



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
December 9, 2025
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An ordinance to establish the salary and annual compensation for the office of the Mayor, effective with the commencement of the next full term of office. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

Charles Borchers, explained the ordinance.

Councilman Wells entered the meeting.

2. An ordinance to establish the compensation for the Council Members, effective with the commencement of the next full term of office.

Charles Borchers explained the ordinance.

3. An ordinance establishing a Temporary 365 Day Moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for Group Homes, Group Care Facilities, Group Living Facilities, Day Care Facilities, Adult Day Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Lodging Homes, Boarding Homes, Rooming Houses and Zoning Amendments therefore within the City of Hammond, providing for variances and providing a severability clause.

Councilman Wells, explained his reasons for proposing the ordinance.

Kellie Monroe, asked to add language for groups licensed by Louisiana Department of Health to exclude them.

Susan Spring, stated licensed group homes should be exempted.

Jacqueline Taylor, stated that group homes have to be run right, people need help and group homes are good for Hammond.

Tory Rocca, stated concern about the ordinance and asked to exclude state licensed facilities for persons with disabilities.

Monique Blossom, concerned about the effect on housed for people with disabilities under the Fair Housing Act.

Charles Borchers, stated that there is an amendment to the UDC on group homes pending for review by city council – asked for any comments to the proposal. Council should consider reducing time of moratorium or table the moratorium.

Sal Nicolsi, asked about adult living area in the downtown area and he supports the moratorium.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked about the enforcement and permits. She doesn't think that the moratorium is needed.

Charles Borchers explained permits and licensing by city.

Councilman Leon, stated the council needs to focus on amendments proposed by the city planner.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated they should not rush to approve things.

Pam Haynes, stated that 90 days is not enough time and the moratorium should be longer and they need to take their time.

Councilman Wells, stated that his community has concerns and needs time to review.

Councilman Andrews, stated that the problem is where these facilities are located.

Leon Maryland, stated the issue is a lack of transparency and the difference between group home and sober living facility.

Toni Jackson, stated that people can have moved people into their homes and are not regulated.

Whitney Clark, should have rules in place but doesn't think 365 days is needed.

Jeremy Weatherspoon, asked what is the problem, they should look for solutions.

4. An ordinance to amend billboard requirements in the Unified Development Code (Charles Borchers).

Charles Borchers, explained the difference in option 1 & Option 2.

Scott Jones, does not support option 1 and has some concerns over option 2.

Paxton Morreaux, stated that option 2 is more agreeable with changes.

John Jackson, asked who regulations benefits. He asked why is there an issue and should have no rules.

Ron Matthews, thinks there should be no new billboards, but options are recommended and thinks that the council should vote tonight.

David Hobbs, asked council to defer vote for more study.



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
December 9 , 2025
6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Kip Andrews

II. ROLL CALL: Councilman DiVittorio (P), Councilwoman Gonzales (P), Councilman Wells (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 November 18, 2025 Meeting

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Wells** to approve the minutes of November 18, 2025 Meeting.

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

VI. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

OLD BUSINESS

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to approve a rezoning request by Sherri Brown Jackson to Rezone 806 Mooney Ave from RS-3 to RM-2 in District 3 for the construction of a duplex. The Planning and Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adopting (3-0).

Councilman DiVittorio, raised questions regarding spot zoning.

Councilman Andrews, asked to table the item because the applicant could not be here.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to table the adoption of an ordinance to approve a rezoning request by Sherri Brown Jackson to Rezone 806 Mooney Ave from RS-3 to RM-2 in District 3 for the construction of a duplex. The Planning and Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adopting (3-0).

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Final adoption of an ordinance to establish the salary and annual compensation for the office of the Mayor, effective with the commencement of the next full term of office.

Charles Borchers, explained the ordinance and the reason for the request.

Sammy Paul, stated he is concerned about the economy. Everything went up in the city and people can't afford it. He stated it should not be raised until the economy is right.

Councilman Wells, stated it should not be talked about since the Mayor is not present and the item should be tabled.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated he does not support the ordinance.

Pam Haynes asked could the ordinance be amended.

Michael Otkins, asked who came up with the amount of the increase.

Stanley Campbell, asked about the salary increase.

Sal Nicolosi, thinks the item should be tabled.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adopt an ordinance to establish the salary and annual compensation for the office of the Mayor, effective with the commencement of the next full term of office.

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

2. Final adoption of an ordinance to establish the compensation for the Council Members, effective with the commencement of the next full term of office. (Mayor Pete Panepinto)

Councilman Wells stated he does not support a raise.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to adopt an ordinance to establish the compensation for the Council Members, effective with the commencement of the next full term of office

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

3. Final adoption of an ordinance establishing a Temporary 365 Day Moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for Group Homes, Group Care Facilities, Group Living Facilities, Day Care Facilities, Adult Day Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Lodging Homes, Boarding Homes, Rooming Houses and Zoning Amendments therefore within the City of Hammond, providing for variances and providing a severability clause. (Councilman Wells)

Councilman Leon, stated this does not address the problem and the council should vote on the recommendations of the city planner.

Councilman DiVittorio, supports the ordinance.

Councilman Andrews, thinks the ordinance should be 180 days and exempt group homes that are licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health.

Pam Haynes, thinks they need to take time and they need a plan.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that the ordinance doesn't address the problem.

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio and second by Councilman Wells to adopt an ordinance establishing a Temporary 365 Day Moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for Group Homes, Group Care Facilities, Group Living Facilities, Day Care Facilities, Adult Day Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Lodging Homes, Boarding Homes, Rooming Houses and Zoning Amendments therefore within the City of Hammond, providing for variances and providing a severability clause.

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

4. Final adoption of an ordinance to amend billboard requirements in the Unified Development Code. Scott Jones, for option 2, he made suggestions for changes and stated that small companies should not be punished.

John Jackson, asked what is the driving force behind this ordinance?

Paxton Moreaux, stated that option 1 is not acceptable and has suggested changes to option 2.

Pam Haynes, asked about the percentage of billboards owned.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to adopt option 1 to an ordinance to amend billboard requirements in the Unified Development Code.

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

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

1 Introduction of an ordinance to approve a request by Mary Lavigne to Annex 21.77 and 18 Acres of Magazine Street into the City's corporate limits. The property is to be zoned RS-3 and located in District 1. The Planning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption (4-0) (Charles Borchers) Mary Lavigne, was available for questions.

Councilman Wells, stated that he thinks there should be a meeting to review the request.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Wells to introduce an ordinance to approve a request by Mary Lavigne to Annex 21.77 and 18 Acres of Magazine Street into the City's corporate limits. The property is to be zoned RS-3 and located in District 1. The Planning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adoption

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to authorize the Hammond Regional Arts Center to serve, sell, or otherwise handle alcohol during the cocktail tasting event Art of the Cocktail held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The fundraising event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway.

Melissa Griffin, 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 cocktail tasting event Art of the Cocktail held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The fundraising event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway.

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

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 held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5:00pm - 9:00pm. The fundraising event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway. (Melissa Griffin)

There was a motion by Councilman DiVittorio 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 held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5:00pm - 9:00pm. The fundraising event will take place inside the Hammond Regional Arts Center located at 217 E. Thomas Street, as well as on the eastern half of Morrison Park Alleyway.

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

3. A resolution to approve the 2026 Alcohol Renewal for The Brown Door.(Kasey Daigle)

John Feduccia, Attorney for the Brown Door was available for questions and asked for approval.

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** approve the 2026 Alcohol Renewal for The Brown Door.

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

4. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Hammond Police Department for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area regional task force.

Charles Borchers IV, explained the item.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman Wells** authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Hammond Police Department for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area regional task force.

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

5. Review and ratify bids received 12/04/2025 for "Airport East Utility Extension" – project no. 616-12603.

Mitchell D. Roniger, explained the item and recommends the award to the low bidder Greenbriar Diggin Service, LP in the amount of \$ 140,940.00.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman Leon** to review and ratify bids received 12/04/2025 for "Airport East Utility Extension" – project no. 616-12603.

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

6. Review and ratify bids received 11/20/2025 for "Al-Ida Street Improvements" – project no. 420-12604.

Mitchell D. Roniger, explained the item and recommends the award to the low bidder Arbour Construction, LLC in the amount of \$ 398,687.00

There was a motion by **Councilman Wells** and second by **Councilman DiVittorio** to review and ratify bids received 11/20/2025 for "Al-Ida Street Improvements" – project no. 420-12604.

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

7. A resolution 1) supporting the submission of a \$12,000 grant application to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; and 2) supporting a cash match of \$12,000 from the Hammond Police Department.

Charles Borchers IV, explained the grant.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** 1) supporting the submission of a \$12,000 grant application to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to purchase new and replacement body armor for Hammond police officers; and 2) supporting a cash match of \$12,000 from the Hammond Police Department.

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

8. A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the City of Hammond, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 15, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

Charles Borchers IV, explained the item.

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** approved a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the City of Hammond, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 15, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

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

9. A Resolution to authorize the Purchase of 6 Dodge Durango's from Premier Dodge for a total of \$ 268,597 .68 State Contract # 4400023795.

Charles Borchers, explained the item.

Jaqualine Taylor, Hammond, LA, asked if the officers take the cars home.

There was a motion by **Councilman Leon** and second by **Councilwoman Gonzales** to authorize the Purchase of 6 Dodge Durango's from Premier Dodge for a total of \$ 268,597 .68 State Contract # 4400023795

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

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Gonzales** and second by **Councilman Andrews** to amend the agenda to go back and consider final adoption item one under old business which was had been tabled. An ordinance to approve a rezoning request by Sherri Brown Jackson to Rezone 806 Mooney Ave from RS-3 to RM-2 in District 3 for the construction of a duplex.

VOTE: Councilman Andrews (Y), Councilman Wells (Y) Councilman DiVittorio (Y) Councilwoman Gonzales (Y), Councilman Leon (Y), Motion approved 5-0 to amend the agenda and reconsider

There was a motion by **Councilman Andrews** and second by **Councilman Wells** to adopt an ordinance to approve a rezoning request by Sherri Brown Jackson to Rezone 806 Mooney Ave from RS-3 to RM-2 in District 3 for the construction of a duplex. The Planning and Zoning Commission, hearing no opposition, recommends adopting (3-0).

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

IX. REPORTS:

Mayor: Mayor out of town at a convention, He sent a message that the Blue Angels will be at the 2027 airshow. Miniature train will be running on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Zemurray Park

Council:

Councilman Wells, asked about Christmas lights in Mooney Park and to enjoy the holiday's

He also invited Mr Williams to come up to discuss his concerns about accidents on the corner near his home. He asked if a stop sign could be placed on the corner.

Natalie Edwards, expressed the same concern and would like a stop sign to be placed at the location.

Councilman Andrews, enjoy your family and holiday.

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
TRANSACTION AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD

December 9, 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.