



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
May 28, 2024
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING: OLD BUSINESS

1. An ordinance to amend the UDC regarding the definition of “Group Living.”

Councilwoman Gonzales, explained the ordinance and action by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Micky Hubbell, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, Baton Rouge, LA, asked about the procedures.

Councilwoman Gonzales stated she would be withdrawing the definition that was presented because planning and zoning has given a better definition. She would be introducing the changes made by planning and zoning for recommendation for a public hearing.

City Attorney Andre Coudrain, stated this as originally proposed will be superceded by what the Planning & Zoning Commission and the city planner has recommended. He explained that the introduction of the ordinance definition from planning and zoning supercedes the original proposed ordinance.

Councilman Wells entered the meeting.

Kim Gunerson, PO Box 99, Tickfaw, LA, prayed and asked for understanding.

Carolyn Cain, Camillia Dr, asked that the information be presented in layman’s terms. She asked that it be explained where the average joe will understand.

PUBLIC HEARING: NEW BUSINESS

1. An ordinance of the Hammond City Council amending the Unified Development Code providing for a supplemental use article of the Unified Development Code and establishing its general provisions, specific provisions for accessory buildings and uses, and specific provisions for accessory garages.

Mayor Pete Panepinto, stated that this will help to expedite the permitting. He stated it was unanimously approved by Planning and Zoning.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that some things can be addressed by variances, but it needs to be clearer and he would like to have the city planner present to answer questions.

Ron Matthews, 905 Del Mar, member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, he explained the reasons for the change and that it was cleaning up the current UDC language.

Councilman Wells, stated he is concerned about corruption. He stated he can’t vote on this because he has requested that the city planner be present.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, explained the ordinance.

Ron Matthew, suggested a joint meeting of Planning and Zoning and the City Council.

2. An ordinance of the Hammond City Council amending the Unified Development Code clarifying minor subdivision review procedure, lot boundary adjustment procedure, related appeal procedures, withdrawing obsolete procedural diagrams, and directing the City Planner, through the Mayor, to make new procedural diagrams available to the public.

Mayor Pete Panepinto, stated this was an attempt to simplify to get smaller items taken care of. He explained the ordinance.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated this was a lot and a little more time is needed to review the information.

Debra Swenson, 12 Ravenwood St, asked that the item be tabled and she has several questions and she would like to speak with the city planner. She would like for him to attend the meetings.

Tracy Washinton Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, She asked that if an article is referenced she would like to ask that they be linked to the referenced articles. She asked questions about the ordinance. She asked that the matter be tabled.

Sal Nicolosi 3607 Hwy 190 W, stated that the council should know what is going on with the city planner and the council needs all the information.



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

May 28, 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), Councilman Wells (P)
Councilman Leon (P), Councilwoman Gonzales (P)**

III. PRAYER :Reverend Marshall

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2024 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of May 14, 2024

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

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE: OLD BUSINESS

1. Final Adoption of an ordinance to amend the UDC regarding the definition of “Group Living.”

Councilwoman Gonzales ask that this item be removed from the agenda

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to remove the ordinance to amend the UDC regarding the definition of “Group Living.” from the agenda.

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

FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE: NEW BUSINESS

1. Final adoption of an ordinance of the Hammond City Council amending the Unified Development Code providing for a supplemental use article of the Unified Development Code and establishing its general provisions, specific provisions for accessory buildings and uses, and specific provisions for accessory garages. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

Councilman Andrews, wants to table and have a joint meeting with Planning & Zoning.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to table the ordinance until after a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

2. Final adoption of an ordinance of the Hammond City Council amending the Unified Development Code clarifying minor subdivision review procedure, lot boundary adjustment procedure, related appeal procedures, withdrawing obsolete procedural diagrams, and directing the City Planner, through the Mayor, to make new procedural diagrams available to the public. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Gonzales to table the ordinance until after a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in accordance with the procedures in Section 5-03 of the City's Charter.

Mayor Pete Panepinto, stated this is done annually after the audit is completed, they will be transferring \$350,000 from the general fund to the workers comp General Liability Insurance Fund which had an increase. There is an increase to the sales tax revenue and \$500,000 will be removed from garbage collection fees.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in accordance with the procedures in Section 5-03 of the City's Charter.

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

2. Introduction of an ordinance of the Hammond City Council amending the Unified Development Code defining group living facility, group care facility, homeless shelter, providing for inclusive zoning of each, and defining conditional uses.

Mayor Pete Panepinto, stated this was an effort to clarify definitions.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked that the public hearing be held on June 24, city council meeting.

Micky Hubbell, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, Baton Rouge, LA, representing proposed applicant asked about the definitions and questions about the ordinance.

Shelia Roserio Ratief, stated that housing is a basic human right and people don't choose to be homeless and she believes this is an attempt to deter the opening of the homeless shelter. She stated that there are people who needs this and the shelter is necessary.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked what brought them to the location the choose.

Toni Jackson 13141 Old Baton Rouge Hwy, stated what bought them to that location was that it was for sale and it was the model that they wanted. She explained why it was selected.

Amanda Stapleton, Northlake Homeless Coalition, 42309 S. Morrison Blvd, explained prior use of the location and the work that they do.

Chris Wisecarver, 42433 Enterprise Lane, Hammond, thanked the council for recognizing the defect in the code and trying to correct it. The property was targeted beause there was a defect and unprotected in may ways.They need to look at the needs of the community. He stated it was the scale and location of this project they have a problem with.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance of the Hammond City Council amending the Unified Development Code defining group living facility, group care facility, homeless shelter, providing for inclusive zoning of each, and defining conditional uses.

Public Hearing is scheduled for June 24, 2024

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution approving the Restoration Tax Abatement Program Application for Sweet Haven LLC concerning the historic building renovation at 223 East Thomas Street that was approved by the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Mayor Panepinto, explained the resolution

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 west, asked about the resolution.

Matt Hunt, 57 White Hope Court Hammond, property owner, explained the project.

Councilman Wells stated that he loses a lot in district 3 and was concerned about the dollars that will not be available for Mooney Park.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve the Restoration Tax Abatement Program Application for Sweet Haven LLC concerning the historic building renovation at 223 East Thomas Street that was approved by the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews(Y). Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (N), Motion Approved 4-1

2. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Hammond Police Department for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area regional task force. (Mayor Panepinto)

Mayor Panepinto, explained the agreement.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Hammond Police Department for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area regional task force.

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

3. A resolution 1) supporting the submission of an \$27,500 grant application to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; and 2) supporting a cash match of \$27,500 from the Hammond Police Department.

Mayor Panepinto explained the ordinance and stated the city match will come from the millage. He also stated that vests are traded in every 5 years.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to adopt a resolution 1) supporting the submission of an \$27,500 grant application to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; and 2) supporting a cash match of \$27,500 from the Hammond Police Department.

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

4. A resolution 1) supporting the submission of a \$1.5 million grant application to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program for lift station and force main improvements. There is NO match requirement. **Mayor Panepinto**, explained the resolution.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio 1) supporting the submission of a \$1.5 million grant application to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program for lift station and force main improvements. There is NO match requirement.

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

5. A resolution to review and ratify bids received 5/23/2024 for “Drainage Improvements [FY 2024]” –project no. 420-12404.

Chuck Spangler introduced Mitchell Roniger from Spangler Engineering and explained the bid and the work. He recommended the award to the low bidder.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 w, asked about the bids.

Chuck Spangler, stated that these were public works jobs that had to be bonded for a million dollars and there are only about few local contractors that can bond a job of this size.

Tracy Washington Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, asked about projects that were previously approve and the current project.

Chuck Spangler, explained the projects and time lines

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve the award to the lowest bid received 5/23/2024 for “Drainage Improvements [FY 2024]” –project no. 420-12404.

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

IX. REPORTS:

Mayor: Zemurrey pool is open, he thanked UPS and Big Brown for donating \$2000 to help kids learn how to swim for free. Summer Camp is from June 3rd to July 26th.

Council:

Councilman Wells asked about the sidewalk on Louisa West.

Mayor stated it is in line to be done.

Councilman Wells, stated that the side walk is a hazard. He also asked about street sweeping on Corbin and Garret Streets.

Mayor, stated they will get to them as soon as they can.

Councilman Wells asked how many streets were ahead of him

Mayor stated he would let him know tomorrow.

Councilman Wells, stated that there was a tree that caused the power to go out on Corbin, in District 3 & 4 and they were without power for several days. It’s important that they stop fighting amongs each our, look at the system.

Mayor asked that garbage be put out the night before, the trash company will be coming earlier

Councilman Wells, stated that it is time for the residents to be responsible for their garbage and water bill.

Councilman Andrews, stated that in the upcoming days to be on the lookout for a proposal that he would like to make to the council and administration after he meets with the city attorney.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** 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 ABOVEAND FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECITATION OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD May 28, 2024 BEING 5 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL