



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
November 28, 2023
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
November 28, 2023**

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER: Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Kip Andrews

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2023 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023.

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

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE: NONE

VII. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to approve an annexation request by Brian Depaula (Z-2023-10-00127) to annex lots 57 & 58 of I-12 Commercial Park located on Lamonte Dr. per survey by Roy Edwards Land Surveying, Inc. dated 01/02/08; to be zoned C-H (District 3). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.

Lacy Landrum, explained the introduction and stated that Planning and Zoning unanimously recommended approval.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance to approve an annexation request by Brian Depaula . (Z-2023-10-00127) to annex lots 57 & 58 of I-12 Commercial Park located on Lamonte Dr. per survey by Roy Edwards Land Surveying, Inc. dated 01/02/08; to be zoned C-H (District 3).

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

Public Hearing – December 12, 2023

2. Introduction of an ordinance to approve an annexation request by James Marshall (Z-2023-10-00128) to annex 0.747 acres located on Tranquil Trace per survey by Max Bodin, Inc. dated 10/05/23; to be zoned RM-2 (District 4). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.

Lacy Landrum, explained the ordinance.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked that the item be tabled.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews to table introduction of an ordinance to approve an annexation request by James Marshall (Z-2023-10-00128) to annex 0.747 acres located on Tranquil Trace per survey by Max Bodin, Inc. dated 10/05/23; to be zoned RM-2

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

3. Introduction of an ordinance to approve a rezoning request by Jeremy Sims (Z-2023-10-00126) to rezone 311 North Holly St. per survey by McLin & Associates, Inc. dated 06/08/09 from RS-5 to MX-C (District 1). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.

Lacy Landrum, explained the ordinance and stated the planning and zoning commission recommended approval. Jeremy Sims the property owner was present for questions.

Jeremy Sims, 311 N. Holly Street, owner was available for questions.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to introduce an to approve a rezoning request by Jeremy Sims (Z-2023-10-00126) to rezone 311 North Holly St. per survey by McLin & Associates, Inc. dated 06/08/09 from RS-5 to MX-C (District 1).

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

Public Hearing – December 12, 2023

4. Introduction of an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Wende Powell and Kerri Vinyard (Z-2023-09-00125) for the location of 79 Whitmar Dr., Zoned RS-11, to allow for the use of Group Living, (District 5), 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 or from the tenants of the property being H2O Ministries.
2. The group living use is for a transitional living program for youth.
3. The group living use must remain in compliance with state licensure.

4. There can be no exterior signage.

5. There can be no retail sales. Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.

Lacy Landrum, stated that there were two public hearings and on both occasions it was a full house. She stated there was lots of discussion and she stated she attached documents of those that disapprove.

Donald Lee, 13 Silman, is opposed to this item. He stated it doesn't benefit the residents.

Michael Doucet, 708 West Roberts St, spoke in favor of the item.

Kerry Raines, 78 Whitmar, spoke against the item, he stated he does want any businesses in the area.

Kerri Vinyard, Director of H2O Ministry, gave an overview of the ministry and how they will manage the house.

Wende Powell, Co-director of H2O, explained how the program operates and asked for support of the item.

Rachel Gill, 3 Edwards Place, stated group living is not allowed in Whitmar and she spoke in opposition of the item.

Lucas Burch, stated he bought into a residential neighborhood and he opposes this item.

William Dykes, 11 Whitmar, asked who is going to enforce the rule and stated he is opposed to the item.

Jim Allain, 41 Laura Drive, opposes the item.

Deborah Swinson, 12 Ravewood St., stated that she respects the purpose of the ministry, but she is in opposition of the item and ask the council to vote from a constituent perspective.

Renee Lee, 13 Silman, spoke in opposition of the item.

April Foster, 16 Silman Ave, asked if the information sent out to the community was accurate. Stated she was in support of the item.

Jason Goudy, 42 Laura Dr., spoke in opposition of the items

Andre Coudrain, Hammond City Attorney, explained the ordinance process.

Ibrey Amaker, 28 Marta Dr, stated that this will be an ongoing issue because of Housing and Urban Development Funding.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to introduce an ordinance to approve an Expanded Conditional Use request by Wende Powell and Kerri Vinyard (Z-2023-09-00125) for the location of 79 Whitmar Dr., Zoned RS-11, to allow for the use of Group Living, (District 5), 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 or from the tenants of the property being H2O Ministries.

2. The group living use is for a transitional living program for youth.

3. The group living use must remain in compliance with state licensure.

4. There can be no exterior signage.

5. There can be no retail sales. Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission

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

Public Hearing – December 12, 2023

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the cocktail-tasting event Art of the Cocktail held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway. Note: Art of the Cocktail is hosted annually by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include creative-cocktail sampling, art displays, music and local food.

Melissa Griffin, explained the event.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the cocktail-tasting event Art of the Cocktail held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event will

take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway. Note: Art of the Cocktail is hosted annually by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include creative-cocktail sampling, art displays, music and local food.

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

2. A resolution to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the cocktail-sampling event Art of the Cocktail held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway. Note: Art of the Cocktail is hosted annually by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include creative-cocktail sampling, art displays, music and local food.

Melissa Griffin, same as previous.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the cocktail-sampling event Art of the Cocktail held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway. Note: Art of the Cocktail is hosted annually by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include creative-cocktail sampling, art displays, music and local food.

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

3. A resolution to authorize We Didn't Planet Clothing Co. to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Planet in the Park event held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 2:00pm - 7:00pm. The event will take place at Cate Square Park, 200 West Charles Street

Alec Griffith, Explained the event.

Councilwoman Gonzales stated she thought the alcohol sales should end at 7:00pm

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize We Didn't Planet Clothing Co. to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol, limited to beer and wine, during the Planet in the Park event held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 2:00pm - 7:00pm. The event will take place at Cate Square Park, 200 West Charles Street.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (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 We Didn't Planet Clothing Co. during the Planet in the Park event held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 2:00pm – 7:00pm. The event will take place at Cate Square Park, 200 West Charles Street.

Alec Griffith, same as previous.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to grant a waiver of the City of Hammond's Open Container law to We Didn't Planet Clothing Co. during the Planet in the Park event held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 2:00pm - 7:00pm. The event will take place at Cate Square Park, 200 West Charles Street.

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

5. A resolution to accept the proposed health insurance package for calendar year 2024. (Henry Powell)

Henry Powell, 110 W. Morris, explained the current and renewal package for employee benefits. He stated that there was no rate increase and the plan would be the same, but there is a change to the Benny Card. The Benny card will no longer be used, they are introducing a new card and are asking for approval of the same funding amount. There was a small increase in the dental insurance. He also stated that the overall saving is about \$100,000.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to approve a resolution to accept the proposed health insurance package for calendar year 2024.

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

Mayor: Asked that everyone be vigilant during the holidays, support city businesses and enjoy the holidays.

Council: Councilman DiVittorio, asked about food truck enforcement.

IX. ADJOURN

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** 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 NOVEMBER
28, 2023

BEING 4 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK