

Hammond City Council Members

Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales – President
Councilman Sam DiVittorio- Vice President
Councilman Devon Wells
Councilman Kip Andrews
Councilman Steve Leon

City Council Clerk

Tonia Banks



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
September 10, 2019
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President, Carlee White Gonzales called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30pm

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
September 10, 2019
6:00pm or at Conclusion of Public Hearing**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President, Carlee White Gonzales called Regular Session to order at 6:00pm

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

Councilman Kip Andrews: On September 28, 2019 at the Hammond Recreational Center from 9am to 12pm he will be hosting a Teen Youth Summit on Sex Trafficking, Bullying, & Peer Pressure. The age group he's looking for is Jr. High & High School.

Councilman Wells: Informed he had a guest Mr. Butch (Jonathan Brashere) who addressed the Council

Jonathan Brashere: 309 Reed Street, Hammond, LA: Stated that someone placed cleanout pipes on his property and he did not order the pipes and would like to know who ordered the clean out pipes to be placed on his property.

Guy Palermo (City Sewer and Water Dept) - stated he does not know about it

Robert Morgan- (City Streets Dept) stated he does not know about it

Chuck Spangler (City Engineer) - stated is should be on the City Right of Way

Councilman Devon Wells: the sub-contractor placed pipes on his property and someone from the City needs to check behind the contractors.

Mayor: stated he will check with the contractors

Jonathan Brashere: he also stated he would like to bring the attention of a bulkhead next to Canal and the Canal has washed the bulkhead out and the address is 309 Reed.

Mayor: stated the City will check on it

Councilman Devon Wells: informed Mr. Jonathan that Chuck Spangler came to look at the bulkhead and will start working on it.

Chuck Spangler: stated he is looking into it for a solution

Councilman Sam DiVittorio: asked for update on Timberlane water testing

Chuck Spangler: stated he will check on it

Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales: asked about Sales Tax numbers

Mayor: stated he is looking to build the City's Reserve and General Fund Balance

Lacy Landrum: stated the City closed its books from last year and turned over to the auditors and once audit is complete and it will be delivered to the Council at the end of November and to the legislative auditor end of December.

Councilman Sam DiVittorio: asked about zoning in front of Villa West

Tracie Schillace: stated she is working on getting legal descriptions and surveys and property owner signatures, basically doing title checks then it will be placed on the Zoning Commission agenda then it comes to the Council probably in Mid-November.

2. Mayor: Introduced Sandy Summers with Girl Scout Troop 31018:

A. Sandy A. Summers-Girl Scout Troop (31018): stated she's part of the Leadership Team for the Girl Troop 31018 which is a multi-level Troop with Girls from K to 10 grade. The young ladies that are present are our Girl Scout Juniors and they have completed their Bronze Award. Their project "Don't Pollute the Boot"- they completed 150 Service hours.

Mayor Panepinto, Presented the Scouts with their Bronze Award

Kylie Jarreau

Brooklynn Warner

Regina Adu

Macie Summers

Councilwoman Gonzales: congratulated the young ladies and thanked the Troop

Mayor, Panepinto: Hammond is hosting Destination Downtown at the Columbia Theatre beginning tomorrow September 11, 2019 thru Friday, September 13, 2019 – there is expected to be over 240 participants this is the largest event this year and this is great for downtown & he thanked everyone that's participating.

3. Recognition of New Businesses: Stanley Ledet- Real Talk Comedy Club 1109 Audubon Drive: Informed the board that they had their first motivational speaking and comedy at the Alternative School. He stated this is to assist and support the youth and to invest in their future.

Councilman Devon Wells, stated that 29 kids were kicked out of Hammond High for fighting and he has reached out to Mr. Ledet on how to help these kids and whatever he could do out of District #3 to help just let him know.

Sal Nicolosi- 3607 Hwy., 190 West Hammond- Congratulated City of Hammond for Hot August Night. Wayne Toups rocked Hammond and the Council has Hammond in their hearts.

VI. Minutes of August 27, 2019: There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Steve Leon to approve the minutes of August 27, 2019 Minutes.

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

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to amend Resolution No 19-0723-1 to show the corrected date of President's Day as Monday, February 17, 2020. Human Resource Director, Loretta Severan stated this is to correct a date error in the prior resolution.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Sam DiVittorio to amend Resolution No. 19-0723-1 to show corrected date of President's Day as Monday, February 17, 2020.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to reappoint Bobby Carter to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a five-year term from June 1, 2019 –May 31, 2024. Mayor Panepinto, stated Mrs. Carter is a local resident and she was with City Court System and retired and done a great job and recommends reappointment.

Councilwoman Gonzales: asked what does Housing Authority do?

Mayor: stated they handles section 8 housing & Vouchers for housing

Councilman Kip Andrews: asked how many people are on the board?

Lacy Landrum: stated she thinks it is 5, she will provide information to the Council

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Devon Wells to reappoint Bobby Carter to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a five-year term from June 1, 2019 –May 31, 2024.

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

2. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Rail Technical Services, LLC for RR Track, Bridges and Traffic Signal and the estimated yearly cost is \$30,000. Jana Thurman, stated the contract is ending this month and the City only received one responsive bid.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Rail Technical Services, LLC for RR Track, Bridges and Traffic Signal and the estimated yearly cost of \$30,000.

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

3. Appeal by Melanie Ricketts of a decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission for Cate Square park new construction for restrooms that was approved on August 21, 2019. Melanie Ricketts, local historian resides in District 4 asked the Council to reverse the decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission because it's not consistent with Cate Square Park. She stated citizens should be able to review plans for the park structure and this would interfere with the Gazebo and the nearby live oak trees. The decision should be based on what's best for the park not for convenience. Citizens should have a say and residents surrounding the park should be made aware and have input. This was included in last year budget but there has been no drawings or rendering included and it did not have to go before Planning & Zoning no one knew about it. She stated the bid came over budget & had to be redesigned. She is asking the Council to reverse the decision because it's not aligned with the Historic purpose of the park. This project should be vetted by the public.

Councilman Sam DiVittorio: asked if there is a design on the project

Lacy Landrum: stated the design was sent by Link on the design

Councilman Sam DiVittorio: asked how much was budgeted for the project

Lacy Landrum: stated \$200,000.00 was budgeted, but this included Martin Luther King Park also

Mayor: stated you could only see the bathroom from 113 Oak Street - you can't see it from other views. This is the only park that does not have bathrooms and it would be nice to have a restroom in the park. The restrooms will be opened at dawn and closed at dusk.

Lacy Landrum: provided the timeline for the project- funds were allocated in the 2017-2018 budget for Zemurray, Clark, Jackson, and Mooney parks. Mooney Park was pulled out at the request of Councilman Wells and placed in a special project. The funding for Cate Square & Martin Luther King pavilion was allocated in the fiscal year 2018-2019 year budget in the amount of \$200,000 with the two combined together and for Cate Square Park the original concept was 3 restrooms and an Archway the project was scaled down to only 2 restrooms for single use and this is based on best practices that's followed throughout the nation. The construction was taken into consideration by the architects and the placement - this is also the best location because it places it outside the of the drip line of the live oaks. The first bid came back over budget on March 14, 2019 with 2 bidders. On May 17, the Council was informed the bids came in over budget and on the May 28, 2019 Council Meeting – the Council rejected all bids due to being over budgeted. The plans were revised to 2 restrooms and bids are due September 19, 2019. It will come to the Council for approval. The park has had 44 reservations so far this year for birthdays, weddings, movies, picnics, memorial events etc. many emails of support have been received. Restrooms are important and must be safe and clean – the Council should look to what is best for the community and 2 restrooms should be sufficient.

Councilman Sam DiVittorio: asked if were residents around the park were informed

Lacy Landrum: stated she could not say that

Sal Nicolosi, 3607 Hwy., 190 West: stated he is in favor of bathrooms but is concerned that people not from here will use these bathrooms and the City will have liability. The City has homeless people so how will the City protect themselves.

John Darden, 211 West Charles: stated he lives across from the park and understands about the restrooms but, restrooms will attract a criminal element and thinks the money could be better spent on a dog run and speed bumps. He stated citizens don't get notified before things are approved.

Rueban Evans, 600 Natchez Street, Hammond: stated it is a good idea for restrooms in public parks

Jeff Dameron, 408 W. Robert Street, Hammond; stated he lives down the street from the park and locals were not aware of the restrooms in the park and he's not in favor. He stated there is a lot of traffic in the area and 2 restrooms will not make a lot of difference. This park was not designed for big events and this is needed for larger parks- funds can be used in better ways to upgrade infrastructure. Public input is needed and he is not in agreement.

Frank DiVittorio, 1 Norbrook Circle; stated 2 restrooms will not help problem- the City should get more bids for projects.

Ronald Dangerfield, 3140 Dangerfield Drive, stated every park should have public restrooms and people care about their property values and money and Hammond is a pretty good City. There is a lot of work that needs to be done and everyone needs their fair share. The Police will do their job by keeping the undesirables away.

Melanie Ricketts: stated she is concerned about public notice and public input and there has not been restrooms since Truman was President. She has talked to a lot of people who use the park and they are concerned about impact on the gazebo in the park. The people should be asked what they would want.

Lacy Landrum: stated the restrooms have been thoughtfully designed and the City should move forward with progress. The City is not here to exclude people from the park - we want people to come to the parks. Restrooms help people to enjoy parks

There was a motion by Council Sam DiVittorio and second by Councilman Devon Wells to Table the Appeal by Melanie Ricketts of a decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission for Cate Square park new construction for restrooms that was approved on August 21, 2019.

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (N), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (N)
Motion Approved to TABLE 3-2

4. A resolution to accept the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant as required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and specified in the City of Hammond discharge permit. Guy Palermo, informed the Council that this is the annual end of the year report - it summarizes the data from all the lab results.

There was a motion by Councilman Sam DiVittorio and second by Councilman Devon Wells to accept the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for the South Wastewater Treatment Plant as required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and specified in the City of Hammond discharge permit.

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

5. A resolution 1) accepting a Litter Cleanup Supplies Affiliate Grant valued at \$633.98; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

Charles W. Borchers IV, stated this is for gloves, T-shirts and safety vests.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Steve Leon 1) accepting a Litter Cleanup Supplies Affiliate Grant valued at \$633.98; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.

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

6. A resolution 1) supporting the submission of a \$15,000 KaBOOM! Let's Play Community Construction grant application for a new playground in Cate Square Park; and 2) supporting a cash match of at least \$24,000. Charles W. Borchers IV, stated this is just an application- there are funds in grants match funds to cover it.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews 1) supporting the submission of a \$15,000 KaBOOM! Let's Play Community Construction grant application for a new playground in Cate Square Park; and 2) supporting a cash match of at least \$24,000.

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

7. A resolution to approve change order No. 1 (Final) on "Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements- C.M. Fagan Drive "(Project No. 420-11908) for a decrease of \$6,180.20. Kylan Douglas, this is for decrease for work on the sidewalk on Fagan Drive.

Councilwoman Gonzales: asked what happens to the excess funds?

Lacy Landrum: stated the excess funds go back to the surplus funds in the capital projects account to be appropriated

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Sam DiVittorio

Vote: Kip Andrews (Y), Carlee White Gonzales (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y)

8. A resolution to accept work as substantially complete on "Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements- C.M. Fagan Drive" (Project No. 420-11908) commencing 45 day lien period and withholding 10% retainage. Kylan Douglas, stated this is the same project with the 45 day lien period.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Devon Wells to accept work as substantially complete on "Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements- C.M. Fagan Drive" (Project No. 420-11908) commencing 45 day lien period and withholding 10% retainage.

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

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: NONE

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

X. ADJOURN: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to adjourn the meeting. Motion Approved 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLERK
I TONIA 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 September 10, 2019
BEING 6 PAGES IN LENGTH**

**TONIA BANKS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK**

**PRESIDENT, CARLEE GONZALES
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL**

Persons needing accommodations or assistance should contact City Council Clerk Tonia Banks at 985-277-5610. Request should be made at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.