



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
September 12, 2023
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

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. **City Attorney Andre Coudrain**, explained the ordinance and the law.

2. 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 item was heard by planning and zoning on August 10th and they recommended approval. **Tasha Dameron**, was present to answer any questions.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
September 12, 2023
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Minister Curtis Newton

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2023 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the Minutes of August 22, 2023.

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

VI. PRESENTATIONS: President Kip Andrews Presented Mr. John Hair, Director of **Our Daily Bread Food Bank of Tangipahoa Parish** with a proclamation. Mr. Hair thanked the Mayor, City Council and the people of Hammond.

President Kip Andrews presented Tairon Ponds, Trey Lester, Jamie Brown, Jermaine Brown members of the **Trojan Elite Track Club** with certificates of recognition.

VII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of 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)

Councilman Wells thank City Attorney Andre Coudrain and Mr. Carter. **There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells** to adopt 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. Final adoption 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)

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adopt an ordinance to 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)

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

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to extend and modify 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, explained the need for a new ordinance.

City Attorney Andre Coudrain, explained the variance process/request for variances.

Councilman Leon, asked about some of the additions to the ordinance.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an ordinance to extend and modify 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 Gonzales (N), Steve Leon (N), Devon Wells (Y)
Motion approved 3-2

2. Introduction of an ordinance directing the clearing of Right-Of-Ways. (Sam DiVittorio)

Councilman DiVittorio, explained the ordinance.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated she thought it was too broad.

Dr. Lacy Landrum, stated questions and concerns over ordinance.

Councilman Leon, stated there were a lot of factors to consider.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy 190 w stated that this was about the city's right of way.

Christine Monistere, 208 Camille Ave, asked about the process to clear right of way and stated that something needs to be done.

David Foster, stated he has a trees that needs to be removed.

Councilman Wells, stated there are trees in District 3 that needs to be removed.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an ordinance directing the clearing of Right-Of- Ways.

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

IX. RESOLUTIONS: NEW BUSINESS

1. A resolution to approve Holy Ghost to hold its annual Parish Fair on October 27, 28, 29, 2023 within the boundaries of Magnolia Street from W. Colorado to railroad track, and NW Railroad Avenue from W. Colorado to railroad track.

Hollie Wootan, 601 N. Oak, requesting approval for Holy Ghost Church to hold their annual fair.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve Holy Ghost to hold its annual Parish Fair on October 27, 28, 29, 2023 within the boundaries of Magnolia Street from W. Colorado to railroad track, and NW Railroad Avenue from W. Colorado to railroad track.

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

2. A resolution authorizing Holy Ghost Parish Fair Committee to "serve, sell or otherwise handle alcohol" on Friday, October 27, 2023, from 5pm to 10pm, Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 8am to 10pm, and Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 10 am to 6pm within the boundaries set. (Hollie Wootan)

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to authorize Holy Ghost Parish Fair Committee to "serve, sell or otherwise handle alcohol" on Friday, October 27, 2023, from 5pm to 10pm, Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 8am to 10pm, and Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 10 am to 6pm within the boundaries set.

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

3. A resolution authorizing Holy Ghost Parish Fair Committee to obtain a waiver of the Open Container Law for the following dates and times: Friday, October 27, 2023, from 5pm to 10pm, Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 8am to 10pm, and Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 10 am to 6pm within the boundaries set. (Hollie Wootan)

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize Holy Ghost Parish Fair Committee to obtain a waiver of the Open Container Law for the following dates and times: Friday, October 27, 2023, from 5pm to 10pm, Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 8am to 10pm, and Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 10 am to 6pm within the boundaries set.

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

4. A resolution authorizing La Carreta, located at 108. Northwest Railroad Ave., Hammond LA, to obtain a waiver of the Open Container Law for our 25th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, September 15th, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM in the closed area of West Charles Street in front of the restaurant and in the south of the Case de Fresa parking lot.

Kayli Payne, explained the event

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to authorize La Carreta, located at 108. Northwest Railroad Ave., Hammond LA, to obtain a waiver of the Open Container Law for our 25th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, September 15th, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM in the closed area of West Charles Street in front of the restaurant and in the south of the Case de Fresa parking lot.

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

5. A resolution to approve the Mayor to enter into contract with ARRCO Company Services for Preventative Generator Maintenance and Repair Services. Total Annual Preventive Maintenance amount of \$65,560.00 and repair services hourly rate of \$119.00. RFP 24-14.

Jana Soileau, explained what the contract include, preventative maintenance. ARRCO was the only bidder.

David Foster, 45331 Pinehill Rd stated he submitted a bid for the work and the city's evaluation system is unfair.

Jana Soileau, explained the process for the bids.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to table the resolution to approve the Mayor to enter into contract with ARRCO Company Services for Preventative Generator Maintenance and Repair Services. Total Annual Preventive Maintenance amount of \$65,560.00 and repair services hourly rate of \$119.00. RFP 24-14.

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

6. A resolution to authorize the purchase of 2 WANCO Messaging Signs for a total of \$45,100.00 RFP 24-16.

Jana Soileau, explained the process for the bid.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to authorize the purchase of 2 WANCO Messaging Signs for a total of \$45,100.00 RFP 24-16

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

7. Discussion of quotes for the installation of vehicle tracking devices for city equipment and vehicles. **Marcus McMillian**, discussed his research on providing the devices for city equipment and vehicle tracking.

City Council Discussed

Marcus McMillian will take information presented and council input to research options with multiple providers.

8. A resolution to purchase 4 Dodge Durango's for a total amount of \$167,978.48 using State Contract 4400033795.

Chief Edwin Bergeron, stated the police department needs these vehicles. They put in for eight vehicles and four have already been sold and not available. They still have four and they would like to purchase them.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy 190 west, asked what company they are purchasing the vehicles from.

Chief Edwin Bergeron, stated Premier Dodge was providing the vehicles.

Councilman Wells, asked how many vehicles have been purchased since this city council has been in office.

Lacy Landrum, stated she did not have that information, but would provide it.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about vehicles.

Christine Monistere, 208 Camellia Ave, stated the type of vehicle doesn't matter-Tahoe/Durango's are not needed for all officers.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to purchase 4 Dodge Durango's for a total amount of \$167,978.48 State Contract # 4400033795.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews(Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (N), Motion Approved 4-1

9. A resolution to transfer \$47,546 from the Tangi Humane Society line item (560252) into the Animal Control line item (560249) and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Tangipahoa Parish Government Animal Control for animal control support for the period of September 15, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for \$47,545.12.

Lacy Landrum, explained the reason for this transfer.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy 190 west, asked about the animal control policies.

Chuck Pothwell, 405 W. Charles St, discussed the problem with stray cats.

Deborah Swinson, Woodbridge Subdivision, expressed problems with stray animals.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to transfer \$47,546 from the Tangi Humane Society line item (560252) into the Animal Control line item (560249) and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Tangipahoa Parish Government Animal Control for animal control support for the period of September 15, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for \$47,545.12

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

10. Discussion of funding for non-profit organizations (Councilman Andrews)

City Council discussed the funding of non-profit organization.

Elsbet Smith, President, Louisiana Children's Discovery Center, asked for direction and communication from council for funding.

Christine Monistere, asked about non-profits seeking funding.

Councilman Wells, suggested giving the Discovery Center \$70,000 and the African American Heritage \$50,000.

Vic Couvillion, asked about video bingo revenue and invited everyone out to city clean-up.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to amend the agenda to fund the Children's Discovery Center for \$70,000.

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

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Children's Discovery Center for \$70,000 from September 12, 2023 to June 30, 2024

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

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to amend the agenda to fund the African American Heritage Museum for \$50,000.

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

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum for \$50,000 from September 12, 2023 to June 30, 2024

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

11. Discussion of a change to the City Charter for the election of the police chief. (Councilman Wells)

Council discussed the ordinance

Vic Couvillion, stated electing a police chief is not going to solve the problems. He gave some pros and cons.

Jeannie Voohres 1201 S. Holly St stated she was in favor of letting the people elect the police chief.

Michael Showers, asked the council to suspend the giving of names and addresses when citizen come up to speak. He also stated that he was in favor of electing a police chief but believes the rules are too strict and they need to widen the net.

Sal Nicolosi 3607 Highway 90 West, stated that he believes the people should elect a police chief.

X. REPORTS:

Mayor: yielded the floor to Alex Martinez of Pride roofing for discussion of bid and RFP process.

There was a discussion of how the process works and some of the contractors complained that it was unfair to minorities.

David Foster expressed his concerns and experience with the cities process.

Council:

XI. ADJOURN

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** 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 SEPTEMBER
12, 2023

BEING 5 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.