



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
November 19, 2024
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to transfer \$28,188.55 from Sales Tax Fund Balance (203) to Airport Fixed Assets (10038000-570000) for the purchase of Woods BW 15.72 15' Batwing Cutter (State Contract 4400.025551)

Pete Panepinto, Mayor explained that this is for a replacement of broken equipment.

No Public Comment



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
November 19, 2024**

5:31/6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

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 October 22, 2024 Meeting.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to approve the the Minutes of October 22, 2024 meeting.

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

VI. PRESENTATION: NONE

VII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to transfer \$28,188.55 from Sales Tax Fund Balance (203) to Airport Fixed Assets (10038000-570000) for the purchase of Woods BW 15.72 15' Batwing Cutter (State Contract 4400.025551) (Pete Panepinto)
There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adopt an ordinance to amend the City of Hammond budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to transfer \$28,188.55 from Sales Tax Fund Balance (203) to Airport Fixed Assets (10038000-570000) for the purchase of Woods BW 15.72 15' Batwing Cutter (State Contract 4400.025551).

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

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE: NONE

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to accept the proposed health insurance package for calendar year 2025. (Henry Powell)
Henry Powell, explained the options and the proposal.

Councilman Wells, entered the meeting.

Jamie Hauck, Police Department employee expressed her concern that this is coming at the last minute. She expressed her concern regarding the changes and the employees not having options.

City Council discussed and made recommendations and suggestions going forward.

Councilwoman Gonzales recommended that employees be given the option to choose to renew at the higher cost and that the long-term disability be included in the package.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to accept the proposed health insurance package with a base plan and buy up plan for calendar year 2025 and with the long term disability as presented by Henry Powell.

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

2. A resolution to approve a change order in the amount of \$224,300 to the contract with Kelly Construction Group, LLC for the Hammond Downtown Event Pavillion Project. (Tom Pistorius)

Stan Dameron, 51 I West Robert St, gave information about the trust and the Downtown Pavilion Project.

Councilman Wells, asked where were the houses that Mr. Dameron said they built with funds from the trust.

Stanley Campbell, 8 Fairway Ct, asked if there were better ways to us the funds.

Edwin R. Soule, representative of the Hammond Housing Commission stated he was concerned about the change of focus and purpose of the Trust.

John Feduccia Attorney, Hammond-Tangipahoa Home Mortgage Authority Trust, spoke about the Trust and the change order.

Pam Haynes, stated that the authority is telling the city what to do with the money.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to approve a change order in the amount of 5224,300 to the contract with Kelly Construction Group, LLC for the Hammond Downtown Event Pavilion Project.

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

3. A resolution to authorize the City Council to retain a lawyer under Section 4-02 of the City Charter regarding the building department according to the terms of his proposed engagement letter and authorizing Councilman Kip Andrews or other appropriate representative to execute the proposed agreement; and in the interest of efficiency and limitation of cost to designate a Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and Sam N DiVittorio as primary contacts for communication between the Council lawyer. (Councilman DiVittorio)

Councilman DiVittorio, stated the reason for the resolution was because of issues at the building department. Permit issues and the need to for further investigation to find out what is happening in that department. They need the expertise and legal advice of a legal council to improve the situation.

Cindy Grega, stated it should include issues of 1101 Rue Chalet to the proposal.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about the inspection that was done.

Andre Coudrain, Hammond City Attorney, explained what had been done.

Barry Sartin, Sartin Riche' Trial Lawyers, explained the services they would be providing and the cost and all he need to move forward was the council consent to scope of work.

Councilman Leon, stated that the proposal was received today.

Mayor Panepinto, explained enforcement

Councilman Andrews. Stated he met with city auditors and they are putting information together concerning the building department.

Stanley Campbell, asked how can the council move forward.

Mayor Panepinto, stated that the issues have been corrected.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to authorize the City Council to retain a lawyer under Section 4-02 of the City Charter regarding the building department according to the terms of his proposed engagement letter and authorizing Councilman Kip Andrews or other appropriate representative to execute the proposed agreement; and in the interest of efficiency and limitation of cost to designate a Council Committee composed of Councilman Kip Andrews and Sam N DiVittorio as primary contacts for communication between the Council lawyer.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Y) Councilman DiVittorio (Y) Councilwoman Gonzales (N)

Councilman Leon (N), Councilman Andrews(Y). **Motion Fails 3-2 (Charter requires 2/3 vote)**

4. A resolution to purchase a Three Operator Position Dispatch Console in the amount of \$135,803.92 RFP 25-05.

Charles Borchers, Director of Administration, explained the resolution.

Councilman DiVittorio, left the meeting.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to purchase a Three Operator Position Dispatch Console in the amount of \$135,803.92 RFP 25-05

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Y) Councilman DiVittorio (Absent) Councilwoman Gonzales (Y)

Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews(Y). Motion Approved 4-0

5. A resolution updating the City of Hammond's Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, Director of Administration, explained the program. ...

Councilman DiVittorio, returns to meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to update the City of Hammond's Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Y) Councilman DiVittorio (Y) Councilwoman Gonzales (Y)

Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews(Y). Motion Approved 5-0

6. A resolution adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2023- 2024 and authorizing the Mayor, Director of Administration, and City Council Clerk to sign the questionnaire. (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers, explained the item.

Councilman Wells, expressed his concerns about voting on the item.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2023- 20124 and authorizing the Mayor, Director of Administration, and City Council Clerk to sign the questionnaire.

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

X. REPORTS:

Mayor: He said to enjoy Thanksgiving and your families. Have a safe holiday!

Council:

Councilwoman Gonzales, wanted to remind everyone of Starry Saturday and movie in Cate Square Park.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked for clarification on the vote on the investigation.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney stated that the motion requires 4 votes.

Councilman Wells, wished everyone a Happy Holiday

Councilman Andrews, Happy Thanksgiving.

XI . ADJOURN

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to adjourn the meeting. All member were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

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 November 19,

2024

BEING 3 PAGES IN LENGTH

LISA COCKERHAM
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

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.