

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on February 9, 2015 in the Hammond City Council Chambers.

Council President Michael Opinker presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.
Invocation by Councilwoman Venecz.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Markovich, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Uylaki, Higgs, Emerson, Hinojosa, Opinker

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

READING OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved to accept the minutes of January 26, 2015 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Markovich , supported by Councilman Higgs, moved to approve the claims from January 21, 2015 through February 4, 2015. Claim #552 through claim #919, inclusive.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Uylaki, Higgs, Emerson, Hinojosa, Opinker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Venecz read a letter from one of the residents regarding snow removal.

Councilwoman Venecz read an email regarding snow removal on Conkey.

Councilman Higgs read correspondence regarding vehicles and snow removal.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole - Councilman Emerson - Brought out 15-01.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

15-01 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 4631 and Title VII of the Hammond Municipal Code Traffic Schedule III and Setting a Uniform Speed Limit for Hohman Avenue

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Hinojosa, moved for final passage.

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to amend Section A, first sentence, to replace 25 miles an hour with 35 miles an hour.

ROLL CALL VOTE (amendment)

AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Uylaki, Higgs, Emerson, Hinojosa, Opinker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 AMENDMENT ADOPTED

ROLL CALL VOTE (as amended)

AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Uylaki, Higgs, Emerson, Hinojosa, Opinker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9283 PASSED (as amended)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

15-03 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2015 Gaming Fund

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Higgs, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Public Hearing set for March 9, 2015.

AYES: ALL

Councilman Higgs - I'll briefly go over this. This is money from 2014 that is going to be reallocated for 2015.

2014 1 st District Balance	\$13,073.88
2014 2 nd District Balance	\$1,374,846.60
2014 3 rd District Balance	\$407,485.66
2014 4 th District Balance	\$1,336,140.04
2014 6 th District Balance	\$200,793.86

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Higgs cont.

2014 Mayor Balance	\$1,621,165.13
2014 Citywide Engineering	\$1,073,934.68
2014 Citywide Parks	\$11,438.67
2014 Shared 10%	\$30,563.59
2014 1 st District Park	\$91.64
2014 2 nd District Park	\$100,000.00
2014 3 rd District Engineering	\$1.12
2014 3 rd District Park	\$30,590.00

15-04 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for the Planning & Development Department (\$47,046.71)

Councilman Higgs, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Public Hearing set for March 9, 2015.

AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Venecz - Who's the sponsor of that ordinance?

Council President Opinker - Councilman Spitale.

RESOLUTIONS

15R-03 Re-Appointing Diane Kaminsky to the Hammond Port Authority

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption.

Councilman Kalwinski - Diane has served in all offices of the Hammond Port Authority over her length of terms and has been a very good addition to that board and has been dutiful in her services to the board and I'm asking for a re-appointment. And when talking to the other board members they all highly endorse her. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Uylaki, Higgs, Emerson, Hinojosa, Opinker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION R03 ADOPTED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Higgs - I want to personally send my condolences to Ronald Jefferson's family who passed away who was a former fireman in the city of Hammond and he will be funeralized on Saturday. And also as we observe Black History month there will be some pacifically some individuals from within the community who made such a contribution to the entire city that I will be identifying them at the next council meeting.

Councilwoman Venecz - For those who wish to do good in their community and know what's going on in their neighborhood, I'd like to announce some upcoming crime watch meetings. On Tuesday, Feb. 17th the East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch will meet at the Ophelia Steen Center at 6:30. The Hessville Crime Watch will meet on Thursday, Feb. 19th at the Jean Shepherd Center at 6 p.m. The South Hammond Crime Watch will also meet on Thursday, Feb. 19th at 7 p.m. at the Hammond Housing Authority Building. And the Whiting Robertsdale Crime Watch will meet Thursday, Feb. 12th at Calumet College at 6:30 p.m. And that is how change happens, one gesture, one person, one moment at a time.

Councilman Higgs - Received a correspondence from the Boys and Girls Club as well as the Ophelia Steen Center thanking them for the contributions that I were made to them at the end of the year. So I want to personally say thank them for serving my district and the city of Hammond.

Council President Opinker - At the last meeting Councilman Hinojosa asked for that report from the Controller. She did hand a copy to me. So I do have that here for you.

Councilman Emerson - Received an email today about the Buffalo Wild Wings Benefit Night. Come out and support the Eggers Middle School Community based education classes and have a fun night out at Buffalo Wild Wings. 15% of the food sales will go towards our moderate and severe special needs classes. It's Wednesday, Feb. 25th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Only at the Hammond location. 2942 Carlson Drive. You may contact Judy, 933-2581 for more information.

Councilman Hinojosa - While we have in the audience Gary Gleason and his staff on the Street Department. I'd like to thank them personally for all the hard work they've been doing. I know myself, in the steel industry at Arcelor Mittal, that's what I do. I work straight days on the pay loader and believe me, even today, it's been quite a few days already, we're still cleaning up from that disaster storm that we have. I know you guys put in a lot of hours and hard work out there so I's like to congratulate all of yous on doing everything you could to make our streets as safe as possible. I know there's a lot of negative comments out there. Mainly about salting. I think maybe for the first day I think that's when some of the salting, in my opinion, could have been done. I know, ourselves, when the temperature is 20 degrees or colder we still put down salt and it does help some and it helps get traction. That's the only negative thing that I seen. But otherwise than that, that's a lot of hours and back and forth and back and forth and I commend you guys for doing a good job.

Councilman Markovich - I would like to echo the same thing. I mean I know it's tough out there. It wasn't easy. Picked the wrong day to do it, Super Bowl Sunday. It seemed like last year we got all this snow on the weekends, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. You know the guys were saying they were working 24 hours. I was shoveling snow at the in-laws from 10 to 2 o'clock Sunday and got a call that I didn't have power at my house

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Markovich cont. - from 2 to 9: 30 at night. So taking a shower in the dark with a candle wasn't to romantic but you know how that goes. But I was able to make it to one of the parties because there's nothing to do at home, you have no power or anything. But I got stuck in the alley going to the game. But, hey, that's just the way it is. Things happen. They did the best they can you just have to deal with it. At least we didn't have 84 inches like we had last year. We got it all at once and hopefully, maybe, not too much more. But I appreciate everything you did. I know the mayor got on the radio, he did the best he could with that explanation and that's what it is, it's an act of god and we just have to deal with it and do the best we can. Thank you.

Councilwoman Venecz - I would like to echo those sentiments. I know I spoke with Gary daily during that whole ordeal and you guys did a great job. You were out there again today, trying to move some of the piles from where cars were snowed in. So, I know it's a thankless job but I want to thank you. Thank you very much.

Councilman Spitale - They always do a good job.

Councilman Higgs - I'm gonna read a letter that I received from the Board of Directors, from which I sit on for twenty something years, it's from Greater Hammond Community Services, Inc. Dear Councilman Higgs, we are very grateful for your generous donation, contribution does yours goes far in providing the needs for the people who have so little. Greater Hammond provides itself as being a leader in the delivery of social services for the people in the community who truly are in need. Greater Hammond strides to bring together a variety of funding sources and volunteers to meet the needs of the entire community. Because of many cut backs in the state and federal funds we are more than ever dependent on local donation to efficiently serve our community. Sincerely, Timothy P. Cunningham, Executive Director, Greater Hammond Community Services.

Councilman Kalwinski - Going back to the snow removal, I too want to thank the Street Department or the Board of Works. Not only do they do streets, our alleys were taken care of. The trails at the park were eventually cleaned and they even had some time to work on the skating rink as such. So, I love you guys. You've been really great to us and thank you from North Hammond, Pulaski Park especially.

Councilman Opinker - Likewise from the 5th District. Jaime does a hell of a job with his crew.

Councilman Emerson - I don't want to feel left out. I believe it was Super Bowl Sunday I was snow blowing my own driveway and Pat Moore, 4th District Supervisor, came by and he did not do my driveway, I did, so he was out super Bowl Sunday and thank you guys. I think you did a really good job.

Councilman Uylaki - I'd like to thank them too. They did a good job and I had one complaint out of the whole 2nd District and they all said you did a great job so I appreciate the job.

Councilman Higgs - I also received a card that Councilman Markovich just gave me and it says thank you and it's from the Hurricanes Inc., Willie D. White, Jr.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Diane Kaminsky - Thanked the council for re-appointing her to the Port Authority. Thanked the Mayor for requesting a referendum in regards to the RDA and the South Shore Tax. The money would be better used here in Hammond. It will reduce the South Shore ridership here.

Carlotta Blake-King - The Hammond School Board has changed their meeting dates so they will no longer conflict with the Hammond Common Council meetings.

Alvin Cheeks - Presented Councilman Higgs with Cannoli oil that had traveled through and touched many hands in Italy. Steve Winn is personally coming into town to bless Councilman Higgs and asked that the Cannoli oil be given to him on his behalf. Thanked Councilman Higgs for his hard work in the community.

Councilman Hinojosa, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

ATTEST:

Michael Opinker, President
Hammond Common Council

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Common Council Meeting on February 23, 2015.

Time: 6:30 pm
cb