



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
312 EAST CHARLES STREET  
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA  
August 12, 2025  
5:30pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Andrews**

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

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. An ordinance to amend the code of ordinances regarding Alcoholic Beverages in City Parks. **Councilman Andrews**, explained the ordinance and stated that revisions have been made to the original ordinance as introduced.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, thanked Councilman Andrews for the revisions

**Michelle Kendall**, Director of Downtown Development District, thanked Councilman Andrews and Councilwoman Gonzales for their support of revising the ordinance and had questions about the process.

2. An ordinance to remove unused/outdated definitions from the City's Unified Development Code (UDC).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).

**Charle Borchers** explained the ordinance, Frankie Legaux, City Planner was present to answer questions.

**Councilman Wells**, thanked Frankie Legaux for meeting with him and for coming to the city council meeting.

3. An ordinance ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Hammond, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

**Charles Borchers IV**, explained the ordinance and that the millage was for public works.

**Councilman Wells**, asked Charles to explain the item.

**Charles Borchers IV**, explained that it was for public works and is up for renewal.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about impact fees for tapping into the city service.

**Charles Borchers**, explained that they have made changes and they have brought back weekly meetings.

**Councilman Wells**, asked if he could get an email invite to the meetings.

**Stanley Campbell**, District One, asked what services would be lost if this item did not pass and what services does this ordinance cover.

**Charles Borchers IV**, explained that it is for public works which includes streets, parks and grounds, water and sewer, drainage infrastructure.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, asked about information being posted and what this tax will cover.

**Charles Borchers**, stated an information campaign would be done to let everyone know what it is.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 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).

**Frankie Legaux**, explained this in relation to group living environments and explained the ordinance. She read from the Fair Housing Act.

**Councilman Andrews**, asked about excluded items.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, asked about the Fair Housing Act and including it in the UDC.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, led a discussion about changes in single family zoning and daycare as an allowed use.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, stated her concerns and asked about a conditional use and if it would violate the Fair Housing Act.

**Councilman Wells**, asked what needs to be done to get the three illegal homes in Councilman Andrews district shut down.

**Charles Borchers**, explained that Frankie Legaux has been working on cleaning up the UDC for a while.

**Councilman Wells**, expressed his concerns and stated that people need to know about the changes.

**Councilwoman Gonzales** suggested changes.

**Councilman Andrews**, stated that he is not going to approve something that was done wrong from the beginning with the homes in his neighborhood, he would like for them to be removed.

**Kerry Raines**, asked about group homes.

**Stanley Campbell**, asked if the item was passed as recommended, if the three homes in district one would be grandfathered in.

**Frankie Legaux**, answered no and explained the nonconforming use section of the UDC.

**Pam Haynes, District 3**, stated she had a concern with the zoning. The councilman should be able to say they don't want it.

**Councilman Wells**, stated that an investigation needs to be done in the building department.

2. 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, explained the item.

**Frankie Cali**, was present on behalf of the owner, spoke about the property.



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

**August 12, 2025**

**6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Andrews**

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

**III. PRAYER : Pastor Andrew Jackson**

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

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2025 Meeting

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of July 22, 2025 meeting.

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

**VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:**

**OLD BUSINESS :**

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

**Councilman Andrews**, explained that all changes has been done and he was ready to move forward with a vote on the amended ordinance.He stated this is only for the sale of alcohol and does not approve the sale of anything else.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to adopt an ordinance to amend the code of ordinances regarding Alcoholic Beverages in City Parks as revised.

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

2. 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**, stated that this is the first ordinance on changes to the Unified Development Code to remove the eighteen pages of unused definitions and this is not the ordinance that deals with group living.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adopt an ordinance to remove unused/outdated definitions from the City's Unified Development Code (UDC).

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

3. Final adoption of an ordinance ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Hammond, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

**Charles Borchers IV**, explained the renewal of the public works millage and asked the council to approve so that an election can be called and put it to a vote of the people.

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** to adopt an ordinance ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Hammond, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Final adoption 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**, stated there has been a lot of discussion and suggested that the item be tabled. **There was a motion by Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to table the adoption 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).

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

2. Final adoption 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)

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to adopt 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.

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

**VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE: NONE**

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. A resolution to accept the annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report, for January 1-December 31, 2024, as required by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in the City's discharge permit for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Nathan Levy**, presented the report from 2024.

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to accept the annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention report as required by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in the city's discharge permit for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

2. A resolution to approve Yellow Store located at 310 E. University Ave Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain an alcohol permit for a convenience store. The owner is Bani Food Mart, LLC.

**Charles Borchers**, stated they meet all the requirements but asked that the item be tabled because the owner was not present.

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to table a resolution to approve Yellow Store. located at 310 E. University Ave Hammond, LA 70401 to obtain an alcohol permit for a convenience store. .

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

3. A resolution approving the re-appointment of Elliott Sanders to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a 5-year term beginning June 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2030. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

**Elliott Sanders** was present and stated he would like to serve and make Hammond a better community.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about the state law and he doesn't think it's fair for an incoming Mayor. He thinks five years is too many years to have someone serve on boards.

**Jennifer Brunet**, Director of the Hammond Housing Authority, stated that it has always been five years and there are five board members and they are staggered and every so often each appointment would come up. There have different term dates and is a requirement from HUD

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Leon** approving the re-appointment of Elliott Sanders to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a 5-year term beginning June 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2030.

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

4. A resolution approving the re-appointment of Gregory Vernon to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a 5-year term beginning June 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2030. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon approving the re-appointment of Gregory Vernon to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a 5-year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030**

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

**5.** A resolution to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event boundaries include the Morrison Park Alleyway. The Brews Arts Festival is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include craft-beer tasting, art vendors, live music and local food vendors.

**Melissa Griffin**, Hammond Regional Arts Center, explained the event.

**There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event boundaries include the Morrison Park Alleyway. **Vote:** Councilman DiVittorio (Y), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Andrews (abstain), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (Y), Motion approved 4-0**

**6.** A resolution to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event boundaries include the Morrison Park Alleyway. The Brews Arts Festival is hosted by the Hammond Regional Arts Center as a primary fundraiser for the organization. Activities include craft-beer tasting, art vendors, live music and local food vendors. (Melissa Griffin)

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to grant a waiver of the city of Hammond's Open Container Law to the Hammond Regional Arts Center during the beer-tasting event Brews Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event boundaries include the Morrison Park Alleyway.**

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

**7.** A resolution supporting the submission of an \$24,000 application to the State Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase license plate readers for the Hammond Police Department. **Charles Borchers IV**, explained this item.

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales supporting the submission of an \$24,000 application to the State Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase license plate readers for the Hammond Police Department.**

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

**8.** A resolution to purchase a Kubota KX040-5R3A Excavator for total amount of \$68,945.60 Star Equipment will be the delivering dealer, State Contract # 4400026020.

**Charles Borchers**, explained the item.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about a tracking device on equipment.

**Charles Borchers** stated that a tracking device can be placed on equipment.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to purchase a Kubota KX040-5R3A Excavator for total amount of \$68,945.60 Star Equipment will be the delivering dealer, State Contract # 4400026020.**

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

**9.** A resolution to extend the ordinance of the moratorium on the acceptance of applications and issuance of permits or approvals for off -premises signs and billboards within the City of Hammond for an additional 90 days.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, explained the resolution and the need for an extension.

**Paxton Moreau**, Bayou Signs, stated that his company applied for permits before the ordinance went into effect. He is against the moratorium and asked that their permit be approved.

**Andre Coudrain**, City Attorney, explained the variance procedures in the ordinance.

**Councilman Wells**, stated that he is against it.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, stated she brought this item up because she has received complaints about an influx of signs and she explained her reasoning.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to approve a resolution to extend the ordinance of the moratorium on the acceptance of applications and issuance of permits or approvals for off -premises signs and billboards within the City of Hammond for and additional 90 days.**

**Vote:** Councilman DiVittorio (abstain), Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Councilman Wells (N), Motion approved 3-1

10. A resolution authorizing the Hammond Police Department to purchase seventy (70) Dell Rugged 5430 Laptops using Louisiana State Contract No. 4400028252 in the amount of \$84,316.40.

**Charles Borchers**, explained the item.

**Councilman Andrews**, stated that a previous employee’s name was on the paperwork

**Charles Borchers**, stated that a request was made to correct it.

**There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales authorizing the Hammond Police Department to purchase seventy (70) Dell Rugged 5430 Laptops using Louisiana State Contract No. 4400028252 in the amount of \$84,316.40.**

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

**IX. REPORTS:**

**There was motion by Councilman Andrews and second Councilman DiVittorio to amend the agenda to add reports.**

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

**Mayor:** Mayor stated that the backpack program was successful and he thanked all of the volunteers. He also ask that everyone pay attention to school buses.

**Council:**

**Councilman DiVittorio**, asked about code enforcement and wanted some clarity.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about vehicles and he recognized Kevin Hauck about city vehicles being marked.

**Kevin Hauck**, Loranger, he had questions and concerns about city vehicle use and being marked.

**Councilman Wells**, asked about the Chief of Police vehicles and other vehicles being marked.

**Michael Showers, NAACP**, asked about the Attorney General Opinion on Bobby McCaskey case. He expressed his concerns and made requests of the council.

**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

August 12, 2025

BEING 5 PAGES IN LENGTH

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LISA COCKERHAM

HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK

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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.