



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
January 23, 2024  
5:30pm**

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

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

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. 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 RS-5 (District 4). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.

**Lacy Landrum** recommended item to be tabled due to incorrect advertisement. Tabled until February 7, 2024.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
January 23, 2024**

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

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

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

**III. PRAYER: Councilman Kip Andrews**

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

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2024 Meeting

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024.**

**VOTE:** Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Divittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Absent) Motion Approved 4-0

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

1. Final adoption 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 RS-5 (District 4). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission. (Lacy Landrum)  
**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon** to table the until February 7, 2024, 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 RS-5 (District 4). Recommended approval by the Zoning Commission.

**VOTE:** Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Divittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Absent) Motion Approved 4-0

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

1. Introduction of and ordinance to amend the UDC regarding the definition of “Group Living.”  
**Councilwoman Gonzales**, explained that homeless shelters are not defined and the UDC needs to be cleaned up. She requested that Planning and Zoning review and give a recommendation.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, thinks there should be more time to make sure they have the language right.  
**City Attorney Andre Coudrain** stated he reviewed the document.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales** to introduce an ordinance to amend the UDC regarding the definition of “Group Living” and send to Planning and Zoning for a recommendation.

**VOTE:** Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Divittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Absent)  
Devon Wells (Absent). Motion Approved 3-0

## **VIII. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. A resolution to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to sell, serve, or otherwise handle alcohol (beer only) on Saturday February 3, 2024 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking lots on the west side of the railroad tracks and bounded by Coleman Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Morris Avenue, and the railroad tracks.

**Joseph Dominick**, was present to answer questions.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon** to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to sell, serve, or otherwise handle alcohol (beer only) on Saturday February 3, 2024 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking lots on the west side of the railroad tracks and bounded by Coleman Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Morris Avenue, and the railroad tracks.

**VOTE:** Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Divittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Absent) Motion Approved 4-0

2. A resolution to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to receive a waiver of open container on Saturday February 3, 2024 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking lots on the west side of the railroad tracks and bounded by Coleman Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Morris Avenue, and the railroad tracks.

**Joseph Dominick**, same as previous resolution.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon** to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to receive a waiver of open container on Saturday February 3, 2024 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking lots on the west side of the railroad tracks and bounded by Coleman Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Morris Avenue, and the railroad tracks.

**VOTE:** Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Divittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Absent) Motion Approved 4-0

3. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an amendment of the rail spur lease with Graham Packaging to extend the term for an additional three years.

**Lacy Landrum**, stated the terms are the same from the previous years.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amendment of the rail spur lease with Graham Packaging to extend the term for an additional three years.**

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

4. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an amendment of the rail spur lease with Home Depot to extend the term for an additional three years. (Lacy Landrum)

**Lacy Landrum**, stated the terms are the same from the previous years, \$129,860 has been collected annually.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amendment of the rail spur lease with Home Depot to extend the term for an additional three years.**

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

5. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Student Organization for Aeronautic Robotic Research, Inc, a non-profit corporation (“SOARR”) for the use of approximately fifteen acres on C.M Fagan Dr.

**Chris Fox**, explained the SOARR Program and its affiliates and partnerships.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, asked if she should abstain from the vote since her husband was a donor to the organization.

**City Attorney Andre Coudrain**, stated she did not have to abstain because she or an immediate family member is not receiving anything of benefit.

**Mayor Panepinto** stated to Mr. Fox that he was proud of his organization and the work that he is doing.

**There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Andrews authorizing the Mayor to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Student Organization for Aeronautic Robotic Research, Inc, a non-profit corporation (“SOARR”) for the use of approximately fifteen acres on C.M Fagan Drive.**

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

6. A resolution 1) accepting a \$12,817 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**, explained the grant.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon 1) accepting a \$12,817 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 (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (absent) Motion Approved 4-0

7. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$45,000 application to the Traffic Safety Grant Program for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement.

**Lacy Landrum**, explained the grant.

**There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales supporting the submission of a \$45,000 application to the Traffic Safety Grant Program for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement.**

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

8. A resolution to approve a request by W.D.G. Estates for a variance from the moratorium ordinance (Originally adopted as ordinance #22-5668 and extended by ordinance #23-5723) to allow for six units instead of four units at 300 South Oak Street.

**Lacy Landrum**, explained the variance request

**Councilman DiVittorio** asked about the planning and zoning vote.

**Lacy Landrum**, explained the variance request and stated this was the first time they have had a request of a variance from the moratorium ordinance. She stated three of the Planning and Zoning Commission members voted to deny and two members of the commission were absent.

**Jacob Williams**, owner, 211 S. Cypress St, explained his desire to build an additional two units in addition to the 4 that is allowed.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to grant the variance request by W.D.G. Estates for a variance from the moratorium ordinance (Originally adopted as ordinance #22-5668 and extended by ordinance #23-5723) to allow for six units instead of four units at 300 South Oak Street.**

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

**Mayor: No Report**

**Council: Councilman Andrews**, asked about Industrial Park Rd being restriped and a light on N.A. James being out.

### **IX. ADJOURN**

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** 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

TRANSACTIONED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD January 23,

2024

BEING 3 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.