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the position of assistant city attorney for civil service and related matters.

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

11. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into agreement with Lexipol to write and implement policy and procedure manual for the police department in the amount of \$33,137.24.

Asst. Chief Angelo Monistere, explained the agreement and the cost. He stated this is updating the policy and keeping up to date when the laws change.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if this was rewriting the manual.

Asst. Chief Monistere, stated yes they are redoing the manual and they will have input to how it is written.

Tracey Washington Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, asked who will be installing the policy manual and suggested a citizen's advisory board to review changes.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the Mayor to enter into agreement with Lexipol to write and implement policy and procedure manual for the police department in the amount of \$33,137.24.

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

12. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$19,718 application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios for the Hammond Police Department.

Charles Borchers IV, stated the grant will allow them to purchase ten or eleven radios and no match is required.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon supporting the submission of a \$19,718 application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase portable radios for the Hammond Police Department.

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

13. A resolution supporting the submission of an application to the Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program for 240 trees for an annual Louisiana Arbor Day tree giveaway January 19, 2024.

Charles Borchers IV, stated there was no dollar match and if successful they would receive a number of trees to be given out.

Ivan Scioneaux asked about the size of the trees.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews supporting the submission of an application to the Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program for 240 trees for an annual Louisiana Arbor Day tree giveaway January 19, 2024.

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

XI. REPORTS:

Mayor:

Mayor stated that on July 28th they will have a backpack giveaway at Hammond Westside School and they will have 1200 back packs to giveaway. He thanked the school and it's leadership for allowing the use of the facility.

Council:

Councilman DiVittorio, talked about installed speed bump and contact information.

Mayor, explained the process.

Councilman Wells, asked about the shootings in Mooney Park on yesterday and stated his concerns about shootings in the park and the penalties.

Andre Coudrain stated he would look into laws around park shootings and explained that there are laws already on the books regarding shootings.

Assistant Chief Monistere, stated he did not get an alert and was not aware of the shooting, he stated it may not have been officially reported.

Councilman Wells, asked about the bleacher etc. for Mooney Park that has not been installed. He stated there is still no seating in the park and the ground is clay. Another issue is a community member got shot and the community is lost and they haven't received any answers. He expects answers from city leadership.

Councilman Andrews, stated that some type of statement should be made because he has been getting a lot of calls and questions about the shooting of the community member. Saturday in Martin Luther King Park beginning at 10am Seeing Past My Block are doing a back to school giveaway.

XII. ADJOURN

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to adjourn. All members were in favor 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 July 25, 2023
BEING 6 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL

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