



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

I. CALL TO ORDER: President Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE



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

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER : President Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Pastor Lawrence Hart

Councilman Wells enters the meeting

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

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

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

Votes: Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Steve Leon (Y) Councilman Wells (abstain), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion Approved 4-0

VI. PRESENTATION: Ryan Barker- Chappapeela Sports Park, provided information on the renewal tax up for vote this Saturday April 27, 2024

Councilman Wells, asked about bus service from District 3 to the park.

Ryan Barker, said he would look into it.

VII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AND ORDINANCE: NONE

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE: NONE

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to renew insurance coverage for the City of Hammond for the period of May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025. (Don Stiel)

Don Stiel, Stiel Insurance Group,

Don Stiel, provided information on insurance coverage. He explained the commercial package and all that included as well as commercial property. He recommends LWCC workers comp option, take out the SIR which the city is currently on, get rid of the workers comp bond and go with the recommended package; automobile, airport liability, blanket bond, equipment floater and the commercial property as well as the LWCC worker compensation fully insured plan.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to accept the recommendation, authorizing the Mayor to renew insurance coverage for the City of Hammond for the period of May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

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

2. . A resolution authorizing Tacos & Beer to sell and serve alcohol for a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 2:00pm to 9:00pm in the Morrison Alley Park behind the restaurant and between Cypress and Cherry Streets.

Jose Valencia, explained the event.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon authorizing Tacos & Beer to sell and serve alcohol for a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 2:00pm to 9:00pm in the Morrison Alley Park behind the restaurant and between Cypress and Cherry Streets.

Vote: Kip Andrews (N), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y). Motion approve 4-1

3. A resolution authorizing Tacos & Beer to obtain a waiver of the Open Container Law for a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 2:00pm to 9:00pm in the Morrison Alley Park behind the restaurant and between Cypress and Cherry Streets.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Leon authorizing Tacos & Beer to obtain a waiver of the Open Container Law for a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 2:00pm to 9:00pm in the Morrison Alley Park behind the restaurant and between Cypress and Cherry Streets.

Vote: Kip Andrews (N), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y). Motion approve 4-1

4. A resolution for the Street Department to purchase a regenerative air street sweeper for \$320,000.00 RFP 24-23

Lacy Landrum, explained the bid tabulations and delivery time and recommends accepting the bid of Covington Sales & Service for \$320,000 and stated this was within the budget.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 w, asked how often it would be used and he doesn't see a need for it.

Councilman Leon stated that he gets calls about street sweeping in his area and they discussed it during the budget and put it in the budget.

Mayor stated they will clean Highway 190 and Southwest Railroad, and all areas.

Sal Nicolosi stated he was concerned about who would be operating the sweeper. He doesn't think we need a sweeper in the City of Hammond. He asked his councilman to say no.

Councilman DiVittorio, thinks it should be leased out and it costs a lot of money.

Councilman Wells asked how many times they needed the street sweeper last year.

Lacy Landrum, stated the sweepers are always used after parades and this year she had a difficult time finding street sweepers because of the number of parades. They are also used for spring cleaning and cleanest city. She stated this is a multifunctioning machine.

Councilman Wells asked why they waited so long to purchase.

Lacy Landrum stated they had to do research to make sure it had the kind of features they were looking for and availability.

Councilman Wells. Asked about the number of operators, training and use. He also asked about the type of warranty.

Sal Nicolosi asked about training the staff to use the sweeper.

Mayor, explained the training and use.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, stated she doesn't agree with the purchase and that the money could be better used somewhere else. She had a concern about the warranty, training and service.

Lacy Landrum, highlighted and explained the warranty.

Councilman Wells, asked if they could get an extended warranty.

Councilman Wells asked for an extended warranty on the equipment.

Mayor, contacted the company. The extended warranty for the manufacturer's defects is changed for two years instead of one at no cost. They retrain and train as needed, warranty on hydraulic systems is five years, motor that handles vacuum and suction tube for the catch basins is two years.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Street Department to purchase a regenerative air street sweeper for \$320,000.00 from Covington Sales & Service RFP 24-23

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

5. A resolution 1) supporting the submission of an application of up to \$10,000 to the Healthy Communities Grant Program to purchase trash can liners and cleanup supplies to reduce litter in Hammond and 2) supporting a 15% in-kind match in volunteer hours.

Lacy Landrum, explained that this was an annual grant that they normally apply for. There is a 15% in-kind match for service time and this is achieved through clean up day. Fund will be used for trash can liners and clean-up supplies.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 west, asked about trash liners in his area.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve a resolution 1) supporting the submission of an application of up to \$10,000 to the Healthy Communities Grant Program to purchase trash can liners and cleanup supplies to reduce litter in Hammond and 2) supporting a 15% in-kind match in volunteer hours.

