



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
February 25, 2025
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. 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, explained the request for a variance.

No Public Comment

2. 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 request.

Gwendolyn Carter, explained the reason for the request for rezoning.

Karen Wallsten, property owner in Iowa District stated she opposes the re-zoning.

Jacqueline Taylor, asked about the zoning.

Jeanne Voorhees, thinks the property should be single family and opposes the re-zoning.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
February 25, 2025
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PRAYER : Pastor Taylor

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2025 Meeting.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second **Councilman Leon** to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2025.

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

VI. PRESENTATION: Major Bradley T. Hayes, Esq- TopeLa French Exchange Program, spoke about the Topeela French Exchange Program, he stated an invitation has been extended to Hammond to attend the June Ponchartrain event. He asked for the councils support for the exchange on June 19-23, 2025

VII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption 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)

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and second **Councilman Andrews** to adopt 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 (absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion approved 4-0

2. Final adoption 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.

Councilman Andrews, asked to table this ordinance and set a meeting for Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 4pm so that everyone can meet and discuss.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second **Councilwoman Gonzales** to table the item.

Vote: Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). 4-0 to table

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance request by Spencer Rossi to rezone 207 W Morris Ave from MX-C to MX-CBD to better conform with Downtown Hammond and the surrounding properties. The property is located in Council District 2, the Hammond Historic District, the Thomas/Morris Street Economic Development Overlay District, and the Hammond Downtown Development District.

Charles Borchers, explained the request.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second Councilman Andrews to introduce an ordinance request by Spencer Rossi to rezone 207 W Morris Ave from MX-C to MX-CBD to better conform with Downtown Hammond and the surrounding properties. The property is located in Council District 2, the Hammond Historic District, the Thomas/Morris Street Economic Development Overlay District, and the Hammond Downtown Development District.

Vote: Councilman Wells (N), Councilman DiVittorio (absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 3-1

2. Introduction of an ordinance request by Spencer Rossi to rezone 211 W Morris Ave from MX-C to MX-CBD to better conform with Downtown Hammond and the surrounding properties. The property is located in Council District 2, the Hammond Historic District, the Thomas/Morris Street Economic Development Overlay District, and the Hammond Downtown Development District.

Charles Borchers, explained the request.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance request by Spencer Rossi to rezone 211 W Morris Ave from MX-C to MX-CBD to better conform with Downtown Hammond and the surrounding properties. The property is located in Council District 2, the Hammond Historic District, the Thomas/Morris Street Economic Development Overlay District, and the Hammond Downtown Development District.

Vote: Councilman Wells (N), Councilman DiVittorio (absent), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y). Motion Approved 3-1

3. Introduction of an ordinance request for a street renaming by Councilman Kip Andrews to rename E. Colorado St to Laura Knighten Drive.

Charles Borchers, explained the ordinance.

Councilman Andrews, explained the purpose for the re-naming.

Pastor Taylor, stated he was in support of the ordinance.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second Councilman Leon to introduce an ordinance request for a street renaming by Councilman Kip Andrews to rename E. Colorado St to Laura Knighten Drive.

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

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to authorize Hammond Downtown Development District to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Railroad Park Marguerite Walter Stage Dedication held on Friday, March 7th, 2025 from 2-3pm. The event will take place at Railroad Park, 106 NW Railroad Ave.

Michelle Kendall, spoke about the community survey that is underway and explained the dedication.

Councilman Wells left the meeting

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to authorize Hammond Downtown Development District to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the Railroad Park Marguerite Walter Stage Dedication held on Friday, March 7th, 2025 from 2-3pm. The event will take place at Railroad Park, 106 NW Railroad Ave.

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

2. A resolution to grant a waiver of the City of Hammonds Open Container law to the Hammond Downtown Development District for the Railroad Park Marguerite Walter Stage Dedication held on Friday, March 7th, 2025 from 2-3pm. The event will take place at Railroad Park, 106 NW Railroad Ave. **There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales** to grant a waiver of the City of Hammonds Open Container law to the Hammond Downtown Development District for the Railroad Park Marguerite Walter Stage Dedication held on Friday, March 7th, 2025 from 2-3pm. The event will take place at Railroad Park, 106 NW Railroad Ave.

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

3. A resolution to approve AK Food Mart located at 1910 S. Morrison Blvd. Hammond, LA 70403 to obtain an alcohol permit for a convenience store. The owner is AK Food Mart, LLC.(Charles Borchers) Mr. Singh, owner was present to answer questions.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve AK Food Mart located at 1910 S. Morrison Blvd. Hammond, LA 70403 to obtain an alcohol permit for a convenience store.

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

4. A resolution to authorize the purchase of (2) 2025 F-150 Regular Cab Trucks for the Water & Sewer Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total Cost \$77,882.00 State Contract 4400023793 Charles Borchers, explained the purchase

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the purchase of (2) 2025 F-150 Regular Cab Trucks for the Water & Sewer Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total Cost \$77,882.00 State Contract 4400023793.

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

5. A resolution to authorize the purchase of a 2025 F-150 Extended Cab Truck for the Parks & Ground Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total Cost \$42,107.00 State Contract 4400023793

Councilman Wells returned to the meeting

Charles Borchers, explained the purchase.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the purchase of a 2025 F-150 Extended Cab Truck for the Parks & Ground Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total Cost \$42,107.00 State Contract 4400023793

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

6. A resolution to authorize the purchase of (2) 2025 F-150 Extended Cab Trucks for the Streets Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total Cost \$84,214.00 State Contract 4400023793

Charles Borchers, explained the purchase.

Councilman Wells, asked about tracking devices for the new vehicles.

Charles Borchers, stated they have already done the building department and are in the process of installing them in other departments.

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy 190 west asked about the trucks that are being replaced.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to authorize the purchase of (2) 2025 F-150 Extended Cab Trucks for the Streets Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total Cost \$84,214.00 State Contract 4400023793

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

7. A resolution to review and ratify bids received 02/20/2025 for “Pride Drive Emergency Concrete Panel Replacement”—project no. 420-12513.

Mitchell D. Roniger, explained the item and recommends the award to the low bidder B & B Construction for \$45,790.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to review and ratify bids received 02/20/2025 for “Pride Drive Emergency Concrete Panel Replacement”—project no. 420-12513.

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

X. REPORTS:

Mayor: None

Council:

Councilman Wells, thanked the administration for lights and asked about a ditch on Phoenix Drive.

Joyce Cox, asked about sidewalks in her area on South Spruce.

Councilman Wells asked for no parking signs on Pine Street.

Krishna Hunter Wants to talk about the the Mckenly incident to be put placed on the agenda.

Councilman Andrews, stated he is looking into this.

Councilman Wells, stated he is concerned about how the Hammond Police Department is being run.

XI . ADJOURN

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to adjourn the 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 25, 2025

BEING 4 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.