



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

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman DiVittorio

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget to transfer \$23,893.00 from General Administration –TBD Nonprofit Partners (10015800-560100) to be returned to the General Fund (100) balance.

Councilwoman Gonzales, explained the ordinance.

Brandi Jones, 811 Mooney Avenue, asked that the funds remain in an account for nonprofits and be given to Urban Market Experience.

Councilman Wells, enters the meeting.

Jennifer Carpenter, J & I Transfers LLC, asked for services to help with her business.

Sharon Hughes, Sweets and More by Sharon, LLC, 502 S. 1st St., Amite, will be opening a business in Hammond and has been with UMX for a long time, she stated that small businesses need services from Urban Market Experience.

Ashanti Smith, 15312 Stonethrow Circle, Hammond, she is on the waiting list to get services and she spoke in support of Urban Market Experience.

Anthony Alexander, Amite LA, spoke in support of Urban Market Experience.

Bishop E. Rene Soule, 42798 Scarlet Circle, stated he has worked with UMX and spoke in support of Urban Market Experience.

Joseph Dominick, 43 Pine Square, Executive Director of the Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center, spoke about the Juvenile Detention center and stated Urban Market Experience has been doing good things in the community.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
October 10, 2023
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman DiVittorio

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

III. PRAYER: Min. Ron Matthews

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes of September 26, 2023 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023

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

VI. Presentation: N/A

VII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget to transfer \$23,893.00 from General Administration –TBD Nonprofit Partners (10015800-560100) to be returned to the General Fund (100) balance. (Councilwoman Gonzales)

Councilman Wells, asked how much did the Urban Market Experience received in the previous year. He stated he supports giving the remaining balance to Urban Market Experience.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to deny an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget to transfer \$23,893.00 from General Administration –TBD Nonprofit Partners (10015800-560100) to be returned to the General Fund (100) balance.

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

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to amend the agenda to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Urban Market Experience.

VOTE: Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Andrews (A), Motion Approved to amend the agenda 4-0

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 Urban Market Experience for \$23,893.00 from October 10, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

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

2. Final adoption and override of the Mayor’s veto of Ordinance No. 23-5721 an ordinance directing the clearing of right of ways. (Mayor Panepinto)

Mayor, explained why he vetoed the ordinance.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that the ordinance was not intended to clear cut tree. He explained the reason behind the ordinance and that it should be clear how people should submit a request. It needs to be clear.

Christine Montistere, stated there is a problem in her area and there needs to be a group effort between city and parish administration.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked the Mayor if there was a game plan for moving forward.

Mayor, stated they have a process and explained.

Councilman Wells, expressed his position and concern about the ordinance and the veto. He stated there needs to be better communication.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy 190 w. stated there is a problem with trees and he does not understand why the Mayor vetoed the ordinance.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to override the Mayor’s veto of Ordinance No. 23-5721 an ordinance directing the clearing of right of ways.

VOTE: Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Leon (N), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Andrews (A), Motion Failed 2-2

3. Final adoption and override of the Mayor’s veto of Ordinance No. 23-5722 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. (Mayor Panepinto)

Mayor, explained why he vetoed the ordinance.

Councilman DiVittorio, explained and clarified his statements regarding the role of a city planner.

Deborah Swenson, 12 Ravenwood Street, Woodbridge Subdivision, stated there are still problems with sewer back-up and she suggested that citizens meet with the new city planner. She stated drainage is still a problem and the council should vote from the citizens prospective.

Christine Monistere, asked if the moratorium can be by district areas only.

William Dykes, spoke in support of moratorium because of sewer and flooding problems.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated he did not receive any call from voters against the moratorium and thinks the veto is counterproductive to what he was trying to do.

Ronald Valentine, 190130 Covington Hwy, stated that the City Council and Mayor need to work together. He suggested they have some type of work session.

Karen Wallsten, Chairperson of Housing Enhancement Committee, read a stated from the committee in support of extending the moratorium.

Councilman Leon, stated he was concerned about the extension of Moratorium to group homes, not in support of moratorium and thinks it's time to regroup and refocus on what they don't want.

Lacy Landrum, The planning department has a detailed process in the Unified Development Code. She stated they have hired a city planner and he is scheduled to start in the middle of November. The permit process still affords a lot of review and the approval would still come before council.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated he has been pushing this to try and improve the developments going forward in multifamily.

Ron Matthews, 905 Del Mar Blvd, Hammond, stated he was speaking on behalf of the Planning & Zoning for the City of Hammond. He stated they have a very comprehensive meeting to discuss some of the items this is centered around. He is in favor of the moratorium because the city is growing and he sees it as an opportunity to make things better around the city. In their meeting on September 22, the board discussed this in detail as well as other things and they have a consensus and the want to offer up a recommendation to the council for an architecture review committee.

