



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
March 12, 2019
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President, Carlee Gonzales called the Public Meeting to order @ 5:30pm

II. ROLL CALL: Kip Andrews (P), Carlee White Gonzales (P), Devon Wells (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Steven Leon (P).

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Introduction of an Ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Marcella M. Crier (applicant) to allow for a group care facility consisting of no more than 8 individuals at Lot 1 Blk 3 Sherry Drive Ext. of College Town Subdivision located at 1208 W. University Ave.; Zoned RM-2 (Z-2019-01-00055) Recommend approval. Tracie Schillace, presented this item and informed the council that they are requesting adoption of this Ordinance for Expanded Conditional Use to allow a group care facility at an existing residential home.

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked if a group residential home allowed under RM-2?

Councilman Devon Wells enters the meeting @ 5:31pm

Tracie Schillace, responded it's not allowed in this zoning which is why they requested an Expanded Conditional Use and the Planning Commission recommended approval based on a reasonable accommodation under the Federal Fair Housing laws.

There were no Public Comments



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
March 12, 2019
5:30pm at Conclusion of Public Hearing**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Regular Session was called to order by Council President, Carlee Gonzales @ 5:35pm**
- II. ROLL CALL:** Kip Andrews (P), Carlee White Gonzales (P), Devon Wells (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Steven Leon (P)
- III. PRAYER: Councilman Kip Andrews**
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All veterans and active military, please render the proper salute. Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales**

V. REPORTS:

1. Council: NONE

2. Mayor: Swimming pool is halfway finished

A Regional Planning meeting for a possible University Ave extension to the Airport was held today.

3. Recognition of New Businesses: NONE

VI. Minutes of February 26, 2019: There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to approve the minutes of February 26, 2019.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Devon Wells to amend the agenda to approve Budget Change Form 19-08 transferring \$70,000 from “Drainage Improvement FY2019” (Project# 420-11908) to “Canal Improvements FY2019” (Project# 420-11910).”

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0 to amend the agenda

1. Approval of Budget Change Form 19-08 transferring \$70,000 from “Drainage Improvement FY2019” (Project# 420-11908) to “Canal Improvements FY2019” (Project# 420-11910).” (Chuck Spangler)

Chuck Spangler, informed the council that bids were taken on Friday and it came in \$65, 000 over budget. The reason for the budget overage is that JW Davis Pedestrian Bridge is about completely caved in which caused the increase in the price. He recommends to move forward immediately, because this can be a huge impact. The second part of the project is the Hazel Street Canal from Morris Street South.

There was a motion by Councilman Steven Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to approve Budget Change Form 19-08 transferring \$70,000 from “Drainage Improvement FY2019” (Project# 420-11908) to “Canal Improvements FY2019” (Project# 420-11910).”

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

2. A resolution to approve Change Order No. 1 for “City of Hammond Park Restrooms” (project #11808) for a decrease of \$55,989 to the contract amount and the addition of 71 days to the contract period.

Pierre Theriot, informed the council that this is a change order to increase the contract time by 71 days. This would be 31 days for weather, and 40 days delay with getting the permit. This also involves a credit by deleting all the work at Mooney Park in the amount of \$55, 989.00.

There was a motion by Councilman Steven Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to approve Change Order No. 1 for “City of Hammond Park Restrooms” (project #11808) for a decrease of \$55,989 to the contract amount and the addition of 71 days to the contract period.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

3. A resolution to transfer \$55,989 from Hammond Park Restrooms (Project #11808) to a new project for Mooney Park Improvements. Councilman Wells, stated that he is working with the administration and architects on the remodeling of Mooney Park.

Lacy Landrum, stated this is to remove the money from the other project that was dedicated to Mooney but, place it in a special project to stay with Mooney Park Improvements.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Devon Wells to transfer \$55,989 from Hammond Park Restrooms (Project #11808) to a new project for Mooney Park Improvements.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

4. Appeal by Spencer Rossie of the decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission denying his application for relocation of the properties at 207 West Morris Avenue and 211 West Morris Avenue.