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

X. Appeal by Guys 1, LLC from a decision by the Historic District Commission

Barry Sartin Jr. representing the owners of Guys 1 LLC., stated that he was appealing the denial by the Hammond Historic District. He explained Guy's position and their understanding of the Historic District guidelines and he thinks the decision to deny Guys 1 LLC was arbitrary.

Nick Musso an architect gave his opinion of the application based on his expertise.

Heather Diebold, Hammond Historic District Coordinator, explained the Hammond Historic District Guidelines and that they mirror the guidelines from the Secretary of the Interior and those are what was applied to the application that was presented. She stated the application did not meet the requirements of the Hammond Historic District Commission and that is why the application was denied.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked about a COA (Certificate of Appropriateness) for the Downtown Development District.

Heather Diebold, stated yes the COA was from the Downtown Development District Design Commission. It expired in October of 2022. No permits were issued, there was an application for a permit but the permits were never paid for or issued. The COA expired and no construction took place.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked to confirm the applicant has never received a COA from the Historic District.

Heather Diebold, stated that was correct.

Barry Sartin, stated the Hammon Historic Commission is making an arbitrary decision on subjective rules and making a decision based on their whims.

Councilwoman Gonzales, explained that the commissions decisions are not arbitrary and they have the training in the historic guidelines so the council should defer to their fact finding.

Nick Musso, stated the building significance is mostly cultural and it's not an architectural marvel.

Heather Diebold, stated she provided a letter from SHIPO which is the State Historic Preservation Office who addressed the structural importance of the building. It is the only triangular-shaped building in the City of Hammond, it and the other buildings around it are lowrise. She stated they are not trying to keep the building out of commerce. She explained that they have followed the guidelines and explained the commission's position.

Sal Nicolosi, asked that they be a little more lenient and a little flexible.

Chris Diebold, asked where do you draw the line on historic buildings.

Tanya Turner, 211 Kansas St, state the building has historic character and a cultural significance.

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Wells** to grant the appeal applied for and issue the certificate of appropriateness for the application as applied for.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (N), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (N), Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman Leon (N) Motion failed 2-3 and the appeal is denied.

XI. REPORTS:

Mayor: Stated there are some important votes coming up on Saturday for tax renewals which is important and to please vote. Mayor stated there is a recycling day on May 8 from 8-12 and a fishing rodeo, Saturday from 10am to 12pm at Zemurry Park.

Council:

Councilman DiVittorio, called up Mr. Spiller to discuss the curve and lighting along Old Baton Rouge Highway. Would like to see more markings on the street and lights.

Mr. Spiller, expressed his concerns regarding the Chavin and Old Baton Rouge Highway and no marking to indicate where the road narrows. He also state there is no lighting and he's concerned about the sharp turn and believes the guard rails would help. He would like to see something done.

Councilman DiVittorio, ask if they could get this addressed

Mayor, explained that the intersection coming into Old Baton Rouge Hwy does have markers with arrows, he stated that the lighting has been an issue and they are dealing with it, and they will put markers on the center line.

Councilman Wells, thanked Hammond Fire Department for saving a building.

Gail Varnado Hart, was speaking on behalf of her 92 year old mother. She spoke regarding a shooting in front of her mothers home. She would like something to be done about the area. She stated they should not have to live in fear. She ask the city for parking signs on both sides of the park on Live Oak and Mooney. She stated that there is no protection from her mother's house, from Scanlan St to her mother's house. He mother should not have to live in fear, there has been several shootings and people are running behind her house. This is causing them to be fearful and afraid to live in the community in which she grow up. Something needs to be done to protect the seniors in the community.

Councilman Wells, stated the Live Oak is a problem street and they need help on Live Oak and Mooney Park. He stated there were fifty rounds found and he called the police about the shooting behind Mooney Park. He stated he asked about lighting at the meeting before the Wilbert Dangerfield Awards. He asked

how much does it cost to save a life. He asked about the meeting where boulders in the park was discussed. District three needs help.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked for an update on the homeless shelter and the definition presented to Planning and Zoning

Mayor, stated the homeless shelter doesn't have access to the property. They are accessing the property through Circle K's property. He stated the project needs to clear up how they are going to go in and out of the property.

Lacy Landrum, stated they are working on the definition.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked for a flood study update.

Lacy Landrum stated that an update was sent about a month ago saying that they are still working on it.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that the Keep Hammond Beautiful and the Chamber are doing the Love the Boot Great American cleanups. This Saturday they are meeting at the Chamber from 8am to 10am.

Lacy Landrum, (Flood Study) stated she pulled up the email from February 23 which stated they were working on the LOMR application report and finishing last checks on the models.

XII . 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. 5-0 to adjourn

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 April 23, 2024
BEING 4 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM

HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS

HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL