



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
June 24, 2024
5:00pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An ordinance to adopt the City of Hammond budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 in accordance with the procedures set within Section 5-03 of the City of Hammond Charter.

Laura Hammett, City of Hammond Director of Accounting, stated that the budget was introduced on May 14, 2024 with a work session held on June 7, 2024. She provide a spreadsheet for budget amendments based on the discussion from the budget work session.

Councilman DiVittorio, had some questions about items that he wanted to add.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 west, asked for street repairs on Al-Ida.

Spiller Milton, asked to include street lights on Chauvin and Old Baton Rouge Highway.

Tom Anderson, asked to overlay roadway in Zemurry Park.

Council Members discussed possible budget amendments.

Tracy Wells, 610 Mooney Ave, asked about amendments.

Councilwoman Gonzales, read the list of possible amendents from the work session.

2. 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.

Councilwoman Gozales explained the proposed ordinance.

Mickey Hubble, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Attorney for Northlake Homeless Coalition, asked questions about the ordinance.

Andre Coudrain, Hammond City Attorney, explained the purpose of the ordinance.

Tom Anderson, 107 N. Spruce asked for clarification on condtional use and allowed use.

Cindy Childress, 3 North Brooke Circle, talked about how the homeless shelter has helped her in the past and she supports the shelter.

Jeanne Voorhees, 1201 S. Holly St, asked if there is a clear plan and stated that time needs to be set aside to discuss the issues.

Chris Wisecarver, 43442 Enterprise Lane, stated that there should be conditions on the homeless shelter and asked whether highway commercial is appropriate zoning location and he stated that the homeless shelter at ths location is out of place.

Beth Gray, 603 E. Roberts Street, St. Vicent DePaul stated she has used the homeless coalition for years and stated the new model for shelters is like a motel.

Deborah McQueen, stated that people can be for or against the shelter. She stated that the community needs this and fears, concerns and conditions should be addressed.

Charley Ciolino, stated his concerns about this being a main entrance into the city. He stated they will be dependent on federal funding. He is concerned about what happens if and when the money runs out and where would the people go. He stated this is not a good location for a homeless shelter.

Amanda Staplton 42309 S. Morrison spoke about the homeless shelter proposal.

Christine Szizer, stated she lost her job and became homeless.

Charlotte Jones 306 N. Cherry St, stated she was a clinical social worker and has worked with Northlake Homeless Coalition and have used their facility for years. She believes a homeless shelter would be a benefit to the area.

Bob Duncan, 229 Wildwood Dr, stated Hammond is a city that loves people and 15% of the homeless are veterans, women with children and abused spouses. He asked, please support the project at it's proposed location.

Belinda Hostad, 15496 E. Hoffman, Ponchatoula, stated she has lived in close proximity to the proposed shelter. She stated she lives near the Serenity House in Ponchatoula and is concerned over the definition of a shelter, services and whether the shelter will only service residents of Tangipahoa. She stated she has questions and she asked if the shelter will house undocumented immigrants or illegal aliens.

Bubba Perriloux, 44381 West Pleasant Ridge, stated he owns a business on Club Deluxe. He thinks this is a start and is not a comprehensive or complete ordinance. He stated that the ordinance should have a maximum number of residents, space and recreation facilities. He questions whether this should be in a commercial highway zone and recommended that council take their time and get this right.

Donna Gay Anderson, 107 N. Spruce, stated that there should be some reasonable conditions and that there are approximately 100 homeless people in the immediate are. She stated there are unhoused people moving from motel to motel now. She stated in those hotels there is on service, accountability or onsite security. Those places are already operating all over the parish is less safe and less accountable compared to the proposal of the homeless shelter.

Pat Moneteleone, 18856 Hank Drive in Ponchatoula, asked about the process and who is involved.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, stated that it will depend on the application, there is no application under consideration for this project.

Kent Carroll, 603 Rue St. Martin, a resident for 66 years, He stated that the road to the property is a dead end, other homeless shelters has been built and is it not likely that government funding will run out for the homeless shelter.

Angela Tyrone, 406 Hewitt Rd, she stated she was homeless and fell in love with the city after Hurricane Katrina. She stated a homeless shelter should not be in rural areas with no access to transportation or social services. She stated this is a good location and is needed in this area.

Ronald Gilbert, 4729 Montecillo Dr., stated he has lived in the area since 1981 and he worked with Showers Ministry and he has met a lot of homeless people. He is working with a church that is working with a homeless person. He stated it was a difficult process for homeless people to get jobs and services and it hard for someone that doesn't have an address. This facility will provide services and help for people.

James Swallow, stated he works in probation and parole, he is the re-entry manager for the State of Louisiana a part of there job is finding housing for people when they have a housing need. He stated that housing instability can put you back into situations that may not be beneficial. He stated a homeless shelter should not be in a rural area and that there is a need for a homeless shelter.

Rachel Gill, 3 Edwards Place, asked whether the homeless shelter can be in a single family zoned area.

Sherman Mack, former state representative, Attorney at Law, Livingston Parish, stated he thinks the council should take its time.

David Fisher, 14172 Lindsay Drive, stated that the proposed area is close to a residential area.



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

June 24, 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: Bruce Hunter

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2024 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the the Minutes of June 24, 2024 meeting.

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

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final Adoption of an ordinance to adopt the City of Hammond budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 in accordance with the procedures set within Section 5-03 of the City of Hammond Charter. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

There was a discussion over budget amendments.

- Capital Project Sidewalks: (New Page 63) Live Oak Sidewalks \$150,000
- Capital Project Sidewalks: (New Page 63) Natchez to Live Oak Sidewalks \$175,000.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews to amend the budget to add as listed above.

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

- Capital Project Sidewalks: (Item 11 Page 63) Linden (W Coleman – W Church) \$200,000 move to FY 2025-2026

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and a second by Councilman Andrews to amend the budget and move the above project from FY 2024-2025 to FY 2025-2026 as listed above.

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

- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 11 Page 64) Laurel (Morris-Thomas) move up 2 years from FY 2026-2027 to FY 2024-2025 \$75,000.
- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 12 Page 64) Woodbridge North Outfall move up 1 year from FY 2025-2026 to FY 2024-2025 \$180,000.
- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 17 Page 64) Live Oak (Mooney – Natchez) move up 1 year from FY 2025-2026 to FY 2024- 2025 \$210,000.

- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 18 Page 64) Haskins (N of White St) move up 1 year from FY 2025-2026 to FY 2024-2025 \$256,000.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Leon** to amend the budget to add as listed above.

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

- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 14) Palmetto (Mooney-S. Morris Blvd) move \$275,000 from FY 2024-2025 to FY 2025-2026 and adding it to the \$300,000 for FY 2025-2026 creating a reduction of the FY 2025-2026 budget of \$275,000.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Wells** to amend the budget to move \$275,000 from FY 2024-2025-FY 2025-2026 as listed above.

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

- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 15 Page 64) Aleata Dr (E of Harden Dr) at Barnes. Added Barnes to description. No financial Impact.
- Capital Project Drainage: (Item 19 Page 64) Spelling correction from Merona to Mauroner. No financial impact.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Andrews** to amend the budget adding a description change at Barnes and spelling correction of Mauroner as listed above.

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

- Capital Projects Park Improvements: (New Page 65) Added \$50,000 to Mooney Park, \$30,000 to Cate Street Park, \$30,000 to Clarke Park, \$30,000 to Jackson Park, \$30,000 to MLK Park, \$30,000 to North Oaks Park, and \$30,000 Zemurray Park. Total Financial Impact FY 2024-2025 \$230,000.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Andrews** to amend the budget to for FY 2024-2024 as listed above.

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

- Capital Project Concrete Street Improvements: (Item 1 page 66) Removed \$530,000 from FY 2024-2025 budget. Add \$250,000 to FY 2025-2026 Budget.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Andrews** to remove Minnesota Park Capital Project Concrete Street Improvements: (Item 1 page 66) for a reduction of \$530,000 from FY 2024-2025 and add \$250,000 to FY 2025-2026 budget.

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

- Capital Project Concrete Street repairs for Mary's Alley Increase budget of \$258,000 FY 2024-2025.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Andrews** to add Concrete Street repairs for Mary's Alley Increase budget of \$258,000 FY 2024-2025.

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

- Capital Request: (Page 61) Removed Salary Study \$100,000, Correct Brand for Parks and Grounds Tractor with a side Boom from John Deere to Kubota no financial impact, Removed 2 John Deere Gators from Airport \$27,500 and replaced with 1 John Deere 4 wheel Drive

\$16,000, Removed Kubota RTV 520D from Airport \$14,000, Removed Digital Sign from Recreation \$25,000 and replaced with John Deere Gator \$16,000, Corrected Description for Recreation Building from Storage Building to Multipurpose Building no financial impact. Net Financial Impact FY 2024-2025 reduced by \$134,500.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to amend the budget as listed above.

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

- General Administration: (Page 20) Increase 10015800-560144 Payments to Marshal by 15,000 for a PT clerk.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to amend the budget to add \$15,000 to Marshal's office budget for a part-time clerk.

Vote: Councilman Kip Andrews, (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales (Y), Councilman Devon Wells (abstain). Motion Approved 4-0

- FY 2024-2025 add Animal Shelter \$60,057 and removed Non-Profit Funding \$228,950,

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to amend the budget FY 2024-2025 to add \$60,057 to the line item for the animal shelter and to remove \$228,950 from the non-profit line item.

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

- Police Salaries add \$411,000 for salary corrections, (estimate amount for revisions to the police salary)

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to add \$411,000 for police salary corrections.

Vote: Councilman Kip Andrews, (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales (Y), Councilman Devon Wells (abstain). Motion Approved 4-0

- Sales Tax Revenue: (Page 40) Increased FY 2024 ending balance \$250,000 to Total \$28,250,00 based off collections, Increased FY 2025 \$500,000 to total \$28,000,000.
- General Fund Transfer from Sales Tax: (Page 12 and Page 40) Transfer from Sales tax to General Fund \$100,000 to cover budget amendments.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Leon** to increase the sales tax revenue (Fund 203) for FY 2024 of \$250, 000 and increase the sales tax revenue FY 2025 \$500,000 and increase the sales tax to general fund expenditure FY2024 of \$100,000 and an increase of sales tax general revenue for FY2025 \$100,000

Vote: Councilman Kip Andrews, (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (absent), Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales (Y), Councilman Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 4-0

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and a second by **Councilman Andrews** to adopt the City of Hammond budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as amended in accordance with the procedures in Section 5-03 of the City's Charter as amended.

Votes: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y). Motion approved 5 - 0

2. Final Adoption 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)

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated this is the right way to move forward

Councilman DiVittorio, stated there should be better planning and this was put together too quickly.

Councilman Wells, stated that some good points were made and there should be additional meetings and this should not be rushed.

Sal Nicolosi, stated that the city council should look at this really closely.

Councilman Andrews, stated it was a lot to think about and there will be discussions.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and a second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to adopt 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.

Votes: Councilman Kip Andrews, (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales (Y), Councilman Devon Wells (abstain). Motion Approved 4-0

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to adopt the following adjusted millage rates and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said corporate limits of the City of Hammond for the Year 2024, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE:

General Alimony, General Funds (5207001)	8.730 Mills
Fire/Police (5207002)	9.650 Mills
Public Works (5207003)	1.930 Mills
Total	20.310 Mills

Laura Hammett stated this is in accordance with state law.

Councilman Wells left the meeting.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 West, asked about the millage.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon, to introduce an ordinance to adopt the following adjusted millage rates and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said corporate limits of the City of Hammond for the Year 2024, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE:

General Alimony, General Funds (5207001)	8.730 Mills
Fire/Police (5207002)	9.650 Mills
Public Works (5207003)	1.930 Mills
Total	20.310 Mills

Votes: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y). Motion approved 4- 0.

2. Introduction of an ordinance to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2024, and when collected, the revenue from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rates are"

Adjusted Rate	2024 Levy
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General Alimony , General Funds (5207001)	8.730 Mills	9.040 Mills
Fire/Police (5207002)	9.650 Mills	10.000 Mills
Public Works 5207003	1.930 Mills	2.000 Mills
Total	20.310 Mills	21.040 Mills

Laura Hammett, explained the proves

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio to introduce an ordinance to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2024, and when collected, the revenue from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rates are.

	Adjusted Rate	2024 Levy
General Alimony , General Funds (5207001)	8.730 Mills	9.040 Mills
Fire/Police (5207002)	9.650 Mills	10.000 Mills
Public Works 5207003	1.930 Mills	2.000 Mills
Total	20.310 Mills	21.040 Mills

Votes: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y). Motion approved 4- 0.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution 1) accepting a \$47,376 grant from the Local Government Assistance Program to make necessary repairs and renovations to the Levy Building; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. There is NO match requirement.(Mayor Pete Panepinto)

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio 1) accepting a \$47,376 grant from the Local Government Assistance Program to make necessary repairs and renovations to the Levy Building; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents. There is NO match requirement.

Votes: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y). Motion approved 4- 0.

2. Review and consider appeal by Guy’s I, LLC of the decision of the Hammond Historic District to assess a fine related to multiple maintenance violations.

Darryl Smith 201 NW Railroad Ave, ask the council to not impost fine and that District Court issued a stay. He asked that the item be tabled pending litigation.

Heather Diebold, stated the appeal was untimely and she proceeded to explain.

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** to table hearing the appeal as stated on the agenda.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and a second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to table the appeal and the timeliness of the appeal.

Votes: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Absent), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y). Motion approved 4- 0.

IX. REPORTS:

Mayor: Camp Blue is in session, this has been a record year of 112 participants. There will be July 4th Fireworks in Zemurry Park and the pool is open.

Council:

X . 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. 4-0 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 TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD JUNE 24, 2024 BEING 6 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

PRESIDENT, KIP ANDREWS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL