

**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 24, 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 24, 2019  
6:00pm or at Conclusion of Public Hearing**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Council President, Carlee White Gonzales called Regular session was called to order at 5:31pm.

**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 Andrews**, informed everyone that on September 28, 2019 he will be hosting an event at the Hammond Recreational Center. The Youth Summit will be from 9am to 12 pm on Human Sex Trafficking, & Bullying, the ages are from 12 to 21 years old and everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Rebekah Bosarge**: Stated there is a lack of concern shown to the kids who attend Hammond Westside by Police in carpool & school zone enforcement. Ms. Bosarge stated she sent Hammond Police Department a private message on Facebook messenger stating her concerns and the only reply she received was an automated thank you that we will get back to you. She also stated she sent an email to the Mayor and received no response but, she decided to contact City Council and she received a reply. On today she's hoping something could be done to enforce the officers directing traffic to show up and perform their job.

**Carol Davis: 910 East Hanson Ave., Hammond LA 70403: Emmanuel Seventh Day Adventist Preschool & School located at 702 N. Cherry Street.** Ms. Davis stated she has contacted by phone and text messages the City concerning an officer on patrol during Monday – Thursday from the hours of 7:15am to 8:15am & 2:40pm-3:15pm/ Friday 7:15 to 8:15am to 1:45pm to 2:15pm. There are a lot of vehicles not adhering to school zone rules and there needs to be a police in the area. Ms. Davis also asked about flashing lights making people aware of school zone.

**Police Chief, Edwin Bergeron**: stated he has received complaints and forwarded them to the traffic division and in school zones there has been several citations issued. The traffic division has been recreated to handle school zone hours.

**Mayor**: private schools generally do not get Hammond Police Department enforcement - they would need to pay for patrol.

**Police Chief, Edwin Bergeron**: officers usually get there earlier than assigned times. They do not direct traffic until assigned times.

**Councilman Kip Andrews**: thanked the SLU students who painted the splash pad in MLK Park.

**2. Mayor**: Destination Downtown was successful. Hammond is Top 10 in the country nationally. Downtown Hammond had the largest event they ever had and Mayor Panepinto thanked the business owners.

**VI. Minutes of September 10, 2019: There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Steven Leon to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019.**

**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. 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.** Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales, stated there has been great dialogue & arguments for and against. The question is did the Historic District Commission act outside of its authority. She is in favor of having restrooms in Cate Square Park and she does not think appeal should be granted.

**Louise Bostic, 112 Elm Drive**: stated she drives by Cate Street often this is the few places where children can run & play. She stated she also passes Orange Street Park and the Cinder block structure on Illinois now obstructs the green space and be children cannot be watched from the parking area. Restrooms are not needed in Cate Street Park. Toilets structures are more likely to attract transients and provide cover for questionable or violent offenders. There are three critical issues outstanding (1) reduction of green space (2) change from quiet space to noise from Children's and (3) teens drawn from outside this primarily adult neighborhood. The

imposing playground structure she opposes. Downtown Park has improved but, maintained its charm and this area belongs to all of Hammond. She opposed the restrooms and thinks the City should spend the grant money somewhere else.

**Melanie Ricketts, 607 Joe Farris Drive:** Council could modify the decision and there was a lack of public input on this project. Council should overturn the Historic District decision

**Councilman Devon Wells;** asked about public comments she received.

**Melanie Ricketts:** people have concerns over locations of restrooms. They feel safe at Cate Street Park and they come to Cate Square because it's safe & open.

**Mayor:** it is a 2 headed sword some are in favor and some are against

**Lacy Landrum:** there are people in favor of having restrooms in Cate Square.

**Melanie Ricketts:** people are concerned over the design and location of the restrooms.

**John Exnicious, 111 W. Magnolia:** lives across from Cate Square Park and owns property across from Clark Park. He stated there should not be fear mongers over crime because of a restroom. Kids should have a place to go to the bathroom - there are panhandlers around the area. Bathrooms could be a place for drug trafficking & sex – he is concerned about what it looks like & visibility. Sewerage & drainage are problems and this is where money should be spent. He stated he doesn't trust government to monitor a bathroom when money is tight.

**Mayor:** thanked Mr. Exnicious for investment in the City and appreciated his concern

**Jennie Garcia:** Historic District business is posted and is public. She stated she sees both sides of the issues and hopes that there could be a creative solution and thinks public restrooms are needed.

**Louise Bostic:** resents the attack on Melanie Ricketts when she made her presentation.

**Councilman Steve Leon:** this is about whether the Historic District did their job

**Councilman Sam DiVittorio:** thanked Melanie Ricketts for bringing attention to light and citizens who have come forward to express their opinion.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Leon to deny 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 (Y), Devon Wells (Y), Sam DiVittorio (Y), Steve Leon (Y)  
Motion Approved to deny the appeal 5-0

## **B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. A resolution to approve Budget Transfer Form 20-01 that (1) transfers \$84,000 from surplus/available funds (42015800-560330), (2) combines these funds with those from two projects, MLK Restrooms (Project #11913) and Cate Square Restrooms (Project #11911), and (3) renames the project "MLK/Cate Park Improvements" (Project #11911) for a total of \$284,000.** Councilwoman Gonzales stated she wants to make a motion to amend. She stated she wants funds from the Cate Square project to go to the MLK Project. .

**Lacy Landrum** Stated the Council could transfer money from Cate Square restroom project into the Martin Luther King restroom project. So, this will transfer funds from project 119111 into 11913.

**Attorney Coudrain,** asked do we know how much is in each project

**Lacy Landrum:** stated in Cate Square \$80,000 and in MLK \$120,000

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to AMEND the resolution to Transfer \$80,000 from Cate Square restroom project# 119111 into Martin Luther King park restroom project 119113.**

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

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to approve the amended resolution to transfer \$80,000 from Cate Square restroom project# 119111 into Martin Luther King Park restroom project 119113.**

**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 ratify bids for “Hammond Park Improvements Cate Square & MLK Park” and award the contract for the based bid and additive alternate #1 to JAC Construction of South Louisiana, LLC for \$249,500.** Pierre Theriot, 208 Cate Street, Hammond Louisiana: stated they received 5 bids last Thursday. The Low bidder is JAC Construction of South Louisiana, LLC. The base bid for Martin Luther King is \$150, 900 and Additive Alternate #1 for the Cate Square portion is \$98,600.

**There was a motion by Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to accept the base bid of \$150,900 for Martin Luther King and reject the Additive Alternate #1 for Cate Square.**

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

**3. A resolution to reappoint Bill Travis to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a four-year term from June 15, 2019 to June 14, 2023.** Mayor Panepinto, stated Mr. Travis has been with Planning & Zoning since 2007 and is an asset to the board.

**Councilman Devon Wells:** asked how the board members are appointed from Historic District & Planning & Zoning. He stated he would like to see individuals from each district being a part of these boards.

**Attorney, Andre Coudrain:** Stated the Mayor appoints & Council votes yes or no - this is under state statute but, he will research & report to the Council.

**There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales to reappoint Bill Travis to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a four-year term from June 15, 2019 to June 14, 2023.**

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

**4. A resolution transferring \$25,000 from the Grant Match Fund to "Air Traffic Control Tower Build-out" (Project 31706) to proceed with the project.** Charles W. Borchers IV stated bids were open on September 21, 2019 and the lowest responsive bidder is over what is currently budgeted in the project. Asking to transfer the \$25,000 from the grant match funds.

**There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to approve A resolution transferring \$25,000 from the Grant Match Fund to "Air Traffic Control Tower Build-out" (Project 31706) to proceed with the project.**

**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) ratifying bids received August 21, 2019 in response to "RFP 20-04—Air Traffic Control Tower Build-out" (Project 31706); 2) approving the award of a contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder pending approval by grantors; and 3) authorizing the Mayor to enter into this contract following these grantors' approval.** Charles W. Borchers IV stated the base bid and Alternate No. 1 (Elevator) to the apparent lowest bidder Spartan Building Corporation in the amount of \$398,000.00

**There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilwoman Carlee Gonzales to approve A resolution 1) ratifying bids received August 21, 2019 in response to "RFP 20-04—Air Traffic Control Tower Build-out" (Project 31706); 2) approving the award of a contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder pending approval by grantors; and 3) authorizing the Mayor to enter into this contract following these grantors' approval.**

**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) accepting an Apache Foundation Tree Grant of 100 native trees for the City's annual Louisiana Arbor Day tree giveaway; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.** Charles W. Borchers IV stated this is accepting 100 free trees which our Keep Hammond Beautiful committee has Arbor Day to give trees to our citizens and Arbor Day is January 17, 2020.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Steve Leon 1) accepting an Apache Foundation Tree Grant of 100 native trees for the City's annual Louisiana Arbor Day tree giveaway; 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**

**7. A resolution supporting the submission of a \$2,500 Entergy Open Grants Program application for STEM programming within the Hammond Afterschool Program.** Charles W. Borchers IV, informed the Council the City was encouraged to submit the \$2,500 grant and the local office has been an advocate on behalf of the City.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to accept a resolution supporting the submission of a \$2,500 Entergy Open Grants Program application for STEM programming within the Hammond Afterschool Program.

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

**8. A resolution to accept "Zemuarry Park Pool Renovation" (Project 11717) as substantially complete and to begin the 45-day lien period.** Chris Bankston, stated he visited the site and finds the project is substantially complete.

**Councilman Devon Wells:** asked who visited the project to say it's completed

**Chris Bankston:** stated the Architects, engineers, Charles Borchers, Fire Marshall, CC Gainenne, Robert Morgan, & Guy Palermo.

**Councilman Devon Wells:** they did a good job on the pool and the council should go out & be sure projects are finished.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to accept "Zemuarry Park Pool Renovation" (Project 11717) as substantially complete and to begin the 45-day lien period.

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

**9. A resolution to approve Si Senior Taqueria to sell Hi/Low alcohol located at 1905 West Thomas St., Hammond, LA. 70403. The owner is 1905 Hospitality, LLC. Conditions are pending inspection from Sewer/Water, Health Department, and Building Inspection.** Lacy Landrum, stated this is the former Adobe restaurant and has new owners.

**Glen Alack;** was present representing the owner and stated they are changing the menu & there will be items with authentic Latin food and everything is fresh.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Sam DiVittorio to approve Si Senior Taqueria to sell Hi/Low alcohol located at 1905 West Thomas St., Hammond, LA. 70403. The owner is 1905 Hospitality, LLC. Conditions are pending inspection from Sewer/Water, Health Department, and Building Inspection.

**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 Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Steve Leon to adjourn the meeting. All member were in favor 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 24, 2019** BEING **6 PAGES** IN LENGTH

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**TONIA BANKS  
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK**

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**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.**