

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
City Attorney, Andre Coudrain



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA
May 26, 2020
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Gonzales, called Public Hearing to order at 5:30pm.

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. An ordinance declaring (1) 2003 F- 250 moveable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety. Jana Thurman, informed the Council that this is a vehicle that Parks and Grounds in no longer using and turned over for surplus and asking for Council approval to surplus and donate to the City of Roseland for law enforcement purposes.

There were no public comments

2. An ordinance declaring (1) Crown Victoria moveable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety. Jana Thurman, informed the Council that this is a 2009 Ford Crown Ford Victoria that the Hammond police department is being surplused and asking permission to donate to Tickfaw Police Department for law enforcement purposes

There were no public comments



**HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
312 EAST CHARLES STREET
HAMMOND, LOUISIANA**

May 26, 2020

6:00pm or at conclusion of Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Gonzales, called Regular Session to order at 5:32pm

II. ROLL CALL: Steve Leon (P), Kip Andrews (P), Carlee Gonzales (P), Sam DiVittorio (P), Devon Wells (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 Leon, would like to make mention of a house on University Ave., 1003 on the corner of Pecan and University - apparently there was a contractor there that cleared out a lot of stuff and stacked up debris and its obstructing the view from people coming out of General Jackson and turning onto Pecan. It seems to be an ongoing problem where the contractors are not removing debris after completing a project. There should be a process in place where the homeowner will be responsible for the debris.

Mayor, stated to make phone call to Streets Department so this could be addressed

Councilman Wells, asked to meet with Mayor and Lacy to review problems in his district.

2. Mayor:

Asked to be notified prior to Council meeting of any issues to they could be addressed or resolved.

Mayor Panepinto asked for prayers for the Baker Family in the loss of State Trooper George Baker.

Councilman Andrews, asked to keep everyone in prayer that was involved in this incident.

I. Minutes of May 12, 2020: There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to approve the minutes of May 12, 2020.

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

VII. RESOLUTIONS

A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to purchase one (1) fully equipped Police K-9 Tahoe from Dana Safety Supply in the amount of \$48,260.00 (RFP 20-16). Jana Thurman, stated this was the original bid that was presented at the May 12, 2020 Council meeting. Originally there were (6) to be purchased but the Mayor decided to move forward to purchase (1) essential vehicle that would be the K-9 Unit and asking for Council approval to proceed with the purchase.

Sgt. Quinn Bivona, with HPD for 21 yrs., and now currently the K-9 Supervisor- recently purchased a new dog but they do not have a vehicle for the dog. We're requesting a new vehicle - this is not a want this is a need to have this vehicle. A K-9 Unit has specialty equipment that's equipped with more equipment than a regular parole unit. It benefits the dog and the handler as well.

Lacy Landrum, stated this is millage money which must be used for police equipment.

Councilman DiVittorio, asked how often is the dog used?

Sgt. Bivona, stated the k-9 unit is used in every shift

Councilman DiVittorio, asked how much is the cost per dog?

Lacy Landrum, stated \$14,000

Councilman DiVittorio, asked if that includes insurance for the dog, and do we have any higher risk?

Lacy Landrum, stated no this was paid for by a grant with no match

Charles Borchers, stated when you receive a quote for a police K-9 you receive a quote for a dog and training. This is training for the dog and the handler.

Councilman DiVittorio, stated other jurisdictions do not have this many k-9 units

Mayor Panepinto stated the City of Hammond has more traffic than other jurisdictions.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilwoman Gonzales to approve purchase of one (1) fully equipped Police K-9 Tahoe from Dana Safety Supply in the amount of \$48,260.00 (RFP 20-16).

**VOTE: Steve Leon (Y), Kip Andrews (N), Carlee Gonzales (Y), Sam DiVittorio (N), Devon Wells (N).
Motion Failed 2-3**

2. A resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Rhorer Mutual Industries for Railroad Track Repairs in the amount of \$83,345.00 (RFP 20-17). Jana Thurman, stated Rhorer Mutual Industries was the only company that submitted proposals in the amount of \$83,345.00.

Robert Morgan, stated the biggest repair is the ridge at Ponchatoula Creek with some other issues. If repairs are not made to the track it will be shut down and will cost more in the future to repair it.

Mayor, stated the track serves the industrial park for the City of Hammond and is looking to assess a fee per car

Councilman DiVittorio, stated as of this time we never implemented any fees

Councilman Wells, stated it is a 21 years contract and 17 years since the grant and between 40 to 50 cars on the tracks per month. We need to come up with a solution and let businesses pay for maintenance.

Mayor, solution is to negotiate with these companies and agrees the companies should be involved.

Robert Morgan, stated once you are on Ponchatoula Creek is our responsibility

Mayor, stated there was a company that wanted to come in to sell Limestone that would have caused a lot more traffic - this is when we starting talking about the charging per car.

Councilman Leon, asked is there an agreement with companies for City to provide track?

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked has anyone spoke with other municipalities

Lacy Landrum, stated yes this is where we received the range that is charged by other municipalities

Brandon Thompson, Plant Manager, Graham Industries, stated there are 125 employees at site and looking to grow by 20%

Brad Gautreaux, Supply Chain Manager, Graham Industries, stated they need to have rail service for business

Councilman Wells, stated the City needs the company to help Hammond grow and would like to see more bids for work

Jana Thurman, stated she had to call to get someone to bid for this work and it's published in newspaper

Frank DiVittorio, stated he has heard issues of emergency where the Council is asked to approve now and the revenue will be fixed later and wants to be sure someone is held accountable.

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Lacy Landrum, stated it's a team effort. Council Members can submit ordinances and participate in budget issues.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Rhorer Mutual Industries for Railroad Track Repairs in the amount of \$83,345.00 (RFP 20-17).

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

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to appoint Natalie Messer to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a five-year term from June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2025.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to TABLE appoint Natalie Messer to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a five-year term from June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2025.

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

2. A resolution to appoint Elliott Sanders to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a five-year term from June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2025.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to TABLE appoint Elliott Sanders to the Hammond Housing Authority Board for a five-year term from June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2025

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

3. A resolution to appoint Roy Blackwood to the Hammond Historic District Commission to serve the remainder of a four-year term until December 31, 2021. Mayor Panepinto, stated Mr. Blackwood was a part of the committee when the mall was created and appreciated his past efforts and is looking forward to his assistance in the future.

Roy Blackwood, 410 North Hazel, Hammond La. stated he has been a resident over 42 years and Downtown attracted him to Hammond. He informed the Council that he founded and ran a Cultural Resource Management at the University to build 501C 3 Nonprofit Organization and has a passion for preservation.

Councilwoman Gonzales asked is this to fulfill Mr. Howard Nicolas Term?

Lacy Landrum stated yes- that is why it is not for a full 4 year term.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to appoint Roy Blackwood to the Hammond Historic District Commission to serve the remainder of a four-year term until December 31, 2021

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

4. A resolution obligating funds (\$250,000, as previously approved from the Grant Match Fund) to Land and Water Conservation Fund Project "Mooney Avenue Park Improvements." Charles Borchers IV, stated no additional funds as required by Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. This is in now in the second stage and this means that since the State agrees it could be recommended to Federal Government probably means that the funds will be granted.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman DiVittorio obligating funds (\$250,000, as previously approved from the Grant Match Fund) to Land and Water Conservation Fund Project "Mooney Avenue Park Improvements."

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

5. A resolution to purchase Model 300REOZJ Kohler Emergency Generator from RP Power in the amount of \$52,835.00 RFP 20-20 (Water & Sewer Department). Jana Thurman, stated the City received 6 proposals and RP Power is the lowest bidder - this would be an automatic switch Generator.

Councilman Gonzales, asked the location

Jana Thurman, stated this is Well #4 Hwy.190 East behind BJ Furniture

Councilwoman Gonzales, asked what will happen to the previous generator?

Jana Thurman, stated the City will sell it on GovDeals

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to purchase Model 300REOZJ Kohler Emergency Generator form RP Power in the amount of \$52,835.00 RFP 20-20 (Water & Sewer Department).

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

6. A resolution to ratify and award bids received 5/20/2020 for "Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements [FY2020" Project# 420-12010.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to TABLE this item.

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

VIII. FINAL ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE:

1. An ordinance declaring (1) 2003 F- 250 moveable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety.

There was a motion by Councilman Andrews and second by Councilman Leon to adopt an ordinance declaring (1) 2003 F- 250 moveable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety.

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

2. An ordinance declaring (1) 2009 Crown Victoria moveable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety.

There was a motion by Councilman Leon and second by Councilman Andrews to adopt an ordinance declaring (1) 2009 Crown Victoria moveable property as surplus and providing for a donation to benefit public safety.

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

IX. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE: NONE

X. ADJOURN: There was a motion by Councilwoman Gonzales and second by Councilman Andrews to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor to adjourn 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 May 26, 2020 BEING 6 PAGES IN LENGTH

**TONIA BANKS
HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL CLERK**

**PRESIDENT, CARLEE WHITE 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.