



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** President Andrews

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

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. 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.

**Dr. Lacy Landrum**, explained the ordinance.

**Councilman Wells** enters meeting.

**Brain Depaula**, property owner was present to answer questions.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about the benefits to the city.

**Dr. Lacy Landrum**, talked about the benefits to the sales tax revenue to the city.

2. 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.

**Dr. Lacy Landrum**, explained the ordinance.

**Jeremy Sims**, owner was present to answer any questions. He stated that he was requesting the rezoning to bring the property into compliance with what is historical. The same zoning as the properties around it.

**Mari Mccleen**, 309 N. Holly St, stated she live adjacent to Jeremy Sims and she in support of the ordinance but she asked the council to pay attention to the area along N. Holly St., she is trying to improve the area but she is concerned about changing to an MX-C use, but is in favor of this item.

**Dr. Lacy Landrum** explained MX-C uses.

3. 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.

**Dr. Lacy Landrum**, stated that this item has been withdrawn at the request of the applicant.



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

**December 12, 2023**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER: President Andrews**

**II. ROLL CALL:** Kip Andrews (P), Carlee Gonzales (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Devon Wells (P)  
Steve Leon (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 28, 2023 Meeting

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Leon** to approve the minutes of November 28, 2023.

**VOTE:** Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (abstain), Steve Leon (Y)

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

1. Final adoption 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)

**There was a motion by Councilman Wells and a second by Councilman Andrews to approve the 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.**

**VOTE:** Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Steve Leon (Y)

2. Final adoption 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)

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews to approve the adoption 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**

**VOTE:** Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Steve Leon (Y)

3. Final adoption 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)

It was announced that the applicant has withdrawn the application.

**Heather Guidance**, 9 Silman Ave. Asked questions about the UDC for future reference.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and a second by Councilwoman Gonzales to remove from the agenda 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:** Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Steve Leon (Y)

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

1. Introduction 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 Kip Andrews**, explained the ordinance.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney, recommended changes in order to move forward with the item. He recommended that the agenda be amended to include the suggested changes.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, made a recommendation of not less than 2/3 of the city council.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, stated he thinks this is a good compromise.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney, suggested the ordinance be changed to read: Article 2 Section 2.18 of the Home Rule Charter which would read: The city council may remove the police chief by the vote of not less than three members at a regular meeting of the council or at a special meeting of the council called for that purpose. He suggested that they make a motion to introduce the ordinance with this language adding 2.18.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and a second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to amend the ordinance to add Article 2 Section 2.18 the authority to remove the police chief.

**VOTE:** Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Steve Leon (Y)

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and a second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to introduce the ordinance as proposed to add Article 2 Section 2.18 of the Home Rule Charter as proposed.

**VOTE:** Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Steve Leon (Y)

**Public Hearing will be held January 9, 2024**

## **VIII. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. A resolution to approve the appointment of Todd Delaune, representing the City of Hammond Mayor, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

**Michelle Kendall**, Director of the Downtown Development District explained the position.

**Todd Delaune**, 206 E. Thomas Street was present to answer questions.

**There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon to approve the appointment of Todd Delaune representing the City of Hammond Mayor, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.**

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

2. A resolution to approve the appointment of Chanc Kinchen, representing the Chamber of Commerce, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

**Michelle Kendall**, Director of the Downtown Development District explained the position.

**Chanc Kinchen**, was available to answer questions.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the appointment of Chanc Kinchen, representing the Chamber of Commerce, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025**

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

3. A resolution to approve the appointment of Mary Guiteau or Jeff LeSaicherre, representing the East Side Business and Property Owners, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. (Michelle Kendall)

**Michelle Kendall**, Director of the Downtown Development District explained the position and that they had two qualified candidates.

**Jeremy Sims, 311 N. Holly St, asked why single family owners don't get to give recommendations.**

**Michelle Kendall** explained the State law that governs this

**Mary Guiteau**, introduced herself, stated she was an architect at Holly & Smith, lives and works in downtown.

**Jeff LeSaicherre**, was present and stated he was a business and property owner and an attorney.

**There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to approve the appointment of Jeff LeSaicherre, representing the East Side Business and Property Owners, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.**

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

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to approve the appointment of Mary Guiteau, representing the East Side Business and Property Owners, to the Downtown Development District Board for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.**

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

4. A resolution to reappoint Regina Delaune to the Hammond Historic District Commission for a four year term until December 31, 2027. She was originally appointed to the Commission on February 23, 2021. (Mayor Panepinto)

**Lacy Landrum**, Director of Administration, stated Regina has been a good board member.

**Regina Delaune, 206 E. Thomas**, was available for questions and stated she enjoys serving.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to reappoint Regina Delaune to the Hammond Historic District Commission for a four year term until December 31, 2027. She was originally appointed to the Commission on February 23, 2021.**

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

5. A resolution to ratify and award bids received 12/07/2023 for “Sewer System Rehabilitation – Water Sector Program FY2022” –project no. 616-12304. (Lacy Landrum).

**Lacy Landrum** stated that Chuck Spangler was unable to attend meeting and she explained the resolution. She stated the project came in under budget and they recommend the award to the lowest bidder which was Insituform Technologies, LLC, contingent on approval by The State Office of Community Development.

**David Foster**, recommends to break down the big project so that small businesses and minorities could bid.

**Councilman Wells** stated that the bids need to be broken down, locals should have a chance to bid on them.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to ratify and award bids received 12/07/2023 for “Sewer System Rehabilitation – Water Sector Program FY2022” – project no. 616-12304 subject to approval by the State Office of Community Development .**

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

6. A resolution to transfer \$50,000 from the available funds of closed projects (42015800 - 560330) to City Hall Generator project (12119) for a total project budget of \$130,000. (Lacy Landrum)

**Lacy Landrum**, Director of Administration, explained the item.

**David Foster**, asked that they give small businesses a chance to get the projects. He would like an opportunity.

**Lacy Landrum**, explained the state bid contract process.

**Tom Sanders**, AARCO, stated this is the lowest price and it was a competitive bid.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, asked about the differences between natural gas and diesel generators.

**Councilman Wells**, asked Tom questions about his tenure with the company.

**Ron Matthews**, 905 Delmar, stated the city needs to take a look at minority owned business participation for projects.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to transfer \$50,000 from the available funds of closed projects (42015800 - 560330) to City Hall Generator project (12119) for a total project budget of \$130,000.**

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

7. A resolution to purchase a Generac Industrial 500kW, diesel engine-driven generator to support city hall and the council chambers buildings for a cost of \$99,143.21. State contract #4400026321-SD500-208V. (Lacy Landrum)

**Lacy Landrum**, stated this is the same as the previous item.

**Tom Sanders**, described the generator and its warranty.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to purchase a Generac Industrial 500kW, diesel engine-driven generator to support city hall and the council chambers buildings for a cost of \$99,143.21. State contract #4400026321-SD500-208V.**

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

**Mayor:** Dr. Lacy Landrum, stated that the Christmas Parade is Friday night. The train in Zemurray Park runs each weekend up to December 23, 2023. Sales tax are up about 1.67% ahead of the budget.

**Council:** **Councilwoman Gonzales**, gave Mr. Sergio Mesa, her time.

**Sergio Mesa**, 101 W. Thomas St, stated that he is representing Mr. Marshall on an agenda item that was previously tabled. He asked about the process and the time table regarding something tabled.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney, explained the Roberts Rules of order regarding something being tabled.

**Sergio Mesa**, explained what they were asking, to go from parish land and to be annexed in the City of Hammond.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, explained his position on the item.

**Pat Lamonte** owner of property asked about the property and the city councilman's concern.

**Councilman Wells**, wished everyone Happy Holidays and be safe.

**Councilman Andrews**, wished everyone Happy Holidays.

## **IX. 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  
TRANSACTION AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD December 12,  
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.