



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTE
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
February 11, 2025
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. An ordinance to increase fees for leases and services at Hammond Northshore Regional Airport. Charles Borchers explained the ordinance. He stated that the Airport Board approved the amounts and an appraisal was obtained and is consistent with the proposed rates. The rates will not go into effect until July 1, 2025.

Ken Ross, member of the Airport Board spoke in favor of the rates and stated that this will help the airport to become self-sufficient.

2. An ordinance Establishing A temporary 180 Day Moratorium on the acceptance and processing of permits for off-premises signs and billboards within the City of Hammond, providing for variances and providing a severability clause.

Councilwoman Gonzales, explained the ordinance and stated that City needs to control density.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that he didn't receive any calls about the signs, but he received calls about buildings in his district. They need to look at getting an architectural committee to look at buildings and signs.

Councilman Wells, entered the meeting.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Highway 190 W, stated that there are portable signs that should be looked at.

Jeanne Voorhees commented on the item under introduction of ordinance no. 2. She expressed her concern about the property being in the Iowa District.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
February 11, 2025**

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER: Minister Ron Matthews

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2025 Meeting

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to approve the minutes of January 28, 2025 meeting.

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

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to increase fees for leases and services at Hammond Northshore Regional Airport.

Chris Goodman, expressed his concerns about the ordinance

Erin Pierce, a tenant of the airport, stated that the changes at the airport have been amazing and he supports the ordinance.

Ken Ross, Airport Board Member, stated the FAA said the airport needs to be self- sustaining and he supports the ordinance.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to adopt an Ordinance to increase fees for leases and services at Hammond Northshore Regional Airport.

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

2. Final adoption of an Ordinance Establishing A temporary 180 Day Moratorium on the acceptance and processing of permits for off-premises signs and billboards within the City of Hammond, providing for variances and providing a severability clause. (Councilwoman Gonzales)

Councilman Sam DiVittorio, left the meeting

There was a motion by **Councilman Steve Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales** to adopt an Ordinance Establishing A temporary 180 Day Moratorium on the acceptance and processing of permits for off-premises signs and billboards within the City of Hammond, providing for variances and providing a severability clause.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (abstain), Councilman DiVittorio (absent, Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Leon (Y). Motion Approved 3-0

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to approve a Front Facing Variance by Jacqueline Howard for repositioning of a new mobile home from LA Restore, concerning 110 ½ E. Stovall Street. (Charles Borchers)

Charles Borchers, explained the item, planning and zoning recommended approval.

Councilman Steve Leon left the meeting

Councilman DiVittorio returned to the meeting

Councilman Wells stated he spoke with Ms. Jacqueline and thank the council for putting the item on the agenda.

There was a motion by **Councilman Kip Andrews** and second by **Councilman Devon Wells** to introduce an Ordinance to approve a Front Facing Variance by Jacqueline Howard for repositioning of a new mobile home from LA Restore, concerning 110 ½ E. Stovall Street.

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

2. Introduction of an ordinance to approve Rezoning by Gemetri Carter from RM-2 to MX-C in accordance with the preliminary plat by Bodin and Webb Inc, dated 12/13/2019, concerning 508 S. Range Road.

Charles Borchers, explained the item.

Councilman Steve Leon re-entered the meeting

Charles Borchers stated that the property is split zoned and planning and zoning recommended approval.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked for additional information before the next meeting.

Councilman Andrews, stated he had received a lot of questions about the property.

Gwendolyn Carter, asked questions about the ordinance.

Councilwomen Gonzales, explained the Iowa District

Gwendolyn Carter, asked questions about the zoning.

Charles Borchers, explained the zoning and that planning and zoning recommended the zoning.

Gwendolyn Carter stated the current property owner would have some say in the zoning of what they would prefer on their property.

Gemetri Carter, owner of the property said she was told that she could rezone it and it was her choice.

Ron Matthews, member of the planning and zoning commission explained the property and their recommendation.

Councilman Wells, recommended that they reach out to City Councilman Andrews.

There was a motion by **Councilman Kip Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales** to introduce an Ordinance to approve Rezoning by Gemetri Carter from RM-2 to MX-C in accordance with the preliminary plat by Bodin and Webb Inc, dated 12/13/2019, concerning 508 S. Range Road.

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center and its approved merchants to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Art of the Cocktail event held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event boundaries are East and West Robert Street, North and South Cherry Street, East and West Coleman Street, and North and South Magnolia Street. The cocktail tasting event is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center in partnership with local restaurants and bars.

Melissa Griffin, was present to explain the event.

There was a motion by Councilman Divittorio and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center and its approved merchants to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Art of the Cocktail event held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event boundaries are East and West Robert Street, North and South Cherry Street, East and West Coleman Street, and North and South Magnolia Street. The cocktail tasting event is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center in partnership with local restaurants and bars.

VOTE: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam Divittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 5-0

2. A resolution to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the cocktail-sampling event Art of the Cocktail on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event boundaries are East and West Robert Street, North and South Cherry Street, East and West Coleman Street, and North and South Magnolia Street. The cocktail tasting event is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center in partnership with local restaurants and bars.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Wells to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the cocktail-sampling event Art of the Cocktail on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. The event boundaries are East and West Robert Street, North and South Cherry Street, East and West Coleman Street, and North and South Magnolia Street. The cocktail tasting event is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center in partnership with local restaurants and bars.