Tracy Well, ask for a definition of group home in the charter. She read a statement regarding group homes on Justice.gov.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to adopt and override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance No. 23-5722 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: Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Leon (N), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Andrews (A), Motion Failed 2-2

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to amend the agenda to add 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.

VOTE: Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Andrews (A), Motion Approved to amend the agenda 4-0

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an ordinance to extend the moratorium for an additional 180 days from the date of final adoption.

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

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to approve a request by John Montecino, Sr. to revoke the right-of-way of Brauner Street, which was never constructed by the City of Hammond, according to survey by Max Bodin, Inc. dated 8/5/2023. (Lacy Landrum)

Lacy Landrum, stated the item was heard by the planning and zoning committee in September and they unanimously approved to revoke the right of way. This was for a street that was never constructed.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an ordinance to approve a request by John Montecino, Sr. to revoke the right-of-way of Brauner Street, which was never constructed by the City of Hammond, according to survey by Max Bodin, Inc. dated 8/5/2023

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

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

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

Andre Coudrain, Hammond City Attorney, gave an update on the questions that were up for discussion, experience, residency and education.

Council discussed

Tracy Wells, asked to change and have the vote for the chief coincide with the U.S. Presidential Election and not the Mayor and City Council election.

2. A resolution to approve Family Dollar Store #21636 at 125 N. Morrison Blvd. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain a permit to sell packaged Hi/Low alcohol. The owner is Family Dollar Store of Louisiana, LLC.

Lacy Landrum, Family Dollar Store, asked to table this item as well as the next because they wanted to have a representative present for the meeting.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to table a resolution to approve Family Dollar Store #21636 at 125 N. Morrison Blvd. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain a permit to sell packaged Hi/Low alcohol. The owner is Family Dollar Store of Louisiana, LLC.

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

3. A resolution to approve Family Dollar Store #28439 at 1355 Highway 190 East Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain a permit to sell packaged Hi/Low alcohol. The owner is Family Dollar Store of Louisiana, LLC. (Lacy Landrum)

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to table a resolution to approve Family Dollar Store #28439 at 1355 Highway 190 East Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain a permit to sell packaged Hi/Low alcohol. The owner is Family Dollar Store of Louisiana, LLC.

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

4. A resolution to approve Thai Green Leaf located at 1905 W. Thomas St. Suite S Hammond, LA 70403 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant. The owner is Thai Green Leaf Inc. (Lacy Landrum)

Lacy Landrum stated the change is a move of location.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Wells to approve Thai Green Leaf located at 1905 W. Thomas St. Suite S Hammond, LA 70403 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant. The owner is Thai Green Leaf Inc

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

5. A resolution to approve annual alcohol renewals for 2024. (Lacy Landrum)

Lacy Landrum presented a list of current alcohol permits that are up for annual renewal.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve annual alcohol renewals for 2024

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (A), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Abstain), Councilman Wells (Abstain), Councilman Leon (Y). Motion Failed 2-2

6. A resolution 1) accepting a \$19,718 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.

Lacy Landrum, stated this is to accept the grant and there is no match.

Ivan Scioneaux, 2009 Corbine Rd, asked who the vendor was.

Lacy Landrum, stated they have not contacted with anyone yet because they have to accept the grant before they can go get quotes for the radios.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve a resolution 1) accepting a \$19,718 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 (A), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

7. A resolution 1) accepting an \$18,436.25 grant from the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; 2) approving an \$18,436.25 cash match from the Hammond Police Department; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

Lacy Landrum, accepting an annual grant that the city receives. There is a match and it will come from the Hammond Police Department Budget. They will be able to purchase between 33 and 34 vest.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve A resolution 1) accepting an \$18,436.25 grant from the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; 2) approving an \$18,436.25 cash match from the Hammond Police Department; and 3) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

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

8. A resolution 1) supporting the submission of an \$31,734.72 grant application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to purchase a digital fire extinguisher training system for the Hammond Fire Department.

Lacy Landrum, stated this is something new and it teaches people how to use a fire extinguisher. This is just the application for the grant.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve a resolution 1) accepting a \$19,718 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 (A), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

X. REPORTS:

Mayor: Southeastern Homecoming Week asked that everyone get out and support the local university.
Council: **Councilman DiVittorio**, asked about lights or reflector signs in the curve on Chauvin.
Concerned about public safety at the servitude at Morris and Linden.

Councilman Wells thank the Mayor and the crew for getting the trees cut in the servitude and he stated mud was still getting on the equipment in the park.

XI. ADJOURN:

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio 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
TRANSACTION AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD OCTOBER 10,
2023
BEING 5 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL