

**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  
October 22, 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  
October 22, 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 Gonzales**

**V. REPORTS:**

**1. Council:**

**Presentation-** Councilman Kip Andrews recognized Nolan Stewart Salon for contributions to the community and residing in District 1. He also recognized Audrey Baham for residing in District 1 for over 50 years and working in the community for over 40 years.

**Councilman Steve Leon** recognized and thanked the Hammond Police Department and Sheriff's Office - he was a victim of a car theft and it was solved.

**Councilman Devon Wells:** thanked Robert Morgan and the streets department for work on Spruce Street and thanked the Mayor for the bulkhead work on Reed Street. Councilman Wells also thanked Cyril Gaiennie for everything he has done and trying to do and thanked his team.

**Councilwoman Gonzales,** informed the Council that today will be Lauren Langlois' last day covering the City of Hammond Council Meetings for the Daily Star and recognized Haylee who will be taking her place.

**2. Mayor: thanked the City Employees for their work.**

**Mayor Panepinto,** announced that new businesses are coming to Hammond and thanked Stirling Properties and Bob and Jim Maurin for Hammond Square.

**VI. Minutes of October 08, 2019: There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Steve Leon to approve the minutes of October 08, 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: NONE**

**B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. A resolution authorizing the demolition of a property located at 701 E Robinson St., (100% damaged), located in Council District 1. The owner is Leo Jackson C/O Mellow Dee Knight P.O. Box 142 Hammond, Louisiana 70404.** Bobby Mitchell, informed the Council he recommends demolitions and spoke with the owners and they are aware of the demolition

**There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Kip Andrews for demolition of a property located at 701 E Robinson St., (100% damaged), located in Council District 1. The Owner is Leo Jackson C/O Mellow Dee Knight P.O. Box 142 Hammond, Louisiana 70404.**

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

**2. A resolution authorizing the demolition of a property located at 117 Lawrence Drive (93% damaged), located in Council District 4. The owner is Frances L.D. Lawrence, ETAL C/O Frances Lawrence 1307 Blackburn Road Hammond, Louisiana 70401. Bobby Mitchell, received correspondence from family attorney to remove item due to partial ownership.**

**Attorney Andre Coudrain, recommended to table this item due to a question of ownership**

**There was a motion by Councilman Sam DiVittorio and second by Councilman Kip Andrews to TABLE the demolition of a property located at 117 Lawrence Drive (93% damaged), located in Council District 4. The owner is Frances L.D. Lawrence, ETAL C/O Frances Lawrence 1307 Blackburn Road Hammond, Louisiana 70401.**

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

**3. A resolution authorizing the demolition of a property located at 2409 Center Ave., (96% damaged), located in Council District 4. The owner is Arthur Smith, Jr., EST, ATTN: Eddie Jackson P.O. Box 1823 Hammond, Louisiana 70404. Bobby Mitchell, recommends demolition for 2409 Center Ave.,**

**Owner Present- Eddie Jackson, P.O. Box 1823 Hammond, Louisiana- stated he wants to demolish it himself and thinks it will take 30days.**

**Bobby Mitchell, would like to recommend demolition with the option of the owner to repair and give 45 days.**

**Attorney Andre Coudrain, asked if this is an option to repair or option to demolish**

**Bobby Mitchell, stated it's the option to demolish**

**Councilman Devon Wells, could the 45 days start once he receive the permit and not start on tonight.**

**Bobby Mitchell, Mr. Jackson will have the opportunity to acquire the permit this week and Mr. Jackson wants 30 days and I'm offering an additional 15 days.**

**There was a motion by Councilman Sam DiVittorio and second by Councilman Kip Andrews authorizing the demolition of the property at 2409 Center Ave. , subject to allowing the owner to demolish within 30 days after receipt of a demolition permit, if he applies for a permit within 15 days**

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

**4. A resolution authorizing the demolition of a property located at 2413 Center Ave., (89% damaged), located in Council District 4. The owner is Arthur Smith, Jr., EST, ATTN: Eddie Jackson P.O. Box 1823 Hammond, Louisiana 70404. Bobby Mitchell, recommends demolish of 2413 Center Ave.,**

**Owner Present- Eddie Jackson, P.O. Box 1823 Hammond, Louisiana**

**There was a motion by Councilman Sam DiVittorio and second by Councilman Kip Andrews authorizing the demolition of the property at 2413 Center Ave. , subject to allowing the owner to demolish within 30 days after receipt of a demolition permit, if he applies for a permit within 15 days**

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

**Bobby Mitchell, gave update on previous demolitions**

**Councilman Devon Wells, on Mooney Ave., asked if there was a mobile home that was torn down - are the contractors required to move the slab?**

**Bobby Mitchell, stated that depends on the choice of demolition that's done by the City and in conjunction with the structure. The mobile home in question was placed on top of an existing slab as a temporary structure so it was not required to be moved. In cases where the City hire contractors to demolish a house on a slab then the City is asking everything to be remove. If the owner tears it down at their cost they can also leave the slab with the intentions to rebuild.**

**Councilman Devon Wells, if the contractor is demolishing a property are they required to remove everything?**

**Bobby Mitchell, if they are hired by the City to demolish**

**Steve Quinn, contractor for the City for demolitions and grass cutting. Stated his question is in regards to discussion of removal of debris on property. Mr. Quinn stated when he is asked to submit bids on these properties inclusive in his bids are the cost to remove asphalt - he stated in his opinion it may be a problem because several times the bids have been recalled and not given a reason. He wants clarification what the process is and the scope of work to be done for the removal of the houses. Mr. Quinn also stated he wants to know the bid process.**

**Bobby Mitchell, the process is to submit locations for demolition to the City Council and state requirement has to wait 30 days by state law. Then there is a notification to all licensed and insured contractors to submit bids to the city for those locations that had been approved by City Council to have torn down. In that bid process it's very clear on what the City wants in the demolition process. When the owner demolishes they are allowed to leave the slab. If the City demolishes the slab will be taken up.**

**Councilman Devon Wells**, asked about a property on 2011 Corbin Road. The City tore the house down and concrete was left and this is where a contractor completed the work.

**Bobby Mitchell**, this was prior to Mayor Panepinto's request to have everything removed.

**Mayor**, stated being consistent with what the City agreed to is what should be done.

**Councilwoman Gonzales**, stated if there is an extreme amount for removal of a slab; it should be brought before the Council for review.

**Councilman Steve Leon**, the purpose of demolishing these homes is to enhance the area and if debris is left it should be removed.

**Demetrius Carter, 41225 Dunson Road Ponchatoula**, owner of Adrian's Maintenance one of the contractors and been with the City since 2005. Asked for clear clarification and fair price when bids are placed. Stated he can't do the work for the same price he did in 2005 every house is different.

**Councilman DiVittorio**, is there a sheet that outlines pricing

**Councilman Kip Andrews**, would like a copy of the process and sheet for pricing emailed to him.

**Bobby Mitchell**, stated he will email

**5. Appeal by One Thirteen Hospitality, LLC of a decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission for an addition to the north façade of the building located at 113 North Oak Street application denied on September 18, 2019.** Jennifer Lee, representing 113 Hospitality LLC, owns and operates 113 restaurant. COA was applied and denied and requesting the denial to be reversed. There was a disagreement over application of design guidelines and work being done without a permit and a fine was imposed. The appeal is based on guidelines and thinks guidelines were met there were no specific reasons given in the meeting. Notice of guidelines were given but, those were met and the fine is not being appealed. Ms. Lee stated 113 seeks reversal of decision and issuance of the COA.

**Jennie Garcia, Director of Hammond Historic District**, this not meet the Historic District guidelines. Stated their guidelines are in black and white and anyone could read it. This seeks to circumvent guidelines and the owner is aware of the procedures and guidelines were not followed and the addition should be removed. The authority of the Hammond Historic District and City is in question.

**Howard Nicholas, 406 N. General Pershing**, Member of the Hammond Historic District, the Council approved UDC Guidelines and the HDC must apply the guidelines. The HDC works very hard to cooperate with owners and all members of HDC voted to deny the application.

There was a motion by Councilman Steve Leon and second by Councilman Devon Wells to **TABLE Appeal by One Thirteen Hospitality, LLC of a decision of the Hammond Historic District Commission for an addition to the north façade of the building located at 113 North Oak Street application denied on September 18, 2019.**

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

**Councilman Steve Leon**, asked that HDC and 113 owners try to find common ground to resolve this issue.

**6. A resolution 1) accepting a \$44,200 Traffic Safety Grant for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement; and 2) authorizing the Mayor or his designee to complete and sign related documents.** Charles W. Borchers, stated this is requesting the acceptance of a \$44,200 Traffic Safety Grant.

There was a motion by Councilman Sam DiVittorio and second by Councilman Steve Leon 1) accepting a \$44,200 Traffic Safety Grant for Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement; 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**

## **VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: NONE**

**IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND SET OF PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Introduction of an Ordinance regarding Dogs.** Councilman Sam DiVittorio, stated the current dog ordinance does not have any penalties and would like this to be revised.

There was a motion by Councilman Kip Andrews and second by Councilman Devon Wells to introduce an ordinance regarding dogs.

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

**Public Hearing & Final Adoption is set for November 12, 2019**

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