



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
August 22, 2023  
5:30pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews**

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

**III. PUBLIC HEARING: Old Business:**

1. An ordinance to approve a request by Mimi McKee Catherall (owner) to rezone 207 South Holly Street per survey by Clifford Webb dated 2/21/1962 from RM-2 to MX-C with the allowed use of light industrial prohibited. (District 2)

**Lacy Landrum** stated the case was originally heard back in June but was delayed due to Ms. Catherall's travels. The item was unanimously approved by the planning and zoning commission zoning commission.

**Mimi Mckee Catherall** was present and stated that she was unsure of what she would be using the space for.

**Alton Lewis**, First Guaranty Bank, stated that signs were not posted letting the public know the hearing was coming up and he was concerned about parking and strongly objects to the re-zoning.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, stated she received some complaints and some of the neighbors are concerned about parking and there are residential properties on each side.

**Councilman Wells enters the meeting**

**City Attorney Andre Coudrain** stated since the signs were not reposted, the Council should consider deferring this matter and have it reset for public hearing and final adoption.



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

**August 22, 2023**

**6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews**

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

**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 August 8, 2023 Meeting

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the Minutes of August 8, 2023.**

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

**VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:**

**Old Business:**

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to approve a request by Mimi McKee Catherall (owner) to rezone 207 South Holly Street per survey by Clifford Webb dated 2/21/1962 from RM-2 to MX-C with the allowed use of light industrial prohibited. (District 2) (Lacy Landrum)

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to reset for public hearing and final adoption at a later date.**

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

## **IX. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:**

1. An ordinance to declare the intention to obtain full ownership of property adjudicated to the city of Hammond located at 118 West Louisa Street under LSA RS 47:2236, authorizing the sale of the property to the adjoining landowner pursuant to LSA RS 47:2202 and providing for related matters. **Andre Coudrain**, explained the process.

**Councilman Wells**, stated that Mr. Carter has been maintaining the property for years.

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an ordinance to declare the intention to obtain full ownership of property adjudicated to the city of Hammond located at 118 West Louisa Street under LSA RS 47:2236, authorizing the sale of the property to the adjoining landowner pursuant to LSA RS 47:2202 and providing for related matters.**

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

2. Introduction of an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Tasha Dameron for the location of 307 N. Oak St., Zoned RM-3, to allow the use of Real Estate office. Expanded Conditional Use contingent on: 1) this is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use; and it meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code. (District 2)

**Lacy Landrum** stated this was unanimously approved by planning and zoning.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Tasha Dameron for the location of 307 N. Oak St., Zoned RM-3, to allow the use of Real Estate office. Expanded Conditional Use contingent on: 1) this is a personal right and expires upon a change in ownership of the property from the person originally granted the conditional use; and it meets all the requirements in the Unified Development Code.**

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

## **X. RESOLUTIONS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1.A resolution to reappoint George Bergeron to represent the police department on the Hammond Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a three-year term from July 29, 2023 - July 29, 2026.

**Chief Edwin Bergeron**, This is pursuant to an election in the Police Department, Chief Bergeron stated George Bergeron has been on the board for the last few years and he was voted in by his peers.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to reappoint George Bergeron to represent the police department on the Hammond Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a three-year term from July 29, 2023 - July 29, 2026.**

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

2.A resolution to reappoint John Philip Notariano to represent the fire department on the Hammond Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a three-year term from July 29, 2023 - July 29, 2026.

**Chief Daniel Folks**, this is pursuant to an election in the fire department, Chief Folks stated he has been on the board for the last few years and he was voted in by his peers.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to reappoint George Bergeron to represent the police department on the Hammond Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for a three-year term from July 29, 2023 - July 29, 2026.**

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

3. A resolution to approve Why Not Pizza located at 14175 Hwy 190 W. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant. The owner is Why Not Pizza, LLC. **Kasey Daigle**, stated this is a new business with the same owner. The owner was present.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve Why Not Pizza located at 14175 Hwy 190 W. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant. The owner is Why Not Pizza, LLC.**

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

4. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Lion Environmental, LLC to serve as the city's laboratory compliance manager for an amount of \$54,360 annually. The contract period will be from September 1, 2023 until August 31, 2024, with an option to renew two additional twelve month periods at same terms and conditions. Contract not to exceed 36 months.

**Sal Nicolosi**, 3607 Highway 190 west, asked about the company.

**Christine Monistere**, asked about licensing and why are they contracting out.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about the contract price.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Lion Environmental, LLC to serve as the city's laboratory compliance manager for an amount of \$54,360 annually. The contract period will be from September 1, 2023 until August 31, 2024, with an option to renew two additional twelve month periods at same terms and conditions. Contract not to exceed 36 months.**

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

5. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Roofing Solutions, for \$44,950.00 to repair the damaged roof at 1290 S.W. Ave Fire Department Headquarters. RFP 24-09

**Chief Daniel Folks**, stated this is for the building located at 1290 SW Railroad. He stated a large tree limb fell and damaged the roof. They sent out proposals and this is the only company that responded.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, asked if an insurance claim was filed.

**Chief Folks** stated that the money is coming out of the insurance claim.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Roofing Solutions, for \$44,950.00 to repair the damaged roof at 1290 S.W. Ave Fire Department Headquarters. RFP 24-09.

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

6. A resolution to authorize the Purchase of 30 Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses for a total of \$295,714.94. RFP 24-08

**Chief Daniel Folks**, stated this is what they wear on their backs when they go into a fire. They received two proposals back but one didn't meet the specifications. The proposal that meet the specifications also comes with a lifetime warranty.

**Sal Nicolosi**, 3607 Hwy 190 west, ask the council to consider purchasing fewer masks.

**Chief Folks**, stated that they need all thirty and the council should also consider the cost of repairs.

**Councilman Wells** asked how many did they have, the repair cost and when they expire. He also asked that they provide the repair cost in the future.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to authorize the Purchase of 30 Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses for a total of \$295,714.94. RFP 24-08.

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

7. A resolution to purchase 8-9 Police Tahoe's from Gerry Lane for a total amount of up to \$400,000 using State Contract pricing.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales and** second by **Councilman Leon** to remove the item from the agenda until the next meeting.

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

8. A resolution approving the purchase of site furniture, including 8 picnic tables, 12 park benches, and 13 waste receptacles, from SiteScapes in the amount of \$49,320. The purchase will be made with funds in Project 32203, Land and Water Conservation Fund grant project "Mooney Avenue Park Improvements, Phase II."

**Charles Borchers IV**, stated that this was the lowest bidder and he reviewed the cost of each item.

**Sal Nicolosi**, 3607 Hwy 190 west asked about the material the furniture was made of.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman Wells** to approve the purchase of site furniture, including 8 picnic tables, 12 park benches, and 13 waste receptacles, from SiteScapes in the amount of \$49,320. The purchase will be made with funds in Project 32203, Land and Water Conservation Fund grant project "Mooney Avenue Park Improvements, Phase II."

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

9. Discussion of a change to the City Charter for the election of the police chief.

**Councilman Wells** stated the Charter Review Committee met and made some recommendation and he asked for input and feedback on this item.

**Andre Coudrain**, explained the process and what had to happen in order to make the suggested changes.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, read from the charter review report.

**Councilman Wells**, stated the community has issues and they can no longer put off the Charter Review recommendations.

**Sal Nicolosi**, stated people are scared and he does not see patrols on the west side of town.

**Vic Couvillion**, 802 Rue Cannes, stated all neighborhoods have problems and not just in Hammond. We need to all work together. He expressed his concerns on electing a police chief. He asked if the council put the item to a vote can the Mayor veto the vote.

**Andre Coudrain**, stated no

**Christina Monistere**, 208 Camellia Ave stated there are two sides, election/appointed and she believes the election would remove the politics, they person should live in city limits and should be elected.

**Robert Lindsey**, 14 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave spoke about a prior incident with the Hammond Police Department.

**Virgil Ard**, stated the council should put it to a vote and allow the public to make a decision as to whether they want an elected police chief.

**Dixit Moore**, 1403 Natchez St. stated he is in favor of an elected police chief.

**Sal Nicolosi**, 3607 Hwy 190 w, stated that the city should elect the police chief.

**Council discussed**

**Tracy Wells**, 610 Mooney Ave, stated she was a member of the Charter Review Committee and she stated the police being elected came up and there were some pros and cons. She stated this is a great starting point. She stated the police chief position should be a position that can be recalled by the vote of the people. Let the people decide.

**XI. REPORTS:**

**Mayor:** stated two members of the community passed, Bruce LaBrecque and lifelong resident Ms. Earline Dangerfield and keep their family in prayers.

**Council:**

**Councilman Wells** stated that there were no shootings in his district in the last two weeks. He thanked Lacy Landrum for everything down with the grass cutting and Council President Andrews and the Mayor.

**Council President Andrews** asked about a list of the properties to be mowed.

**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 AUGUST 22,  
2023

BEING 5 PAGES IN LENGTH

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LISA COCKERHAM  
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

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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.