VOTE: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam Divittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 5-0

3. A resolution to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to sell, serve, or otherwise handle alcohol (beer only) on Saturday February 15, 2025 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking mall east of the railroad tracks and bound by W Morris Ave, S Cate St, and Hanson Crossing and the grassy area bound by Hanson Crossing, Cate Street Seafood Station, W Coleman Ave, and SW Railroad Ave.

John Daniel Guerin, was present to explain the event and answer questions.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to sell, serve, or otherwise handle alcohol (beer only) on Saturday February 15, 2025 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking mall east of the railroad tracks and bound by W Morris Ave, S Cate St, and Hanson Crossing and the grassy area bound by Hanson Crossing, Cate Street Seafood Station, W Coleman Ave, and SW Railroad Ave.

VOTE: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam Divittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 5-0

4. A resolution to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to receive a waiver of open container on Saturday February 15, 2025 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking mall east of the railroad tracks and bound by W Morris Ave, S Cate St, and Hanson Crossing and the grassy area bound by Hanson Crossing, Cate Street Seafood Station, W Coleman Ave, and SW Railroad Ave. (John Daniel Guerin)

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to authorize the Hammond-Ponchatoula Sunriser Rotary Club to receive a waiver of open container on Saturday February 15, 2025 from 10:00am until 3:00pm for the Chili Cook-off within the downtown parking mall east of the railroad tracks and bound by W Morris Ave, S Cate St, and Hanson Crossing and the grassy area bound by Hanson Crossing, Cate Street Seafood Station, W Coleman Ave, and SW Railroad Ave.

VOTE: Kip Andrews (Y), Sam Divittorio (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Steve Leon (Y), Devon Wells (Y). Motion Approved 5-0

5. A resolution to ratify and award bids received 1/30/2025 for “Sidewalk Improvements (FY 2025)”- project no. 420-12503

Jay Pittman, explained the items and bid sheets. He recommended the award to the low bidder Alfaro Bros Concrete Construction, LLC in the amount of \$365,566.00.

Councilman Wells asked about the sidewalk footage on Natchez Street and from Live Oak to Corbin Rd, Harold St to Corbin. He stated that there was a building on the corner and heavy trucks crossing the sidewalk and he wanted to take the 400 ft out because of the trucks crossing. He would like to use the 400ft in another part of the district.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about parts of the projects and priorities and expressed his concern regarding projects. He asked about a project on Cherie and Westdale. He talked about streetlights and lights coming off I-55.

Councilman Wells asked about the sidewalk footage from Church St to Magazine and, Mississippi St sidewalk from Mooney Ave to Natchez, W. Morrison, W side of Zemurry Park. He asked why are they putting a sidewalk on the canal. Mayor Panepinto, stated that it is heavily traffic and to make it safe. Jay Pittman, stated it also gave access to Zemurry Park.

Councilman Wells, stated he has a problem with the sidewalk. He is having a problem with the drainage on the eastside of Mooney Ave from Mississippi St. pass Palmeto St. He asked for an update on the project.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked that if an issue come up in the future like on Aleta Dr, he asked that the councilman be notified.

Sam Nicolosi, asked about Al-Ida St and 190 West and lighting and sidewalks

Councilman Andrews, asked how do we proceed since Councilman Wells asked for the portion of the sidewalk be removed.

City Attorney Andre Coudrain stated the City has already put this out for bids, but they can do a change order, adopt the ordinance as is but do a change order to make the change.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to ratify and award bids received 1/30/2025 for "Sidewalk Improvements (FY 2025)"- project no. 420-12503

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

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

6. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Master Services Agreement with Michael Baker International for "Engineering Services at the Hammond Northshore Regional Airport."

Charles Borchers, explained the agreement.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Master Services Agreement with Michael Baker International for "Engineering Services at the Hammond Northshore Regional Airport."

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

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

7. A resolution authorizing Kip Andrews Council President to request an opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General regarding investigations of the City building department.

Councilman Andrews, explained the Attorney General required a resolution of the council for an opinion.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked about the communication from the Attorney General.

Sal Nicolosi, asked about communication with the Attorney General's office.

Councilwoman Gonzales, mentioned the revoting of the question.

Stanley Campbell, Hammond, LA, stated that he is opposed to the revote. He doesn't think it will look well publically because when they voted the first time it was unanimous. He thinks that the way the council is going about it shows great leadership.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells authorizing Kip Andrews Council President to request an opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General regarding investigations of the City building department.

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

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

IX. REPORTS:

Mayor: Very successful Super Bowl for Hammond at the airport

Council:

Councilman Wells, called up a gentleman who had questions about an incident that happened on Magazine St.

Councilman Wells, asked about no parking signs for Natchaz St from Corbin to Live Oak. Ligts outside of council chambers and other areas. He asked what could be done about the lights being out in the districts. He asked if someone can ride out and see what lights are out.

Mayor stated the Robert Williams and Ace should be riding around and flagging them.

Councilman Wells, stated there's light in front of Mooney Park that has been out for over a year and one on the corner of Mooney Ave and Phoenix that has been out for several month and JW Davis and Phoenix. He ask if a marking be put in the road to notify them when the light are out. He asked about tracking devices. He stated the stump grinder was used by a city employee for personal use.

Mayor was aware and he explained what happened. He gave an update on the tracking devices.

Councilman DiVittorio asked about the street sweeper and if they could get it in Westdale. There is a bad sewer smell at 138 Robinhood Drive, and would like to have it looked into. He would like to have potholes on Rue Denise and Rue Saint Martin addressed.

Councilman Andrews, stated he would look into the incident on Magazine St.

X. ADJOURN

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews 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
FEBRUARY 11, 2025
BEING 5 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.