Councilwoman Gonzales, stated that Mr. Rossie requested this item be TABLED

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Steven Leon to Table Appeal by Spencer Rossie of the decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission denying his application for relocation of the properties at 207 West Morris Avenue and 211 West Morris Avenue.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
5-0 Matter Tabled

5. A resolution to approve Hammond- Harley Davidson to obtain a waiver of the Open Container law to serve free beer on premise at its annual Bike Night on March 21, 2019 from 6pm to 9pm at 1530 SW Railroad Ave., Hammond, LA. 70403. Jadan Deshotels, Informed the council that she is requesting a waiver of the Open Container law since beer will be served outside. An outside vendor has been hired to handle beer sales and everyone will have a wristband.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Sam DiVittorio to approve Hammond- Harley Davidson to obtain a waiver of the Open Container law to serve free beer on premise at its annual Bike Night on March 21, 2019 from 6pm to 9pm at 1530 SW Railroad Ave., Hammond, LA. 70403.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

6. A resolution to ratify and award bids for "Canal Improvements [FY 2019]". Chuck Spangler, informed the Council that this is for the base bid only and the lowest bid is Beverly Industries, LLC in the amount of \$372,765.00.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Sam DiVittorio to ratify and award bids for "Canal Improvements [FY 2019] to Beverly Industries in the amount of \$372,765.00.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

7. A resolution to approve the appointment Edwin Bergeron as the Police Chief with an annual salary of \$81,227 (Pay Grade 242, Step 14). Mayor Panepinto, informed the council that Mr. Bergeron has been with the Hammond Police Department for 19yrs. and has worked in nearly every department of the City Police and has worked with other agencies. He stated Mr. Bergeron has the experience for the Job and he requests approval of the appointment.

Public Comments:

Joseph Dominick: Hammond, La.

He supports the appointment and he has known and worked with Edwin Bergeron
Edwin understands the youth in the area and he is familiar with the community & kids

Arden Wells: Ponchatoula, La.

Stated the Mayor has not been fair with the council and he just named one applicant
The appointee is tainted because he has been with Hammond Police Dept., for 19yrs., and he is only a Sergeant
He was sued in a suicide case
There a video that shows Bergeron pounding someone
Bergeron has (3) sons working for the Hammond Police Department
Edwin Bergeron was in business with the Mayor

Jennifer Payne: Hammond, La.

Stated she has been with the City for 18yrs,
Edwin would be a different choice for Chief and the department supports Bergeron
The reason why some have not been promoted because Supervisors have been with City for
a long time and there is no room for promotion
Anybody can be accused of anything and it does not mean it's true
Hopes the council considers that Police Officers have to work for Edwin and the Council
should support the Mayor's choice

Oscar Dantzer, Jr.: Hammond, La.

Stated he is for a better government
The application process was not fair and the Mayor had already handpicked a candidate
Would like to see this item tabled so the people can vote to make the police chief an elected
position
He wants to move the City of Hammond to a better future

Derron Johnson: Hammond, La.

Stated he has been a Hammond Police Officer for 12 years
Edwin is a very dedicated person and is in support of his appointment
Edwin will boost morale

Kristen Monistere: Hammond, La.

Stated this appointment will set wrong message to people who would want to send kids here
The video is concerning and you should not beat a man
The Council should not appoint Bergeron because he is not a good fit

Cody Morse: Hammond, La.

Stated he has been with Hammond Police Department for 9years
Edwin is a great leader and great worker
Edwin has been cleared of incident on the video
He support the appointment

Xavier Ramirez: Robert, La.

Stated he has been in the department for 2 years
Learned a lot from Bergeron
He has great leadership qualities
He is in support of Bergeron

Anthony Ranatza: Hammond, La.

Stated he is a resident of Hammond
Crime is of importance to the City
The candidate is qualified and trusted
Asked the audience if in support of Edwin to raise their hands
Asked the Council to move City forward by making the appointment

Ryan Bergeron, Hammond, La.

Stated he is a step son of Edwin Bergeron
He provided a future for his family
Bergeron could have left the Hammond police department multiple times but, he turned
down positions to stay in Hammond because he loves this place
Edwin does not show favoritism

Javon Spears: Hammond, La.

Stated he has worked under Bergeron for several years before he left to work with State
Police
Bergeron could talk to whole families
He supports Bergeron

Thad Goutier, Hammond, La.

Hammond Police Department Officer
Stated Edwin has done great work in street crimes
Worked with other agencies with great success
There is no nepotism
Video was investigated by FBI and he was cleared

Ronald Valentine, Hammond, La.
Started he is a former Counselor & Pastor
He was harassed by Hammond Police Department Several years ago
He is disturbed by the video and the video is real and this man should not have been beaten

Janice Carter Beard: Hammond, La.
Stated Bergeron should not be appointed
Responsible for drug dealers in her neighborhood
There is no diversity on SWAT Team that Bergeron was in charge
Bergeron should not be appointed
He's not the right type of person

Althena Thompson: Tickfaw, La.
Stated you can't speculate from what is on video
She would trust Bergeron with her children
Bergeron loves his family and his community
He's the best candidate for Police Chief

Corey Hammons: Hammond, La.
Hammond Police Department
Stated he has respect for Bergeron and his character
He has not seen him show aggression

Lt. Wayne Scivicque: Hammond, La.
Stated he has worked 27 years with the Hammond Police Department
He is Bergeron's supervisor. He had had no issues or problems with Bergeron
In support of Bergeron

PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSED

Councilman Devon Wells stated everyone has an opinion of the video. He knows Sgt., Bergeron from dealing with him in certain things. He informed all the Officers that are in attendance tonight supporting Bergeron that he wants to see them all in the communities talking to the community. He stated he's in support of Edwin Bergeron

Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales, stated she looked into the Garza suit carefully and the suicide note. Edwin Bergeron is not named in the note and he was cleared in the litigation. She stated she takes the allegations seriously and she has carefully reviewed the suit.

There was a motion by Councilman Devon Wells and second by Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales to approve the appointment Edwin Bergeron as the Police Chief with an annual salary of \$81,227 (Pay Grade 242, Step 14).

Vote: Kip Andrews (N), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 4-1

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:

1. Final adoption of an Ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Marcella M. Crier (applicant) to allow for a group care facility consisting of no more than 8 individuals at Lot 1 Blk 3 Sherry Drive Ext of College Town Subdivision located at 1208 W. University Ave.; Zoned RM-2 (Z-2019-01-00055) Recommend approval.

There was a motion by Councilman Steven Leon and second by Councilman Devon Wells to adopt an Ordinance for an Expanded Conditional Use request by Marcella M. Crier (applicant) to allow for a group care facility consisting of no more than 8 individuals at Lot 1 Blk 3 Sherry Drive Ext of College Town Subdivision located at 1208 W. University Ave.; Zoned RM-2 (Z-2019-01-00055)

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Introduction of an Ordinance for a rezoning request by Plantation Management Company LLC to rezone Blk 10 of the Barber Addition located at 800 S. Oak St. in accordance with survey by R. James Tatum dated 1/22/1998 from RM-2 to C-N (Z-2019-02-00058) recommend approval by Zoning Commission. Tracie Schillace, informed the council that she is requesting to present this at Public Hearing on March 26, 2019. This business is being purchased by another business and the zoning doesn't meet the existing use.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to introduce an Ordinance for a rezoning request by Plantation Management Company LLC to rezone Blk 10 of the Barber Addition located at 800 S. Oak St. in accordance with survey by R. James Tatum dated 1/22/1998 from RM-2 to C-N (Z-2019-02-00058) recommend approval by Zoning Commission.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, March 26, 2019

2. Introduction of an Ordinance to adopt and establish a Tax on all the taxable property within the Corporate limits of Hammond for the Year 2019.

Public Works:	2.00 Mills
General Fund:	9.04 Mills
Police & Fire:	10.00 Mills
Total	21.04 Mills

Jinnie Wilson, presented this item stated she's asking for an Introduction of an Ordinance to adopt and establish a tax and by law the council has to adopt each year.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to introduce an ordinance **to adopt and establish a Tax on all the taxable property within the Corporate limits of Hammond for the Year 2019.**

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steven Leon (Y)
Motion Approved 5-0

X. ADJOURN: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Sam DiVittorio to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

CERTIFICATION OF CLERK

ITONIA BANKS, CLERK OF COUNCIL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECITATION OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD **March 12, 2019** BEING **6 PAGES** IN LENGTH

**TONIA BANKS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK**

**PRESIDENT JOHNNY BLOUNT
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL**