



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
July 22, 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:

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and consider override of the Mayor's veto of line items in the budget ordinance.

Mayor Panepinto, explained the items.

Veto Item #19

Kent Hawkins, 130 Alida St, spoke in support of this item and opposes the veto.

Terry Crapanzano, 104 Gwendolyn Dr. asked about the sewer.

Councilman DiVittorio, explained the process.

Veto Item # 23

Mayor explained that this was an added item to the original budget.

Councilman Wells, asked for for a reason why it was cut out of the budget. walking is important in District 3 and that the side walk is needed.

Veto Item # 29

Mayor explained the item.

Councilman DiVittorio, explained and that this is a phase II and the item was left off. He stated this was finishing a phase and drainage and sewer are priorities. He would appreciated the council's support.

Veto Item # 30

Mayor explained.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated this was the drainage project on Alida. Poor drainage is causing damage to the road.

Terry Crapanzano, 104 Gwendolyn Dr, expressed his concerns and stated that the city has done very little work in this neighborhood.

Kent Hawkins, 130 Alida St, stated that flooding is bad in the neighborhood. He stated he was pleading that they consider the drainage project. They are in desperate need for some help.

Robin Taylor, 116 Alida St, She stated that her house has flooded and to please put it on the books and do the sewer. She asked that this item be considered.

Patty Croft, 122 Alida, stated that her house flooded twice in ten years and asked that the drainage be fixed.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that people have reached out to him but could not make it tonight but wanted him to express their concerns about the drainage and sewer.

Councilman Wells, stated he was willing to take Louisa West and White Street off to next year.

Mike Penault, 120 Alida St., stated that all of his neighbors have flooded. He stated that this project needs to be done.

Veto Item # 39

Mayor stated this was a last minute add on.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that this was needed for the park. There was not much money for projects.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked what is the fund balance projection if all items above are passed.

Charles Borches explained the budget impacts.

Councilman Wells, stated the engineers never met with him to know what was needed in his district.

Deborah McQueen, 1002 Magazine St., asked about the budget impacts.

Becky Wells, asked about street projects in District 1.

Councilman Andrews, explained that projects are done in phases.

Dan Lambert, 116 Cate St., asked about the funds collected and projections.

Stanley Campbell, District 1, asked about budget presentation and if the council can amend the charter to distribute the funds by districts.

Councilwoman Gonzales, explained the reason why they don't do it by districts.

2. An ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances Regarding Prohibition on Persons Under the Age of 21 in Stand-Alone Bars and Nightclubs.

Councilman Andrews, explained the item and that he would allow for public comments.

Ricky Brocato, Crecent Bar owner, stated that there will be a huge economic impact if the ordinance passes.

Todd Dalaune, Red, White and Brew, owner-this would drive customers away from the city.

Tina Latino, Benny's Bar owner, stated that the city should not cut revenue.

Mitch Harrell, stated that punishing bars that are not doing anything is wrong.

Ian McKinna, 604 , stated that changing the age will not make the bars comply with the law and stated that this would negatively affect new business.

Gabby Hogan, works at Cate Stree Pub and thinks that the ordinance doesn't make sense.

Railey Robertson, works at fifths and does not support the ordinance.

Matt, stated that this creates a problem that doesn't exist. He's concerned about his investments in Hammond.

Anthony Donzi, has concerns about the ordinance.

Tim Weaver, stated that this should be on a ballot.

Emily Cattalonetto, works at Cate Street Pub, asked where should 18 years olds go if this passes.

Tanner Nugent, works at Benny's Bar, stated this would take away sales tax dollars and affect the culture under 21.

Cloris, kids need some place to go and there are other solutions.

Benny Latino, the ordinance doesn't make sense.

Ramil, this will cause a bigger problem.

Chuck, stated bars are not the problem

Wayne Cody, worked at bars and laws were enforced. The ordinance will kill revenue.

Johnaton Cranfield, Hammond had moumentum and voices should be heard.

Landon Pitts, stated that the ordinance puts young people in danger.

Dan Lambert, 115Cate St., stated has a petition with over three thousand signature and he opposes this ordinance.

3. An ordinance to amend the code of ordinances regarding Alcoholic Beverages in City Parks.

Councilman Andrews, explained the item

Tina Latino, stated it should be an exception for parks in the Downtown Development District.

Michelle Kendall, Downtown Development District, asked about revisions to the ordinance.

Andre Coudrain, City Attorney, read the proposed changes.

Carmen Hughes, supports the events in the parks

NEW BUSINESS

1. An ordinance to remove unused/outdated definitions from the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (4-0). (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers explained the item.

No public comment



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

July 22, 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: 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 July 8, 2025 Meeting

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to approve the minutes of July 8, 2025.

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

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review and consider override of the Mayor's veto of line items in the budget ordinance.

Mayor Panepinto, explained the line item vetoes:

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Wells** to override veto line item # 30.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y) Councilwoman Gonzales (N)
Councilman Leon (N), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion Failed 3-2

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Wells** to override veto line item # 29.

VOTE: Councilman Wells (Y), Councilman DiVittorio (Y) Councilwoman Gonzales (N)
Councilman Leon (N), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion Failed 3-2

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to override veto line item #23

Pam Haynes, asked about the veto process.

Robin Taylor, stated that there was sewer backing up in her home.

Stanley Campbell, asked about the budget.

Daniel Lambert, stated the council should fix the sewer back-up problem.

Council members discussed the budget process and priorities

After hearing comment, Councilman Wells withdrew the motion and Councilman DiVittorio withdrew his second to override veto line item # 23.

There was a motion by **Councilman DiVittorio** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to reconsider and override the Mayor's veto of line item # 30.

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

Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion Approved 5-0 to override the veto of item #30

2. Final adoption of an ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances Regarding Prohibition on Persons Under the Age of 21 in Stand-Alone Bars and Nightclubs.

Councilman Andrews, explained his concerns.

Councilman Wells, thanked Councilman Andrews for bring this item before the council.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that a family member owns a bar and she consulted with the ethics board and made a disclosure of that fact. She also stated her concerns about the ordinance.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated that the ordinance brought light to some issues and there needs to be better enforcement.

Councilman Leon, stated that there are state laws and resources to address the issues.

Chief Bergeron, stated that enforcement of the open container should be reviewed, they will start enforcing the open container and blocking sidewalks.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to withdraw the proposed ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances Regarding Prohibition on Persons Under the Age of 21 in Stand-Alone Bars and Nightclubs.

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

Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion to withdraw 5-0

3. Final adoption of an ordinance to amend the code of ordinances regarding Alcoholic Beverages in City Parks.

Councilman Andrews, asked that the item be tabled and revised.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to table and circulate a revised ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances regarding Alcoholic Beverages in City Parks.

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

Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion to withdraw 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to remove unused/outdated definitions from the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (4-0).

Charles Borchers IV, explained the ordinance.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Wells** to table an ordinance to remove unused/outdated definitions from the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (4-0).

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

Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion to table 5-0

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Introduction of an ordinance to remove and amend unused/outdated definitions and to establish specific use standards for group living and care facilities within the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (3-0).

Charles Borchers IV, explained the ordinance.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to introduce an ordinance to remove and amend unused/outdated definitions and to establish specific use standards for group living and care facilities within the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (3-0).

VOTE: Councilman Wells (N), Councilman DiVittorio (N) Councilwoman Gonzales (Y) Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y) Motion to approved 3-2

2. Introduction of an ordinance to approve a request by Farrah Laciura on behalf of Hi Park LLC & Edson Group Limited Partnership to annex the 35 acres of Lot 1-D-1 B on Hipark Boulevard into the City's corporate limits in accordance with a survey by Andrew Faller dated May 22, 2025. The property is to be zoned I-L and located in District 3. The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (3-0). (Charles Borchers IV)

Charles Borchers IV, explained the ordinance.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an ordinance to approve a request by Farrah Laciura on behalf of Hi Park LLC & Edson Group Limited Partnership to annex the 35 acres of Lot 1-D-1 B on Hipark Boulevard into the City's corporate limits in accordance with a survey by Andrew Faller dated May 22, 2025. The property is to be zoned I-L and located in District 3. The Planning & Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (3-0).

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to approve Benteaux. located at 119 East Thomas St. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant The owner is Benteaux L.L.C.

Charles Borchers IV, explained the item.

Ryan Oliphant, owner was present to answer questions.

There was a motion by Councilman Wells and second by Councilman DiVittorio to approve Benteaux located at 119 East Thomas St. Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain an alcohol permit for a restaurant The owner is Benteaux L.L.C.

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

2. A resolution to authorize the purchase of (1) 2025 F-150 5.0L Crew Cab 2-WD for the Recreation Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total sale Price \$43,377.00 State Contract 4400023793.

Charles Borchers IV, explained the item.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to authorize the purchase of (1) 2025 F-150 5.0L Crew Cab 2-WD for the Recreation Department from Bill Hood Ford. Total sale Price \$43,377.00 State Contract 4400023793.

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

3. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an annual software support agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for hardware and software services in the amount of \$117,458.48.

Charles Borchers IV, explained the item.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Mayor to enter into an annual software support agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for hardware and software services in the amount of \$117,458.48.

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

IX. REPORTS:

Mayor: Back to school supply drive, Friday August 1.

Council:

Stanley Campbell, thanked the council for coming together for District 4. He also asked about the police chief being at the meeting.

Mayor, stated that it depends on what is on the agenda.

Councilman Wells, thanked the City Council President and he asked the city attorney to help him come up with an ordinance to try and save the youth.

Glen Galbrath, attorney for Civil Service Board and Julie Montleone, Hammond Civil Service Board Secretary, expresses her concerns regarding some discussions during the budget meetings relating to her salary. She stated that she does not want the public to think that she got money she did not get or deserve. She wanted to clear it up for the record.

X. ADJOURN:

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

July 22, 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.