



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
January 9, 2024  
5:30pm**

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

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

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. An ordinance proposing an election to determine amendments to the City of Hammond Home Rule Charter providing for the City Council authority to remove the police chief and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

**Councilman Andrews**, discussed the ordinance and his reasons for proposing the item.

**No Public Comment**



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
January 9, 2024  
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

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

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

**III. PRAYER: Kip Andrews**

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

**V. ELECTION – ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

- **President for 2024**

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to reelect Kip Andrews for another term as President.**

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

- **Vice President of City Council for 2024**

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to elect Carlee White Gonzales to the Office of Vice President of the City Council.**

**Votes:** Councilman DiVittorio (N), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Steve Leon (Y) Councilman Wells (N), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion Approved 3-2

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2023 Meeting.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023. .**

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

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

1. Final Adoption of an ordinance proposing an election to determine amendment to the city of Hammond Home Rule Charter providing for the City Council authority to remove the police chief and otherwise providing with respect thereto. (Councilman Andrews)

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, stated that it should be a 2/3 vote of the council to remove, requiring 4 votes.

**Councilman Wells**, stated he received calls and had conversations with his constituents and thinks the council should be able to remove a chief since the Mayor has not done anything.

**Councilman Leon**, stated his constituents thinks it's a bad idea.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, stated there needs to be accountability.

**Mayor Panepinto**, stated there is no reason to remove the chief and he thinks he is doing a good job.

**Councilman Andrews**, stated this is not about firing anyone, this would go before the people and they will decide.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, stated this is for the people to vote.

**No Public Comment**

**There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt an ordinance proposing an election to determine amendment to the city of Hammond Home Rule Charter providing for the City Council authority to remove the police chief and otherwise providing with respect thereto.**

**VOTE:** Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Leon (N), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y), Motion Approved 3-2

**VIII. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE:**

1. 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. (Mayor Panepinto)

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to amend the 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 change the zoning from RM-2 to RS-5 (District 4). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.**

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

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce the ordinance as amended, 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 RS-5, (District 4)**

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

**Public Hearing – January 23, 2024**

## **IX. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. A resolution to approve Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux located at 305 C M Fagan Dr, Hammond, LA 70403 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant. The owner is Geaux Eat - Hammond LLC. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

**Mayor**, stated this was an ownership change and has met all requirements.

**Jose St. Romaine**, the owner was present to answer questions.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux located at 305 C M Fagan Dr, Hammond, LA 70403 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant. The owner is Geaux Eat - Hammond LLC**

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

2. A resolution to approve the Mayor to enter into contract with Micon Services, Inc. to repair the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout (located south of I-12) for total amount of \$31,875.00. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

**Mayor**, explained the item.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, asked about collecting from the person who caused the damage.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, asked about insurance.

**Councilman Wells**, asked if they could change the look, instead of bricks and concrete to use plants to avoid future wrecks.

**Mayor**, stated he would look into it and follow-up.

**There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve the Mayor to enter into contract with Micon Services, Inc. to repair the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout (located south of I-12) for total amount of \$31,875.00.**

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

**Mayor:** Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

## **Council:**

**Councilman Andrews:** reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King Holiday and the event in the park.

**Councilman Leon** wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated Councilman Andrews and Councilwoman Gonzales. He stated that he prays that the council would treat everyone with respect.

**Councilman Wells** asked about the election and the charter change item being place on the ballot.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney, explained the process and the earliest the item could be on a ballot. He stated he would reach out to the Secretary of State's office and the Bond Commission.

**Councilman Wells** asked about the video regarding the Lionel Jackson arrest being made public. He stated the public need to know what is going on. The video would let the public know there is nothing to hide and letting them know what is taking place.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney stated that there is a criminal case and an investigation is ongoing. It is not public record yet.

**Councilman Wells**, stated he wants to work with everyone and District three have a lot of issues. He invited Mr. Charlie up to speak on the homeless shelter.

**Mr. Charli Ciorlino**, 4254 E. I 55 Service Road stated he is a business owner and a concerned about the homeless shelter being proposed next to his business. He wants the city to look into so that it will not become a problem.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, talked about the importance of a moratorium being in placed. He asked about the property and stated that it was important for the council to know out project.

**Mayor Panepinto**, explained what he knew about the plan. He explained that there was a meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss their plans. He stated no permits have been requested or issued and council is invited to attend the meeting.

**Councilman Wells**, stated Ms. Jackson came to his house and talked about it and that is when the moratorium was in place. He stated it slipped through the cracks, but the package they gave him looks like they got it all together. He stated they need to let the community know what is going on.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, asked about the zoning.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney stated if an application comes in and meets all the rules and requirements it will be difficult to deny them.

**Councilman Well**, called up someone from the audience to speak on this matter.

**Gary Recatto**, state he owns the business next to the property and he is angry about the proposed shelter and doesn't understand how the city administration and council doesn't have any information about it. He is vehemently opposed to the shelter.

**Councilman Andrews**, stated the Wilbert Dangerfield Awards will be coming up at the end of February. He stated the first meeting in February falls on Fat Tuesday and city will be closed, they need to decide whether they are going to cancel or reschedule for another date. He also asked councilmember about an appointee to oversee the Wilbert Dangerfield Awards. City Council members all agreed that he should continue to oversee the event.

## **X. ADJOURN**

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Well** to adjourn meeting. 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 January 9, 2024  
BEING 4 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.