

25-25

Ordinance No. 9685

2026 Budget Proposal

Sanitary District of Hammond

Sewer Maintenance Fund 6208 (8201)

Special Sanitary Debt Service Fund 3301 (8280)

SPONSORED BY:

COUNCILWOMAN JANET VENECZ

COUNCILMAN DANIEL SPITALE

CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL WORKSHEET

(Formerly Line 2 Worksheet)

Selected Year: 2026
Selected County: 45 - Lake County
Selected Unit: 0810 - HAMMOND SANITARY
Selected Fund: 8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL

Line 5**APPROPRIATIONS**

1. Current Year Approved Budget	\$8,162,452
2. Encumbrances Brought Forward	\$1,052,698
3. Changes to Appropriations:	
a) Additional Appropriations (January to June)	\$0
b) Reductions January through June	\$0
4. Other Non-Appropriated Obligations	\$0
5. Total Approved Appropriations	\$9,215,150

DISBURSEMENTS

6. January through June Current Year Disbursements	\$2,314,391
7. Appropriation Balance	\$6,900,759
8. Reductions July through December	\$0
9. Estimated Current Year Expenditures July through December	\$6,900,759

Line 6

10. Proposed/Approved Additional Appropriations for July through Dec. of Current Year	\$0
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Line 7

11. Levy excess not transferred by June 30	\$0
12. Temporary loans outstanding as of June 30 and transfers out July 1 – Dec 31, 2025	\$0

What fund is being repaid/receiving the transfer?

13. Total temporary loans, transfers out, and levy excess for July 1 – December 31, 2025	\$0
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Line 16

14. Temp loans to be repaid in the first 6 months of 2026 and transfers out in 2026	\$0
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What fund is being repaid/receiving the transfer?

Line 1

15. June 30 Cash Balance, including investments	\$5,536,716
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Line 2

16. Taxes to be collected, present year (December settlement)	\$1,204,158
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CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL WORKSHEET

(Formerly Line 2 Worksheet)

Selected Year: 2026
Selected County: 45 - Lake County
Selected Unit: 0810 - HAMMOND SANITARY
Selected Fund: 8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE

Line 5**APPROPRIATIONS**

1. Current Year Approved Budget	\$7,684,020
2. Encumbrances Brought Forward	\$0
3. Changes to Appropriations:	
a) Additional Appropriations (January to June)	\$0
b) Reductions January through June	\$0
4. Other Non-Appropriated Obligations	\$0
5. Total Approved Appropriations	\$7,684,020

DISBURSEMENTS

6. January through June Current Year Disbursements	\$3,828,108
7. Appropriation Balance	\$3,855,912
8. Reductions July through December	\$0
9. Estimated Current Year Expenditures July through December	\$3,855,912

Line 6

10. Proposed/Approved Additional Appropriations for July through Dec. of Current Year	\$0
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Line 7

11. Levy excess not transferred by June 30	\$0
12. Temporary loans outstanding as of June 30 and transfers out July 1 – Dec 31, 2025	\$0

What fund is being repaid/receiving the transfer?

13. Total temporary loans, transfers out, and levy excess for July 1 – December 31, 2025	\$0
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Line 16

14. Temp loans to be repaid in the first 6 months of 2026 and transfers out in 2026	\$0
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What fund is being repaid/receiving the transfer?

Line 1

15. June 30 Cash Balance, including investments	\$3,187,552
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Line 2

16. Taxes to be collected, present year (December settlement)	\$3,418,536
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DEBT WORKSHEET

Selected Year: 2026
Selected County: 45 - Lake County
Selected Unit: 0810 - HAMMOND SANITARY
Selected Fund: 8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE

Name of Issue	Line 5 Due	Line 5 Amount	Line 15 Due	Line 15 Amount	Line 18A Due	Line 18A Amount	Line 18B Due	Line 18B Amount
Special Taxing District Bond Series 2018C	12/30/2025	\$607,478	12/30/2026	\$1,456,981	6/30/2027	\$843,003	12/30/2027	\$262,728
Special Taxing District Loan Series 2013A	7/15/2025	\$1,776,204	7/15/2026	\$3,555,120	1/15/2027	\$1,773,388	7/15/2027	\$1,778,654
Special Taxing District Refunding Bonds, Series 2018 TOTAL	7/15/2025	\$1,143,500	7/15/2026	\$2,426,200	1/15/2027	\$1,146,575	7/15/2027	\$1,139,625
Special Taxing District Bond Series 2021A	7/15/2025	\$326,880	1/15/2026	\$325,290				
Fees		\$1,850		\$0		\$0		\$0
TOTALS BY FUND		\$3,855,912		\$7,763,591		\$3,762,966		\$3,181,007

Total by Unit	\$3,855,912	Total by Fund	\$3,762,966	Total by Unit	\$3,181,007
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Form Signature

NAME

TITLE

SIGNATURE/PIN

DATE

I hereby acknowledge that the submission of this document through the Gateway password and PIN system constitutes an "electronic signature" as defined in IC 5-24-2-2. This submission is intended to, and hereby does, constitute authentication and approval of the submitted document as required by the Indiana Code. I understand that this electronic signature takes the place of my handwritten signature and accomplishes the same purposes as would my handwritten signature in the same circumstance. I further acknowledge that this electronic signature has the same force and effect as my handwritten signature and can and will be used for all lawful purposes. I affirm that I have the real and apparent authority to electronically sign and submit this document on behalf of the unit.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The Notice to Taxpayers is available online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov or by calling (888) 739-9826.

Complete details of budget estimates by fund and/or department may be seen by visiting the office of this unit of government at **Hammond Sanitary District**.

Notice is hereby given to taxpayers of **HAMMOND SANITARY, Lake County, Indiana** that the proper officers of **Hammond City Council** will conduct a public hearing on the year **2026** budget. Following this meeting, any ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of **Hammond City Council** not more than seven days after the hearing. The objection petition must identify the provisions of the budget, tax rate, or tax levy to which taxpayers object. If a petition is filed, **Hammond City Council** shall adopt with the budget a finding concerning the objections in the petition and testimony presented. Following the aforementioned hearing, the proper officers of **Hammond City Council** will meet to adopt the following budget:

Public Hearing Date	Tuesday, October 14, 2025	Adoption Meeting Date	Monday, October 27, 2025
Public Hearing Time	6:00 PM	Adoption Meeting Time	6:00 PM
Public Hearing Location	5925 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320	Adoption Meeting Location	5925 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320
Estimated Civil Max Levy	\$4,685,827		
Property Tax Cap Credit Estimate	\$2,387,200		

1 Fund Name	2 Budget Estimate	3 Maximum Estimated Funds to be Raised (including appeals and levies exempt from maximum levy limitations)	4 Excessive Levy Appeals	5 Current Tax Levy	6 Levy Percentage Difference (Column 3 / Column 5)
8201-SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	\$7,376,155	\$4,685,827	\$0	\$4,499,980	4.13%
8280-SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	\$7,763,591	\$7,565,846	\$0	\$7,505,759	0.80%
Totals	\$15,139,746	\$12,251,673	\$0	\$12,005,739	

Budget Form 1 - Budget Estimate

Year: 2026 County: Lake Unit: Hammond Sanitary

Fund	Department	Category	Sub-Category	Line Item Code	Line Item	Published	Adopted
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Salaries and Wages	411.01	Salaries and Wages	\$1,332,531	\$1,332,531
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Salaries and Wages	411.02	Overtime Salaries	\$50,000	\$50,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Employee Benefits	413.01	FICA	\$105,764	\$105,764
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Employee Benefits	413.02	PERF	\$196,319	\$196,319
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Employee Benefits	413.04	Insurance (life/health/w.c./u)	\$462,960	\$462,960
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Employee Benefits	413.05	Lunch Benefit	\$8,000	\$8,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PERSONAL SERVICES	Employee Benefits	413.06	Clothing Allowance	\$25,000	\$25,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SUPPLIES	Office Supplies	421.00	Office Supplies	\$10,000	\$10,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SUPPLIES	Operating Supplies	422.00	Operating Supplies	\$200,000	\$200,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SUPPLIES	Repair and Maintenance Supplies	423.00	Repair - Maintenance Supplies	\$50,000	\$50,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Professional Services	431.00	Professional Services	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Communication and Transportation	432.00	Communication - Transportation	\$10,000	\$10,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Insurance	434.00	Insurance	\$63,890	\$63,890

Fund	Department	Category	Sub-Category	Line Item Code	Line Item	Published	Adopted
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Utility Services	435.00	Utilities	\$40,000	\$40,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Repairs and Maintenance	436.00	Repairs - Maintenance	\$2,338,936	\$2,338,936
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Repairs and Maintenance	437.00	Utility Line Repairs	\$50,000	\$50,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Rentals	438.00	Rentals	\$100,000	\$100,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Other Services and Charges	439.00	Other Services - Charges	\$20,000	\$20,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	CAPITAL OUTLAYS	Machinery, Equipment, and Vehicles	442.00	Capital Outlay	\$200,000	\$200,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	CAPITAL OUTLAYS	Other Capital Outlays	445.00	Lease Payment	\$112,755	\$112,755
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	NO DEPARTMENT	PROPERTY TAX CAP	Property Tax Cap Impact		Property Tax Cap Impact	\$0	\$0
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL Total						\$2,376,155	\$2,376,155
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	NO DEPARTMENT	SERVICES AND CHARGES	Other Services and Charges	438.04	Trustee Fees	\$4,525	\$4,525
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	NO DEPARTMENT	DEBT SERVICE	Payments on Bonds and Other Debt Principal	438.01	PRINCIPAL	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	NO DEPARTMENT	DEBT SERVICE	Payments on Bonds and Other Debt Interest	438.02	INTEREST	\$1,259,066	\$1,259,066
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE Total						\$7,763,591	\$7,763,591
UNIT TOTAL						\$15,139,746	\$15,139,746

Budget Form 2 - Estimate of Miscellaneous Revenue

Year: 2026 County: Lake Unit: 0810 - Hammond Sanitary

Fund	Revenue Code	Revenue Name	July 1 - December 31, 2025	January 1 - December 31, 2026
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	R112	Financial Institution Tax distribution	\$12,449	\$34,023
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	R114	Motor Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$76,630	\$123,445
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	R135	Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$14,291	\$26,936
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	R906	Refunds and Reimbursements	\$473	\$2,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	R910	Transfers In - Transferred from Another Fund	\$1,773,821	\$3,100,000
8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	R913	Other Receipts	\$33,345	\$40,000
SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL			\$1,911,009	\$3,326,404
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	R112	Financial Institution Tax distribution	\$20,765	\$58,910
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	R114	Motor Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$127,816	\$250,950
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	R135	Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$23,837	\$48,422
8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	R913	Other Receipts	\$0	\$0
SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE			\$172,418	\$358,282
0810 - HAMMOND SANITARY Total			\$2,083,427	\$3,684,686

Budget Estimate - Financial Statement-Proposed Tax Rate

Taxing Unit: 0810 - HAMMOND SANITARY
Fund Name: 8201 - SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL
County: 45 - Lake County
Year: 2026

July to December - 2025	
Cash Balance and Revenues	
1. June 30th Cash Balance	\$5,536,716
2. Property Taxes To be Collected	\$1,204,158
3. Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,911,009
4. Total Cash and Revenues	\$8,651,883
Expenses	
5. Necessary Expenditures	\$6,900,759
6. Additional Appropriations	\$0
7. Outstanding Temporary Loans and Transfers	\$0
7a). Transfers Out and Outstanding Temporary Loans	\$0
7b). Reserved	\$0
7c). School Transfers	\$0
8. Total Expenses required	\$6,900,759
9. Estimated December 31st 2025 Cash Balance (Line 4 - 8)	\$1,751,124

Budget Year - 2026		
Revenues	Advised Amount	Adopted Amount
10. Reserved for DLGF Application of Levy Excess		
11. Property Tax Levy	\$4,685,827	\$4,685,827
12. Property Tax Cap Impact	\$2,387,200	\$2,387,200
13. Miscellaneous	\$3,326,404	\$3,326,404
14. Budget Year Total Revenues	\$5,625,031	\$5,625,031
Expenses	Advised Amount	Adopted Amount
15. 2026 Budget Estimate	\$7,376,155	\$7,376,155
16. Outstanding Temporary Loans and Transfers	\$0	\$0
16a). Transfers Out and Outstanding Temporary Loans	\$0	\$0
16b). Reserved	\$0	\$0
16c). School Transfers	\$0	\$0
17. Total 2026 Expenses	\$7,376,155	\$7,376,155
18. Operating Balance - Estimated December 31st 2026 Cash Balance (Line 9 + 14 - 17)	\$0	\$0

	Advised Amount	Adopted Amount
Net Assessed Value	\$4,633,184,550	\$4,633,184,550
Property Tax Rate	0.1011	0.1011

Budget Estimate - Financial Statement-Proposed Tax Rate

Taxing Unit: 0810 - HAMMOND SANITARY
Fund Name: 8280 - SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE
County: 45 - Lake County
Year: 2026

July to December - 2025	
Cash Balance and Revenues	
1. June 30th Cash Balance	\$3,187,552
2. Property Taxes To be Collected	\$3,418,536
3. Miscellaneous Revenue	\$172,418
4. Total Cash and Revenues	\$6,778,506
Expenses	
5. Necessary Expenditures	\$3,855,912
6. Additional Appropriations	\$0
7. Outstanding Temporary Loans and Transfers	\$0
7a). Transfers Out and Outstanding Temporary Loans	\$0
7b). Reserved	\$0
7c). School Transfers	\$0
8. Total Expenses required	\$3,855,912
9. Estimated December 31st 2025 Cash Balance (Line 4 - 8)	\$2,922,594

Budget Year - 2026		
Revenues	Advised Amount	Adopted Amount
10. Reserved for DLGF Application of Levy Excess		
11. Property Tax Levy	\$7,567,696	\$7,567,696
12. Property Tax Cap Impact	\$0	\$0
13. Miscellaneous	\$358,282	\$358,282
14. Budget Year Total Revenues	\$7,925,978	\$7,925,978
Expenses	Advised Amount	Adopted Amount
15. 2026 Budget Estimate	\$7,763,591	\$7,763,591
16. Outstanding Temporary Loans and Transfers	\$0	\$0
16a). Transfers Out and Outstanding Temporary Loans	\$0	\$0
16b). Reserved	\$0	\$0
16c). School Transfers	\$0	\$0
17. Total 2026 Expenses	\$7,763,591	\$7,763,591
18. Operating Balance - Estimated December 31st 2026 Cash Balance (Line 9 + 14 - 17)	\$3,084,981	\$3,084,981

	Advised Amount	Adopted Amount
Net Assessed Value	\$4,633,184,550	\$4,633,184,550
Property Tax Rate	0.1633	0.1633

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
Generated 8/25/2025 9:52:10 AM

Ordinance Number / Resolution Number: **9685**

Be it ordained/resolved by the **HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL** that for the expenses of **HAMMOND SANITARY** for the year ending December 31, **2026** the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of **HAMMOND SANITARY**, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the **HAMMOND CITY COUNCIL**.

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption
Hammond City Council	Common Council and Mayor	10/27/2025

FUNDS

Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
8201	SPECIAL SANITARY GENERAL	\$7,376,155	\$4,685,827	0.1011
8280	SPECIAL SANITARY DEBT SERVICE	\$7,763,591	\$7,567,696	0.1633
		\$15,139,746	\$12,253,523	0.2644

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
Generated 8/25/2025 9:52:10 AM

Name		Signature
KATRINA ALEXANDER	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Katrina D. Alexander
WILLIAM EMERSON	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	William Emerson
MARK KALWINSKI	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Kalwinski
SCOTT RAKOS	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Rakos
ALFONSO SALINAS III	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	A. Salinas III
DANIEL SPITALE	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Spitala
BARRY TYLER JR.	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Barry Tyler Jr.
JANET VENECZ	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Venecz
DAVE WOERPEL	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Woerpel

ATTEST

Name	Title	Signature
ROBERT J. GOLEC	CITY CLERK	Robert J. Golec

MAYOR ACTION (For City Use Only)

Name		Signature	Date
THOMAS M. MCDERMOTT	Approve <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veto <input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas M. McDermott	10/29/25

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to issue debt after December 1 and before January 1

Yes ☐ No ☒

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to file a shortfall appeal after December 1 and before December 31

Yes ☐ No ☒

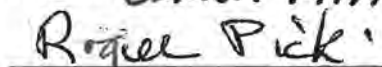
TAXPAYER PETITION:
OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BUDGET
PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-17-5

The undersigned taxpayers of the City of Hammond, Indiana hereby object to the proposed budget of the Hammond Sanitary District. In support hereof, Petitioners allege and state:

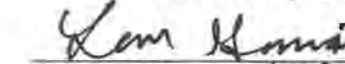
1. The Common Council of the City of Hammond held a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for the Hammond Sanitary District on Tuesday, October 14, 2025;
2. That the undersigned taxpayers object to the following provisions in the proposed budget:
8201 Special Sanitary
3. That in addition to objecting the above, taxpayers object to the increase in the budget and rate;
4. Taxpayers state, upon information and belief, Hammond Sanitary District has failed and refused to file required conflict of interest statements which would provide insight to taxpayers regarding the proposed budget;
5. Taxpayers state, upon information and belief, that Hammond Sanitary District has failed and refused to file contracts with the Indiana Gateway leaving taxpayers without needed information to evaluate the budget request.
6. Taxpayers state that proper notice regarding the budget was not provided prior to the public hearing.

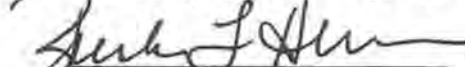

Printed: Lissette Montañez

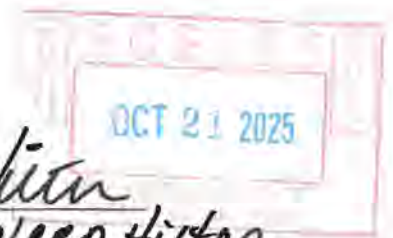

Printed: DAMON FLINT


Printed: ROGER PICK


Printed: Kathleen Hilton


Printed: LEON GAMINO


Printed: BRENDA L HENSON



TAXPAYER PETITION:
OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BUDGET
PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-17-5

The undersigned taxpayers of the City of Hammond, Indiana hereby object to the proposed budget of the Hammond Sanitary District. In support hereof, Petitioners allege and state:

1. The Common Council of the City of Hammond held a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for the Hammond Sanitary District on Tuesday, October 14, 2025;
2. That the undersigned taxpayers object to the following provisions in the proposed budget:
8201 Special Sanitary
3. That in addition to objecting the above, taxpayers object to the increase in the budget and rate;
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6. Taxpayers state that proper notice regarding the budget was not provided prior to the public hearing.

George T. Janiec
Printed: _____

Printed: _____

Printed: _____

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Printed: _____



TAXPAYER PETITION:
OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BUDGET
PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-17-5

Larry J. Farmer
Printed: Larry Farmer

Printed: _____

Linda J. Farmer
Printed: Linda J. Farmer

Printed: _____

Anthony D. Diaz
Printed: Anthony D. Diaz

Printed: _____

Valerie
Printed: Valerie

Printed: _____

Annette Markovich
Printed: Annette Markovich

Printed: _____

Matthew Markovich
Printed: MATTHEW MARKOVICH

Printed: _____

Printed: _____

Printed: _____



The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 13, 2025 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Dave Woerpel presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Moment of silence observed.

ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Councilman Woerpel. It's good to see you all. It's been a couple weeks since we've been here, a few weeks. This is my address for October 14, 2025. Started off a few weeks ago with the Realtor's breakfast at The Lost Marsh in our 1st District, had over 100 Realtors from across Northwest Indiana having breakfast, listening to presentations from all my department heads and myself and then they got to golf compliments. We do this every year and I think it helps us a lot to teach the Realtors about what we're doing so that they can help sell their community when they're trying to sell houses. I think it's worthwhile effort. Hosted former Indiana Governor and our Former U.S. Senator Evan Bayh and his son Beau in Hammond a couple weeks ago. I took them to the famous El Taco Real. I thought it was going to be like a new thing to teach them at El Taco Real, but Senator Bayh was very familiar with it. He was happy we took him there. It was nice to catch up. It was good to see him. I met with the Hammond Police Department and Captains and above for our normal meeting, and then we had a separate meeting just on ICE. It turned out to be fortuitous timing. We literally had the meeting and then the next day we were tested and I know that Councilman Barry has a resolution that we're going to talk about later so I'll just save my comments for that time, but it was a good meeting I had with the Police Department Captains and above and it was very good timing. I met with a Hammond Resident who's married to a Chinese woman. I don't want to mention his name, obviously in the environment we're in, this gentleman is in great fear that his wife is going to be deported. I'm not sure why she's not a citizen, but they're both very nervous right here in our city. I wanted to point that out, and I'm not going to give any details because I'm not going to provide any ammunition to ICE to go after them, but it's going on. We know it's going on, obviously in the Hispanic community, but it's not just the Hispanic community that's being terrorized by this organization. I participated in NICTD strategic planning session. I was interviewed over the phone because I couldn't make their first meeting. They had a lot of questions in regards to the gateway station and how I felt about it as Mayor, the south Hammond station, and the problems that we may run into down there, and also in the downtown Hammond station. Last I heard, the train is getting delayed again. I heard the first of the year is getting pushed back. I'm not from the South Shore, but that's what I heard. It's important to us because we can not begin work on the downtown Hammond train station until that train rolls down a track under it's own power. So we're waiting for this to begin so that we can begin work on the

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-downtown Hammond South Shore station. I participated in the Northern Indiana Professional Sports Development Commission meeting with the owner of the South Bend Cubs. Very cool. We had a Q and A in regards to the process involved with the purchase of the Cubs by this gentleman and their transition from where they were to where they currently stand as one of the most successful, I think it's single a franchises in the country. It's real good attendance every single night. It's interesting to see how they took, really a dilapidated part of South Bend and transformed it around a baseball stadium. I thought it was really neat. I want to thank Representative Earl Harris for developing this commission. I'm not sure I'm always going to be Hammond's appointee. I started off as it but it may be too busy for me and I might try to find somebody else, but it's pretty cool what they're talking about. They're really trying to get some type of franchise to locate in Northwest Indiana, be it Rugby, be it Women's basketball, be it baseball, whatever. It's just pretty interesting. Earl Harris, his father, this was his idea back in the day, it was about the Bears and Earl Jr. got it passed and we're moving forward so it's pretty cool to see. I met with Shift 3 Firefighters in the Central Firehouse, all the B.C.'s, A.C.'s, and the Chiefs. I met with Dr. Amy McCormack of Calumet College of St. Joseph regarding an update on their Lilly Grant campus project as well as an update on their enrollment numbers. They're doing very well. It's really nice to see CCSJ and PNW both are doing really well population wise and a lot of people are afraid of what the enrollment cliff is going to do to higher education and our 2 universities are doing well so far. I think that's great. Last but not least, I met with Mr. Don Andres, the owner of the downtown Hammond Mexican restaurant who wanted to meet about all the construction downtown and all the effects it's having on his business. He's a great man. He's been in the business for a long time in our city and they're being devastated right now, so it was a good meeting. We're trying to come up with some issues. Obviously we don't want to see that business go out of business. We do have a couple of other issues I wanted to bring up, and one of them we're going to talk about later. The Renaissance remodel, I'm just going to hold my comments on that until we bring that up, but there's one thing I wanted, I know Councilman Woerpel and I have been talking about it. Councilman Barry, I didn't get a chance to talk to you about it yet, and it's the old Wal-Mart and the issues we've been having in the parking lot over there. It slowly but surely turned into a semi trailer parking lot and then you're getting people that are moving their RV's there and they're cooking out and they're living in the parking lot. I drove through and I felt like I was in California and that's not a compliment. I saw some things that you shouldn't have to see and we immediately cleaned it up. We are ticketing, towing, I made contact with the owner of the property. He said that should not be happening in my parking lot, and Hammond Police Department has been kicking butt and taking names over there. We cannot let that part of our city, we have a couple hundred million dollars going in, in new economic development over there and they're trying to turn it into a truck stop. It's not going to happen. We're on it and I just wanted you all to know, and I'm sure you've noticed the increased enforcement over there. I have other comments about the situations we're going to talk about and I'll just save my comments for that if you don't have any other questions.

Council President Woerpel- I know Mayor when we talked about that, I've been by there a few times and there's a squad car out there everyday, and it's really cleared up the problem over there.

Mayor McDermott- We had to, it was bad. There was probably 10 semis, a couple RV's that hadn't moved in weeks if not months, parked permanently. We gave them one day to get it towed and they had to work on it for most of the day just to get it so they could tow it out. They had been there for awhile. Anyway, if you don't have anymore questions, I'll save my comments.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Tyler- Thanks for that Mayor, just one question. Do we think the fines and penalties are high enough for that?

Mayor McDermott- Honestly Councilman, I think anytime you ask me that question and I'm going to say no because, first off, it's ruining a part of our city if that's allowed to happen and that's probably something we should talk to the PD about, but I would be completely open minded on that. I don't think you'd find too many Hammond residents that would disagree that either, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler- I know that we increased the fine, right, for the truck routes too, right, so I don't know if that's been a deterrent or not.

Mayor McDermott- It does seem better than it was. We were getting killed for awhile. I mean, on the side streets when we did that. Semi trailers going through our city is discouraged, Councilman, if you wanted to deter it by raising the fine, I would totally support that.

Councilman Tyler- Great, thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you. I'll see you guys in a few.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes of September 22, 2025 minutes and place on file.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, move to approve the claims from September 23, 2025 through October 8, 2025. Claim #8572 through #9294, inclusive. In the amount of \$15,554,802.07.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

25-23 2026 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

25-24 2026 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

25-25 2026 Hammond Sanitary District Budget Proposal

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

George Stoya- I don't know how we can have public hearings on ordinances that have yet to be introduced. It's a bit premature, wouldn't you say? I mean it's, I don't know how it's properly before you if it hasn't been introduced. How is anybody going to discuss anything if we don't know what to discuss? You got me at a loss on this one. I don't know how you reconcile that. It's highly irregular and I believe it nullifies this deliberation. I don't know how you guys, I don't know how you can do it, anyway, it's crazy.

Lisette Montanez- In regards to the budget, I didn't prepare anything, I glanced over it, but I understand that there is a freeze that has been held for the police and hiring and one thing I just want to mention is that while there are budgets that need to be made, whether it's at state level cutting, and here, there are ways and there are funds that are available for our police department that have not been shared. While I believe it was 2023 that they changed the law that allows the TIF funding, the tax increment finance money that is supposed to be shared with schools, they did extend that to police officers within our state about 2 years ago. So when I hear things like, we're gonna freeze this or whatever form that would get you guys to make a motion on something that could hurt our community with food taxes and wheel taxes and data center agreements that also popped up the way George just described it, I would think you guys could weigh in on some of these things. The funding that is set aside from the municipal, for the tax, you know, a lot is going in redevelopment and there's a lot of sources going into redevelopment but we also have to stop and think, what else, what other entities can benefit from, you know when you redevelop, you're gonna need a strong police force. When you redevelop, usually people buy houses because they want schools, and so when there's TIF funding that can be extended to schools, and years when schools have been consolidated, not too long ago, and then we come to find that, there's funding made available in our state with that exact funding, that we actually don't have any transparency on. I don't know if you guys have it, because I don't see many questions on TIF funding and that's never discussed, but yeah, it's something that needs to be a little more transparent, the funding, a little bit more broken down and I think you guys have heard that before December 31st of 2022, you know, and so um, these funds, it seems like everything is going towards redevelopment and we need to make sure that all the other entities are strong enough because they are also entities that create revenue for our city, and a thriving school district does create revenue for the city and police (?), it's needed when you're redeveloping at the speed that you are. I just want to say that when considering the budget, instead of all this fear mongering we have going on, not just in Indiana, why not, um, why not look it over, look over the numbers and when there's times that the state is redoing their budget, we should also be a little bit better with you know, these bonds, and things that are being approved, because you're going to tax my community, ours, out of their homes, and they voted on each and everyone of you to represent them, so please ask questions. I want to thank my Councilman for always asking for questions and don't be afraid to ask because we count and we vote for you to represent us and make the best decisions. There has to be a balance, you know, so that is all, thank you guys.

Mayor McDermott- Just to clear up a misconception from the last speaker, we enacted a hiring freeze, a month ago, a month and change, I was immediately approached by police and fire. Police and fire said Mayor, we made commitments to, we have a class, this is police, we have a class of 9 recruits in the academy right now, how do we approach them? Are they fired? I'm like no, we made our commitments to those 9. They're going to complete the academy, we're gonna hire them. They said, we also identified around 10 new officers that we've already extended offers too, to go to the academy are we going to rescind those offers and I said no, we made a commitment to those 10 officers as well. They're going to come in to the Hammond Police Department. We committed to close to 20 officers. 10 in the academy now, 10 in the future. We made our commitments to all of

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- them and they're all going to get hired so long as they finish the academy. We had the same kind of situation come up in the fire department and we made the same agreement. I don't know where this lady gets her information from but that's the facts. If you have any questions on that, I'm here. I have been in the Council meetings for the last 22 years and I have to say, I've been asked millions, well thousands of questions from you over the years, so the fact that you didn't have one today, doesn't mean that you're not doing your job in my opinion. Do you have any questions, because I'm here. We have the budget with raises. Obviously we're all afraid of SB-1 and what it's going to do to our budgets next year. There's no answers. This is a current fact, we already lost 15 million dollars in gaming to the Hard Rock Casino, already. We're probably going to lose more when they build their convention center, so let's just say another 5 million goes to Hard Rock, so that's money that's gone already, and it's probably never going to come back, hate to break it to you. SB-1 is going to take another 15 million from us, so we're going to suffer a 30 million dollar revenue blow in the course of about 5 years and we're still ticking right now. We're not doing as much road work as we used to because that's what the gaming money covered, right? So we have contractual commitments to our unions, and they had big raises in the first couple of years, and their raises are settling down now. So we are faced with this prospect, police, do you remember what the amount of police raises was Megan, this year?

Megan Moore, City Controller- 3.5 for police

Mayor McDermott- 3.5 for police, and then fire was 1 percent lower?

Megan Moore, City Controller- 2.

Mayor McDermott- So police 3.5 percent pay raises this year. The fire, 2 percent because they were negotiating other things that was important to them. And then the teamsters are getting 2 also. So these all were contractually written raises built in. The only people that didn't have a contract were the people who work in City Hall, like staff for the Council, staff for the Clerk's office, staff in the Mayor's office, people at Public Works that are not union, right? So, by the way, those are 100 percent Hammond Residents. All those other departments I'm talking about, a lot of out of towners getting big raises. The ones that actually live here that aren't union, I didn't hear it from you guys, I heard it from some people, that they need to get zero. Like what? I'm gonna give 10-15 percent of City Halls population zero to make you feel better, but we're going to pay out our contractual raises out in the unions? That makes no sense. So we decided to give everybody 2 percent. That was the rational behind it. I have contractual obligations for the unions, but that's the employees that aren't covered are the ones that work in this building and we decided to give them 2 percent pay raises. I don't think that's abusive. I don't think that's too much. The inflation rate this year is probably going to be 3 percent so they're losing money this year. Any other questions? Police and fire account for 2/3 of our spending. 65 million dollars. 38.8 million dollars on police, and 25.7 million on fire. That's 2/3 of our budget goes to police and fire. I don't want to hear this nonsense about us underfunding the police. That's nonsense. That is complete and utter freaking nonsense. Hammond spends 2/3 of it's money public safety. I don't know where she gets that information from but it's false and I'm not going to sit here and let somebody come up here and lie.

Lisette Montanez- Sir

Mayor McDermott- I'm not, you're done.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Council President Woerpel- Ma'am this isn't a debate.

Lisette Montanez- Don't insult me. He misunderstood.

Council President Woerpel- This isn't a debate. This isn't a debate.

Mayor McDermott- Go sit down, you're in the Council Chambers.

Lisette Montanez- if you want to address me, address me, I'm right here.

Mayor McDermott- I'm addressing Government. This is government.

Lisette Montanez- I mean, if you have a question, I'm here.

Mayor McDermott- Any other questions?

Councilwoman Alexander- I know we talk about this all the time, and we talk about it especially during budget time, how are we going to continue to sustain, coming up with those creative ways and hopefully as we get through this process, we'll look into other ways of being able to sustain, but at the same time, figuring out how we can get rid of those overheads that we already have because I do know that we have some kind of debts and how we can get rid of those, so just so we can continue to have those conversations.

Mayor McDermott- Yes ma'am, totally agree, appreciate that, and I know there was some talk about TIF, that's where most of our debt is, is in the TIF District, so we bring in a project like Munster Steel, and then we add the issue around 6 million dollars of debt at the time, and we put it in the TIF District, and it's paying itself off, it doesn't cost the residents money. It's a TIF District. The money that Munster Steel brought in, pays off the debt over time. That was a project a long time ago, and that's almost paid off, but when we bring in, since I've been Mayor, the City of Hammond's assessed value has doubled. Councilman Mark, you've been with me every step of the way. Since we've been in office together, we've added 100 percent of assessed value to the City. A lot of that occurred through TIF Districts. If we didn't have TIF Districts, we couldn't get these deals done, we couldn't bring in Lear seeding and relocate it without TIF money. Those are jobs. Hutamaki, those are jobs, people work there. Without TIF money that project is dead in the water and it goes off to some other place that's willing to use TIF. So you have somebody that doesn't know what they're talking about, talking to you about TIF. It's nonsense, so I'm not going to sit here and take it. I'm just not. This is too important. We've lost too much money for somebody to come up and utter nonsense. 30 million dollars, I can tell you that, that's what we're losing. 30 million, I know you guys know that. I'm talking to the audience that's watching us right now. We got tough decisions, and I know you know that, and I appreciate it. I think this is a good budget. It's not exorbitant. There's not huge raises built in. We're maintaining our staffing. We're maintaining our commitments to public safety. That's really where it's at right? So thank you guys.

Council President Woerpel- This is more of a comment than a question, and I've already told Megan this, I've skimmed through the budget, without going into a deep dive in it, and other than the contractual raises, which are already intact, when you look at it, there's a lot of areas where the budget has actually gone down, and I

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Council President Woerpel cont. - commended Megan for that, and I saw it here with the Sanitary budget too. Just looking at the page they gave us is about a million dollar savings.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir, and by the way, I'm sorry Councilman.

Council President Woerpel- No, it just, I get, I mean, we all signed up for this, and it's an understatement to say you get tired of getting lied about and told you're not doing your job, but from what I've seen, there's a lot of areas where the budget has gone down, and what's being allocated for 2026, so I commend you guys for the budget you turned in. We'll have more time to talk about this in our

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Woerpel, I also want to point out, that State Board of Accounts was just in a couple weeks ago, I know there was Councilmen that went to the audit with us, we got glowing audit results. We're doing everything the way you're supposed to be. We're spending the money exactly how you're supposed to be. Our problem is we're losing 30 million dollars. 1/5 of our total revenue. I mean, how many places can absorb a hit like that? That's what we're absorbing, and we're going to try to come out the other side and we're going to try to come up with answers, but right now, in my family, this \$300 tax credit that I get under SB-1, is going to cost me \$2000 plus a year as a family with Marissa and I. We save \$300, thank you Governor Braun, but because cities like Hammond are going to have to turn around to fund governor operation and pass a 1 percent income tax, that \$300 is history to me, and I'm gonna have to pay a couple thousand dollars to the City of Hammond. What's the alternative? What's the alternative if we don't do that next year? The alternative is massive layoffs to police and fire. That's not a scare tactic. 2/3 of our money goes there. If we don't bite the bullet like the Governor wants us too, next year, if we don't bite the bullet, you're going to be looking at

Mayor McDermott cont-your police officer and fire friends and wondering which ones are going to be here at the end of it. That's one year from now. We've been getting ready, but that's one year from now. There's no answers guys, and it's not your fault, it's not our fault, it's the Governors fault. The guy passed a law, he doesn't even know what it's about. That's his fault. He can't even tell us how much we're going to lose, he can't tell us how much we're going to gain if we pass a tax. All he wants is the, I did that \$300 credit. Good job, Governor. Good job. You're ruining the finances of every city and town in Indiana for a \$300 tax credit that's going to be eaten away by food and beverage tax, wheel tax, municipal income tax, because we have no alternative, unless we want to lay off police and fire. We worked hard on this. I know you guys know that. I'm frustrated because I know it's coming. Then there's people feeding misinformation out there. It's very maddening.

Councilman Tyler- I just wanted to share that, I've been in office for 6 years now, and there's still a lot about TIF's that I don't understand, so I know that there's probably a lot of people in the public who don't have as much information as us, that are probably trying to make sense of it, and I'm not saying that like that is the savior of what we're trying to do with our budget here, but I know I would benefit from more information, just about how our TIF's work, operate, and as well as like in general. I know I'm going to schedule some time with Megan to dive deeper into the budget like you guys suggested. I just want to thank the administration for being so open to having those conversations and to share that information with us.

Mayor McDermott- Sure, you're one of our bosses, Councilman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Councilman Tyler- We just want to learn just like everybody else and there's a lot that's changing at the State, Federal, level, so.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate that, absolutely. I think that the more the Council members learn about TIF, the more you'll be horrified at the talk at the State House about how TIF is this evil thing. It's insane. If we didn't have TIF, we couldn't have brought in a billion dollars worth of new economic development. We couldn't. We would have lost a lot of those projects because we can't compete with Crown Point. They want to go to Crown Point or Hammond, let me tell you what the difference is. It's money. If you want to beat out Crown Point or a community like that for a project, you gotta have more money because Crown Point beats us in a lot of other categories. So if we're not willing to ante up, we're going to miss these big opportunities. That's just facts. I appreciate you guys, sorry I got emotional.

Councilwoman Alexander- Just one last thing, kudos to Megan and her team for working so hard on the budget. Like President Woerpel said, I did notice the cuts and things like that, that were changed in there, so kudos to that, so back to what I was saying before, continue to find those gray areas that we can save to help us is what we're always looking for, so thank you guys.

Mayor McDermott- Yes ma'am, thank you, Councilwoman.

Councilman Tyler- Just one more thing, I know you all, your administration, for whatever reason, catches flack when we go after grants, matching grants, or to do street repairs, or for park improvements, whatever it is, and I think to Councilwoman Alexander's point, I think those are ways that we're trying to save residents money and try to use the resources we have in a more responsible way. I know that Dean in Engineering, and Jim in Parks, they do a great job of trying to find the sources out there that we can utilize as a municipality, so, I just wanted to share an appreciation for that too. I know for anybody that's watching, just know that we've had this conversation several times too just in terms of the different innovative ways that we're trying to be able to improve the quality of life for our residents and the State and Federal government are making it extra harder on us and we still have to, so there are things that we have to do, that we might not want to do, and also things that we are looking in to do that for whatever reason the public, there is this misunderstanding or misconception about why we're doing that or how we're using those funds, and I don't know where Councilman Tyler cont.- the bridge is. I know as elected officials, we have a lot of responsibility in terms of how we get that information out. At the same time, it's a bit of a 2 way street and just trying to figure out ways to improve communication from our point of view across our districts, I think is something we might want to take a look at too.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman.

Council President Woerpel- Anybody else? Just to touch on what he said, I do know on 2 things, like, I think people forget, take the County for instance, they froze our tax levy's until we enacted a County income tax. We passed a wheel tax, and we had to have a wheel tax before we could apply for certain road grants. I don't think the public understands that. One of the road grants we get is Community Crossings, and it does a lot of work. It did 169th St, 173rd, Columbia Avenue this year, and that was all Community Crossings, and I believe we wouldn't have qualified for that had we not passed the wheel tax, correct? So I don't think that people understand that it ain't as simple as hey come here and get this money from us. You gotta qualify for it and I'm

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Council President Woerpel cont. - not saying it's wrong, but the State a lot of time says, don't come to us for help if you're not willing to help yourself, and by that they mean, if you don't have a wheel tax or whatever then don't come crying to us that you're broke. That being said, does anybody else wish to speak on these 3 issues? Hearing none, Public Hearings are closed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- I just want to announce that Saturday, October 25th, from 4-7 pm, Hope Angels is hosting their annual Pink event. This one is titled Faith in Fire. It's a fireside chat with special guest Roland Parrish. This will take place in Hammond Central in the Dr. Walter J. Watkins Black Box Theater. Tickets are \$25 and all the proceeds go to Hope Angels Fund which is supportive of those experiencing breast cancer or survivors of breast cancer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY AND CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

Wed., Nov. 5; Edison Community Watch; Edison School; 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues., Nov. 4; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave,
Hessville Crime Watch; Thurs., Oct. 16; HC3 Community Center; 6 p.m.
Irving Community Watch; Tues., Nov. 11; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School
Whiting-Robertsedale Crime Watch; Thur., Nov. 13; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Councilwoman Venecz- There has been a lot of really good information that has been given at these meetings as of late because this is fire prevention month and we've had firefighters there. Please come out, find out ways to protect you and your family because community is not just about me, it's about us. Thank you Mr. President.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas - I want to announce that the Capital Improvement Board met on October 6th, and during that meeting we had 9 Funding Allocations:

FUNDING ALLOCATION #284- Hohman Ave Reconstruction Phase 2- American Structurepoint Construction Engineering- in the amount of \$493,685.37

FUNDING ALLOCATION #285- 165th Street and Stateline Improvements Change Order Nos. 1&2- Gariup Construction- in the amount of \$20,284.65

FUNDING ALLOCATION #286-Road Safety Audit Hohman at Gostlin Street NIRPC- in the amount of \$1,806.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #287- Stricken from the record, no action taken.

FUNDING ALLOCATION #288- Evaluate Electrical System at Dan Rabin Plaza- Hawk Enterprises- in the amount of \$6,643.14

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD cont. -

FUNDING ALLOCATION #289-Pavement Patching- Site Services- in the amount \$17,925

FUNDING ALLOCATION #290-Hohman Ave Reconstruction Phase 2 Change Order No 1-
INDOT/Milestone Contractors LP- in the amount of \$3,210.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #291- Fayette Street Curb Change Order No 1- Stamped Concrete Parkway
H3- in the amount of \$10,780.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #292- Columbia Avenue Resurfacing- Milestone Contractors LP- in the
amount of \$33,366.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #293- Little Calumet River Pedestrian Bridge Change Order No 2- Gariup
Construction- in the amount of \$36,833.58

Council as a Whole- Council President Woerpel Brought out- 25-18, 25-19, 25-20

ORDINANCE 3rd READING- FINAL PASSAGE

25-18 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #3397, Fund #3398, Fund #4683) for the Municipal
Food and Beverage Tax Funds

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for passage.

Councilwoman Venecz- At the recommendation of our Controller, we are adding new line items to the
municipal food and beverage tax to our budget. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9680 PASSED

25-19 An Ordinance Designating New Funds (Fund #2249, Fund #2250) for the Municipal Excise Tax
and Concurrent Wheel Tax Funds

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for passage.

Councilwoman Venecz- Once again at the urging of the Controller, we are establishing new line items for the
municipal

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3rd READING- FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Councilwoman Venecz cont.- excise tax, and the wheel tax.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9681 PASSED

25-20 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #2493, Fund #2494, Fund #2495) for the FY2026 Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP) Grant Funds

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for passage.

Councilwoman Venecz- Once again at the urging of the Controller, we are establishing new line items for a grant that we received in the amount of \$51,750 to the Hammond Police Department. There are several programs that this money will go to. The goal is the prevention and reduction of traffic injuries and or fatal crashes through seatbelt enforcement, speed enforcement, and impaired driving enforcement. Another goal is to increase safety of pedestrians and bicyclists by reducing the injuries and or fatalities. Also, the goal is to aid in the safe transportation of school age pedestrians at school pick up and drop off locations by making sure drivers do not go around the stop arm.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9682 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-23 2026 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

25-24 2026 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz- I believe we all received the Redevelopment changes. Caryn Janiga, thank you for spelling everything out so clearly. The main difference is the salary of the Economic Development Director and the TIF Program Coordinator, we had to change things around a little bit at the urging of the Controller. So that was the difference. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- For all of the budgets unless it was otherwise agreed upon in the union contract, everybody got 2 percent raises. It's consistent across government. Sanitary District, even though a small part of the Sanitary District uses property taxes, they still follow the City's lead in that. Water Department, which is completely profitable, still follows the City's lead. Good times, and bad times, we're one team. You're not going to see any raises outside of 2 percent or union authorized pay raises.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

25-25 2026 Hammond Sanitary District Budget Proposal

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz- Mr. President, I spoke with Rachel this morning, there was a slight reduction in the budget, it had to do with repairs and maintenance and that was the answer that I received, thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

25-26 2026 Hammond City Officials and Employees Salary Ordinance

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

25-27 2026 Hammond Police Officers and Firefighters Salary Ordinance

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

25-28 Authorizing Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Salinas- This is part of a 27 million dollar investment from LM Development partners, who are the owners of the Renaissance Towers and Apartments on Michigan and Sohl. This is an agreement that would authorize payments beginning in 2027. They would begin at 93,000 dollars over a period of 30 years and increase of a rate at 3 percent. This is an upgrade to 450 units including both senior living facility towers. As Councilman of the 2nd District and being there in that area with the residents, this is an area that needs upgrading. This gives us that opportunity. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate Councilman Salinas comments and I agree 100 percent. I appreciate the fact that there's a 23, probably closer to 25 million dollar investment in the Renaissance. There's 1,000 people that live in those units. They're old units and some of the residents that live in those buildings are financially challenged, so I appreciate the company stepping forward. This redevelopment project will be lead by Renaissance Preservation LLC and their Preservation Division, Cena Affordable Communities. I appreciate them stepping up with this project. I think it's important. PILOT agreements are made in lieu of taxes. Payment in lieu of taxes. It's one of my favorite words. You hear our President say his favorite word is tariffs, one of my favorite words is PILOT. PILOT's come with places like the Sanitary District that doesn't get taxed, but they give us money to help us with our budget because they don't pay property taxes, so the fact that this project includes 3 percent escalating PILOT payments to the City of Hammond and invests 23 million dollars into the building, upgrading the lives for 1,000 residents, I think that's a great project. I appreciate Councilman Salinas' comments.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

25-29 An Ordinance Enacting Proposed Amendments to the System of User Fees for the Operation and Maintenance of the City Storm Water Systems

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor McDermott- For full transparency, this is asking to raise the storm water fee from \$7.75 a month to \$9.00. An extra \$1.25 a month with all of our rate payers, adds up to about a million dollars a year in extra revenue that the Hammond Sanitary District has agreed to pledge to the Capital Improvement Boards so that we have an extra million dollars to the Capital Improvement Board which I know that there's a number of Council people that sit on to help us fund storm water projects. Almost every Councilman I'm looking at right now has been affected by storm water projects over the last couple of years in their district. These are the kinds of things that aren't going away, and this money is a small amount of money that could help us try to combat this problem. It's small, it's a million dollars a year, and I know that you guys took notice of the fact that Sanitary District budget dropped. I imagine that dropped in anticipation of this new revenue source going directly to CIB because that line item they got rid of was for repairs and maintenance which is what this is going to do. There's an escalator built in, where it goes up a little bit every year up until 2029. If this is passed, and it's escalated, if you look at Hammond's total utility billing, we'll still be the lowest in the state, even if this rate goes in, we have communities that are 3 times higher than us in total billing. This is the kind of thing communities do to help them battle floods. I think it's time for us to start getting more serious about this. I know I'm preaching to the choir because I know each of you has been affected by this and it's frustrating for all of us. If we want to battle it, we gotta put our money where our mouth is.

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, just a question, I know as a part of the ordinance it says that the fees were equitably spread across kinda residential, commercial, and industrial property owners. Can we talk? Can you just, maybe not you, maybe Milan can you just explain kind of like how it's equitable? What's the ratio, because I'm guessing the residents, the increase is not as much for resident's as it is commercial.

Milan Kruszynski- You're correct, Councilman. It's \$1.75 as the Mayor said per month for the residential. It does increase more for the Commercial as well as the Industrial users as well. It's all depending on the size of your property. The size and the use.

Mayor McDermott- So a large Industrial complex is going to pay more because their property is larger.

Milan Kruszynski- Yes they will and we'll use Cargill as an example, they pay a lot more, yes.

Mayor McDermott- Makes sense.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Milan Kruszynski- It does.

Mayor McDermott- They're putting a lot more storm water into the system.

Milan Kruszynski- Right.

Councilman Tyler- And then just one more question, how did we get to the final rate of 15, how was that determined?

Milan Kruszynski- Over a 4 year period.

Councilman Tyler- Right

Milan Kruszynski- It'll raise incrementally.

Councilman Tyler- Just \$1.25 increase over 4 years gets us all the way to the 15?

Milan Kruszynski- All the way through, right.

Councilman Tyler- Got it.

Milan Kruszynski- Yep.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- I got a question.

Council President Woerpel- And this is attached to the property tax bill?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir.

Councilman Salinas- So this is twice a year? Or is this monthly then?

Councilwoman Venecz- It's twice a year.

Mayor McDermott- It's twice a year. It's a monthly charge, but it gets paid twice a year when you pay your bill.

Councilman Kalwinski- Is there a way we measure how people are using that and putting out? I mean you don't have a measurement per se?

Milan Kruszynski- Again, it's based on the property size and use

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott- I thought we always heard it was the grates themselves and the more grates you have the more storm water fee, but that's sort of the same thing. If you have a larger parking lot, you would have more storm water grates.

Milan Kruszynski- You would have more storm water that we'd have to treat then, yes.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, good questions, thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Milan, just one more question, I know that during caucus you said that these rates haven't been raised in 10 years?

Milan Kruszynski- That's correct, yep. 2015 was the last time these were raised.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks for the great questions, I appreciate it.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion?

Mayor McDermott- I do want to point out one last thing, Mr. President, if that's alright. We gave you 2 graphs, one was the graph of just the storm water fees, and if you look at that graph, you'll see that Hammond, if we pass this by 2029, assuming all the rates stay the same, which is a horrible assumption, I think you're going to see a lot of these communities raising their rates as well. It has us not even, we're in the top 3rd in 2029 assuming nobody else raises their rates, but the important chart is the next chart which is the colorful chart, that's your total utility billing chart. I'm trying to find it real quick. That is studied across the State of Indiana. I want to thank Matt Muta of the Hammond Sanitary District for putting these numbers together and literally calling places like Lowell, Evansville, Fort Wayne, finding out what they pay in each of these 3 different categories in water, sewer, and storm water, putting it all on a graph and realizing that Hammond Residents have the lowest utility rates in the State of Indiana. Even if this is passed, we're still by far the lowest. Unfortunately, that's not going to hold once the Federal Government forces us to do the consent decree, then you'll see us join the ranks of everyone else at that point. That's a decade off hopefully. With President Trump in office, it could be 2 decades off, who knows.

Councilman Tyler- Mr. President, sorry, one more question, alright, just a comment, I know we had this conversation before too, because every time we I think go through like a rate increase, we talk about how we didn't necessarily need to increase rates back when we were bringing in

Mayor McDermott- 35 million dollars a year in Casino Gaming Revenue

Councilman Tyler- Right, but now that, that has changed, and I think with just the economy the way it is, and changes to your appoint federal and state government, like I'm the last person that wants to increase, you know, rates and taxes, and probably most of us feel that way here on residents. I don't want to pay an increase myself, but at the same time I know it's necessary to do the work that we need to do to protect our residents from, you

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Tyler cont. - know, everything that's taking place. We talked a lot about the rains, and the tropical storms that we get hit with and there's always flooding in my district and some of the other districts too, so I know that this will help address some of those issues.

Mayor McDermott- I know that, Councilman. When it floods our district and we're all looking at each other with that look on our face, like, I mean, this could help us battle that. That's all I'm saying, and I agree with you

Mayor McDermott cont.-Councilman. It's \$1.25 a month, and I do try to keep that in mind. It seems like everything is going up, and it's going up for the Hammond Sanitary District and the City as well as your households, but I appreciate your comments.

Councilwoman Alexander- The copy of that chart wasn't in my box.

Mayor McDermott- I'm sorry, Councilwoman. We'll get it to you right away.

Councilwoman Alexander- Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Yep, I'm sorry. That was not intentional, obviously. We have 3 different graphs. I'll make sure you get all 3 of them.

Councilwoman Alexander- Thank you so much.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

25R-20 A Resolution Proclaiming October, 2025 as Polish American Heritage Month

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Tyler, moves for adoption.

Clerk Golec read the resolution in its entirety.

Councilman Kalwinski- The Polish American Heritage Month Committee of the Calumet Region celebrated it's 30th consecutive October celebration this past weekend here in Hammond at Pulaski Park with wreath laying, raising of flags, a dance group, a polish dance group that danced, sang, and recited poetry and also provided a bouquet of flowers for the Vice Consul General of the Republic of Poland Bernadetta Palka-Maciejewska who also presented a resolution at that time, and it was accompanied with a free polish, polka band at the park and

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski cont. - then the following day at Calumet City's Pulaski Park, there was wreath laying, a mass at St. Andrews, some speeches, flag raising, and then a banquet at the VFW in Calumet City where an older Polish dance group in costume performed as well as a banquet provided with food from the Cavalier Inn, so I want to thank the Polish American Heritage Committee for doing this again for the 30th year and I want to especially thank Thaddeus Jones and Treasurer Gerry Tarka, who's the committee head for providing generators to Hammond for power and we appreciate the brotherhood of the sister communities and congratulations to all Polish Americans as you celebrate Polish American Heritage month in October. Thank you.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitalc, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R20 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to introduce a new resolution.

25R-21 A Resolution of the City of Hammond Common Council Prohibiting the Uncoordinated use of City Property for Civil Immigration and Customs Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, or Operations Centers

Councilman Tyler- I just want to say that this resolution is in response to recent immigration law enforcement agencies coming into the city. Mayor, thank you for the work of you and your administration for holding them accountable. I know that we've had this conversation, once again, several months ago in terms of the uncoordinated efforts and putting a stop to that, so thank you for stepping up. In response, I thought it made sense for the City Council to pass a resolution in support of that. I will save us from reading it in its entirety, but I do want to highlight just 3 quick points, one that this is an attempt to protect the constitutional rights of every resident within the City of Hammond. We are trying to take proactive steps to maintain trust between our immigrant communities and local law enforcement and then lastly of course it confirms that our city won't stand aside and let immigration law enforcement use city property and resources in unapproved or unsanctioned efforts within our city. I know there's probably a few words that you want to share. I just want to say, thank you again.

Mayor McDermott- I want to say thank you, Councilman Barry, and to the Council Members, what happened last week, wasn't expected, and it was fortunate that we literally had a meeting the day before with the Hammond Police Department where we discussed in detail how we were going to approach I.C.E if they ever came to the City of Hammond. Then the next morning, it happened, and we were all on the same page. I want to thank the Chiefs of Police, the Hammond Police Officers that reported this quickly, and in their defense, they did leave the parking lot when confronted and asked to relocate to another part of the City. Councilman Barry, you hit the nail on the head, you know the Hammond Police Department has really gone out of their way in the

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - last 5 years to try to establish trust within our community and to build relationships within our community and I was afraid that if we, even just trying to protect these officers that are violating constitutional rights, of people who look of Hispanic origin, if our police officers are caught up in that viral video, all that trust that we've built up all these years, is gone in an instant. The Hammond Police Department, doesn't cover their faces. They make arrests and they respond, and they're responsible, and they respect your constitutional rights. I don't want anything to do with what I'm seeing right now. Pastors getting pepper balled, sprayed in the face, moms getting tackled because they're crying because their husbands are getting dragged off. This is unacceptable. The fact that they were on our property was uncalled for. There's a federal courthouse one block to the west, go to your

Mayor McDermott cont.- federal courthouse. Get out of our parking lot. Councilman, I couldn't agree more. I appreciate you bringing this up. I can't wait to sign it, and the Polish Heritage Month also, I'm looking forward to signing both of them. Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- I'd like to also say thank you to Councilman Tyler for bringing this out, and I'd like to be added on as a co-sponsor please. Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, can you just, there's been a lot of conversational line in terms of what rights

Council President Woerpel- Councilman Tyler, can I interrupt you for a second, because I actually have to take two motions on this. We have to take a vote on accepting a resolution under new and unfinished business, and you explained what it is, so Clerk Golec, can we get a roll call vote on accepting the resolution under new and unfinished business?

ROLL CALL VOTE (adding new resolution to agenda)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Council President Woerpel- In the case of 2/3's of the elected members of the Council people present, now we can vote on the motion after you finish your discussion.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you

Council President Woerpel- Under both motions of the resolution itself

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, what I was just, like I said, there's been a lot of conversation about what right we have as a municipality in terms of blocking the federal government from using our property, if city property, police department, city hall, is considered public property or private property, can you just kind of touch on that a little bit?

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- It's a good question, Councilman. First off, I think we all agree that if I.C.E pounds on our front door of our house, we have property rights at our house, we all know that, so the question is a good question, what rights do we have on City property? Can anybody use it, or do we have rights as the Council and the Mayor. I think we have rights, Councilman and especially with this resolution that you're proposing. I think it shows that the Council and the Mayor are on board on this issue and I think we have every right to say, not in this parking lot, but Councilman, you bring up an issue that's very timely because today there was a nasty rumor going around the City of Hammond that I.C.E. was staging in the Gavit High School parking lot. I happened to be home at the time I heard that, and I ran over there. I was there within 5 minutes, and there was 10 Federal Agents cars parked in the parking lot, and I'm like, oh my goodness, they're here, they're in Gavit parking lot, and we made sure there was nobody in the school, and then a car pulled up and 2 members of the ATF got out, and said, Mayor this is all our cars, we're ATF and we're executing a warrant in Hammond right now. I shook his hand, and I said thank you officer and I walked away. You know what I'm saying? The ATF, they're helping us. We have officers that help the ATF, the ATF helps us. The FBI, DEA, US Attorneys, State Police, County Sheriff, we support law enforcement. I think what we're saying today, Councilman, is I don't think what I.C.E is doing is law enforcement. I don't think law enforcement officers cover their face out of embarrassment so they can't be identified. I don't think law enforcement officers could just tackle people to the ground. If Hammond cops did that, I have

Mayor McDermott cont.- a feeling we would all have a problem with it. I appreciate that, and I think it's a great question. This may bring repercussions, I think we're all aware of that in this environment with this State Government, but I think it's well worth it Councilman. We have 40 percent of our population that's petrified right now.

Councilman Tyler- And we're not the first municipality to pass a resolution like this. I know there have been other ones that have been upheld so far.

Mayor McDermott- In Chicago.

Councilman Tyler- Yeah, in Chicago. I mean and I feel like there has been other places across the country that I think, California, as a state, there's been states who have passed things like this too.

Mayor McDermott- Yes sir, I agree with you, but in Indiana, we might be the first, but by the way Councilman, there's other communities that are already looking at this resolution as we speak, and I have a feeling, you're going to see other communities doing the same thing.

Councilman Salinas- One question, Mr. Mayor, so with these I.C.E agents concealing their identities, how does Hammond Police identify them?

Mayor McDermott- That's a great question, Councilman. I guess we have to trust the fact that they have police on their vest that nobody can go out and buy one.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Salinas- I've gotten calls of residents just scared that people walking the neighborhood, are they I.C.E. agents, are they not? How do you identify them? Do we just call the police? Do we have the police come out?

Mayor McDermott- We had a resident that did that to us, I'm glad you brought this up. The resident said, you know, called up the Hammond Police and said there's people parked out in front of my houses, they're sitting in a car and they've been there for like 2 hours. That's concerning anytime any of us see that out in front of our house, we're gonna call the cops. Cops show up, knock on the window, say what's going on in here, huh we're I.C.E agents, we're waiting for somebody. It's fact, and it's happening right now in Hammond. I don't know if he's a felon or not, and I don't even know if we can trust him anymore when it comes to that. That's why I think what you guys are doing is right on the mark. I really do.

Councilman Kalwinski- I received a text on the way here that I.C.E, and I didn't confirm it, but I.C.E was at Wal-mart in the Marina District.

Mayor McDermott- Ok.

Councilman Kalwinski- It would have been like 4 or 5 I guess.

Mayor McDermott- I didn't hear anything.

Councilman Kalwinski-Did you hear about it?

Mayor McDermott- No I didn't. I heard that they were on the Eastside today though, Councilman. So, if they were over on the Eastside and they're looking for somebody, you know how a lot of people are, people go from the Eastside to Robertsedale all day long. So if they're looking for somebody from the Eastside and they're in Hammond, or maybe they have a girlfriend that lives in Hammond or something, those officers are coming right over here. They don't respect state

Mayor McDermott cont.-boundaries like that. They'll be here. Hammond Police don't operate like this. I did ask him, I said, do you guys ever cover your face because that bugs me. I think it bugs all Americans to see cops that are embarrassed to show their face. The cop said there's one time we cover our face Mayor, and I said when? SWAT raids. Ok, you're going into a drug dealers house, I could live with that, right? These guys keep their face covered every day at work because they're embarrassed of what they're doing. It's embarrassing. It's not American.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman Barry.

Councilwoman Venecz- When is it appropriate for me to add my name to this resolution and if any others choose to do so as well? Do we have to wait until after it's passed or anytime?

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Council President Woerpel- No.

Councilwoman Venecz- Ok, I would like to add my name to the resolution.

Councilman Emerson- And I would like to add my name to the resolution.

Council President- Is that a yes, Dan?

Councilman Emerson- Yes.

Council President Woerpel- No I was looking at Dan. Dan's giving me the thumbs up.

Councilman Rakos- Yes, I will add my name as well.

Council President Woerpel- Me too, whatever, you know.

Councilman Kalwinski- Mayor, when you mentioned that we could face possible consequences, I suspect you were thinking what I was thinking, and that would be money from down state and projects and that kind of thing?

Mayor McDermott- Well, yeah. Yeah. I think we face the same kind of consequences because we exist though in this environment. So when this went down, Councilman Mark, first off, we were inundated as you can imagine, I'm sure the Council Chamber was, that was a busy day, and then I started hearing rumors from the Governor that he passed some executive order that forces us to comply with I.C.E. Yeah, executive order, eh, it's not law. Let's go, right? Executive order. I can live with that. You know, we're doing the right thing. If we're going to go to prison together, I'd feel a lot better with all you guys with me, I'll be honest with you, but if we're going to do something, let's do it for the right reasons. We're doing it for the right reasons right now. 40 percent of our population is being terrorized by these people. It's not right. Thank you, Councilman Barry. Thank you to the Council Members. I appreciate it. It's a good one. I appreciate you guys.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Rakos, moves for adoption

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R21 ADOPTED

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Gary Dreischorf- Foreign Local had a real nice event. It's gonna be great for Hessville.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Ryan Whitney- Speedway at 6845 Calumet Ave has a loud speaker that plays a message over and over 24/7. It's too loud and is causing a disruption in day to day lives.

George Stoya- I would like to restate my objections to the way these public hearings went. I don't think they were properly before this body for deliberation or otherwise. This is like budgeting by ambush. You guys do this every year that way nobody can contest anything. You don't release any information, but you tack on storm water user fees. This is authoritarian, not democratic.

Lisette Montanez- Thank you for asking questions about the TIF information. I know a lot of you care. Gaming is down, but we weren't going to live off that forever. We get a lot of good money from Water. Sportsplex was built with TIF funding, that's also profitable. Sometimes we cry broke, and other times we say hey, we're profiting. We need to find out where those funds are going. We can't just say every fund is going to the roads and sanitation or to college funding. It needs to be more transparent, that way when people cry broke, we need to re-evaluate budgets. I know the state isn't giving enough, but we need to do more to not put the pressure on our community. As far as the rate increase, he says it's \$1.25, and then he goes off and says there is a yearly increase. She didn't even have the documents, she had to ask for them. That should not be happening. I'm familiar with union contracts. And thank you all for what you do and looking out for us.

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

2025 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	13	27	10	24	10	24	14	28	12	27	9	23	14	28	11	25	8	22	13					
Katrina Alexander	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P					
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P					
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG					

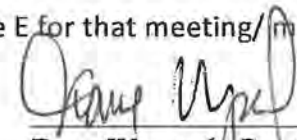
E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY

PRESENT

A=ABSENT

If the member qualifies for an exemption from the "Consecutive - 50" requirements, draw a circle around the E for that meeting/member.


Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:35 p.m.

mg/cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 27, 2025 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Dave Woerpel presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Nice to see you, Mr. President. Good to see the rest of the Council. This is my report for October 27th. I'm gonna keep it tight because I know we have a busy meeting. Along with Chief of Staff, Corporate Council and the Deputy and City Controller traveled to Indianapolis to meet with Bose, McKinney and Evans and our lobbying team, in preparation for the 2026 legislative session in Indianapolis. As you all know, Andy Miller has been representing our City for at least fifteen years. He's going to continue as the lobbyist for the City, which is good news for us. Andy has actually become the boss of that entire firm down there so wh have clout in the hallways of Indianapolis with the lobbyist that we've had for a long time. So it's great to have him back. He's got a great team around him and they give us good briefings about what we can expect in the next legislative session. I held an internal meeting with my staff over a business in the 2nd District that wants to reclassify zoning. I talked to Councilman a little bit about this issue. I think we are going to follow that up. Attended the annual AIM Conference in French Lick. AIM is Accelerate Indiana Municipalities. I want to thank Councilman Salinas and Councilman Woerpel for attending also. While I was there and attended the conference, I also attended the Indiana Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting. Numerous Mayors from all around the State attended this session. We talked about SB-1, pretty much continuously. If anything made me feel any better is, I know that our Governor and our legislature is run by a supermajority of Republicans and I could tell you that the Republican Mayors are probably more upset than we are and I think ultimately that's gonna help us. There is a lot of consternation across the State of Indiana in both parties about the massive cuts that are gonna be experienced by our government in one year, by the School City in one year, by the County in one year, the massive overhaul that the Governor is proposing is not being met well by Municipal Elected Officials like ourselves. So, we talked a lot about that. I've heard about some possible fixes that are coming and I just understand that the Governor called the General Assembly back into Special Session today to redistrict so maybe while they're there playing with the lines, maybe they'll actually get some stuff done for the Hoosiers, you know, because we need answers on what we're gonna do in one year and to this point they still can not tell the City of Hammond or any other city across Indiana how much we are going to lose under SB-1, nor could

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - they tell us how much we would gain if we passed a Municipal Income Tax. We're flying blind and we have less than a year to make massive decisions, so it's not just us in this boat, you know, cities and towns across Indiana are dealing with these big time issues and questions. Also attended the Annual Volunteers Day Breakfast at the Dynasty Banquet Hall. It was well attended. It's a great event. I love that event. Just to see all the people that work so hard for our City, to give back to them is a nice thing. Also attended Hammond F.O.P.'s Back the Blue Event in Highland's Downtown Park. It was actually not just the Hammond F.O.P., it was Hammond, Highland and Whiting's F.O.P.'s. It was really cold out, it was a little bit rainy so it wasn't as well attended as they hoped but it was nice to go there and pay my respects to the people that keep our cities safe. So, that's my report unless you have any questions, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes from October 14th meeting and place them on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to approve the claims from October 8, 2025 through October 22, 2025. Claim No. 9295 through Claim No. 9758, inclusive. In the amount of \$7,801,651.27.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Salinas - Capital Improvement Board did not meet on October 20th so there is no report. Also, I will be bringing out Ordinance 25-28 for 3rd and Final.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz :

Wed., Nov. 5th - 6:30 p.m. - Edison Community Watch - Edison School

Tues., Nov. 4th - Harrison Crime Watch - 6 p.m. - VFW on Hohman

Hessville Crime Watch - Thur., Nov. 20th - 6 p.m. - HC3 Community Center

Irving Community Watch - Tues., Nov. 11 - 9:30 a.m. - Irving School

Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch - Thur., Nov. 13 - 6: p.m. - Calumet College

Prepared by

Robert J. Golec

Hammond City Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz cont. - I'd also like to announce that starting Nov. 1st the Hammond Community Watch, the Hammond Urban Enterprise Association and Mayor McDermott will be offering a free Ring Doorbell Program. The ad will be in CR Publications, effective November 1st. Applications will be taken through November 14th and there will be a drawing on November 25th to determine the lucky winners of the free Ring Doorbell. If anybody has any questions on that feel free to call me and please attend a Community or Crime Watch meeting.

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Will be bringing out 25-23 through 25-29.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

25-23 City of Hammond 2026 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for final passage.

Council President Woerpel requested that the Clerk add the following to the minutes before we take this vote. The City Council has received an objection to the budget pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-17.5. If the budget is adopted by the vote this evening I am requesting that a finding be made with the budget noting this objection and that any testimony made at public comment tonight regarding this budget be made part of the record.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: Kalwinski

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9683 PASSED

25-24 2026 Budget Proposal Hammond Redevelopment

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for final passage.

Council President Woerpel requested that the Clerk add the following to the minutes before we take this vote. The City Council has received an objection to the budget pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-17-5. If the budget is adopted by the vote this evening I am requesting that a finding be made with the budget noting this objection and that any testimony made at public comment tonight regarding this budget be made part of the record.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9684 PASSED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

25-25 2026 Budget Proposal, Sanitary District of Hammond, Sewer Maintenance Fund 6208 (8201),
Special Sanitary Debt Service Fund 3301 (8280)

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for final passage.

Council President Woerpel requested that the Clerk add the following to the minutes before we take this vote. The City Council has received an objection to the budget pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-17-5. If the budget is adopted by the vote this evening I am requesting that a finding be made with the budget noting this objection and that any testimony made at public comment tonight regarding this budget be made part of the record.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9685 PASSED

25-26 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries and Wages of all City Officials and Employees of the City of
Hammond, Indiana other than those fixed by statute or by Ordinance heretofore enacted, and
fixing the effective date thereof

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz , moved for final passage.

Mayor McDermott - For the record, it's 2% raises for all employees unless they are covered by a Union Contract that says otherwise. Quite frankly, I think that most of the Union Contracts agree with the 2%. One of them that's not is Police. The Police negotiated 3.5%, but that was negotiated by contract. But everybody else is pretty much at 2% anyways. So, I just wanted to point that out for the record.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9686 PASSED

25-27 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries and Wages of all Police Officers and Firefighters of the City
of Hammond, Indiana other than those fixed by statute or by Ordinance heretofore enacted, and
fixing the effective date thereof

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for final passage.

Mayor McDermott - For clarification, the Police Union negotiated to 2026 a 3.5% pay raise and we all signed that contract and the Fire Department had other priorities during negotiations and they accepted to take 2% for

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - this year and we all signed that. It was different negotiating strategies by Police and Fire, that's why the numbers are different. Not that we love one more than the other. They just had different priorities, okay? For clarification I just wanted to put that on the record.

Councilman Kalwinski - Has that created any upset?

Mayor McDermott - No, sir. They literally had different priorities, Councilman. The Fire Department negotiated for things that were more important to them and the Police Department negotiated more for pay. That was the first time in my career that I've seen them brake off like that. But they both got what they wanted.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, can you remind me the annual residency bonus that they're getting. Is that in addition to, like initial hiring bonus too if they live in the city?

Mayor McDermott - It's in addition to this, Councilman. I'm trying to remember what that amount is. \$4,800 a year.

Councilman Tyler - They're both \$4,800. Okay, got it.

Councilman Kalwinski - And that's annually?

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir. That's what we do to keep our Police and Fire. Then you have the State law, right, to live anywhere they want. We give them that bonus as an incentive. We've been doing it since we took over twenty years ago, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski - And how much do we forgive on a home loan if they buy in Hammond?

Mayor McDermott - I think it's up to \$10 thousand now.

City Controller Megan Moore - It's \$10 thousand that's up front to their down payment.

Mayor McDermott - \$10 thousand to encourage Police Officers and Firemen to make their home in Hammond. So there's a lot of incentives and, by the way, we also do take home cars for Hammond residents, so we really try to take care of our Police and Firemen that live in the City.

Councilman Kalwinski - Does that apply to a rent subsidy if they rent in Hammond?

Mayor McDermott - No, you have to buy. I think we're doing pretty well, by the way. I know a lot of Police Officers that live in the City and it makes me feel better and, you know, I realize there's more that live out than live in but we have a pretty significant number that live in the City and I think if you compared us to the South Bend's of the worlds and like departments, I think we're doing well in the percentage that live here.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9687 PASSED

25-28 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana
Authorizing Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for final passage.

Councilman Salinas - This is the payment in lieu of taxes agreement between the City and the Renaissance Towers Apartments. This is an agreement that will begin in 2027 for the amount of \$95 thousand. It will increase annually at 3% for a term of 30 years. This \$27 million investment will include all 450 units as well as both senior living facilities, both towers. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott - I appreciate Councilman Al for bringing that up. It seems like we get a lot of action in Downtown Hammond. This is there's another one that's following shortly, we're gonna be announcing soon. We did the bank and it's filled, you know, the Renaissance is right off Downtown. This is the largest affordable housing project, redevelopment project going in the State of Indiana right now and we'll be coming to you with another announcement shortly. It's, to me, the train line is what's giving the investors the confidence to invest in our Downtown. So, I think Councilman Al is going to be busy during this term. It's right on the border between the 1st and 2nd District for Councilman Mark as well. So, I know that it was a long time ago we decided to give money to that rail expansion, but I'm telling you, we noticed a difference, especially, in Downtown Hammond with people that want to invest there. Raymundo Garcia of El Taco Real recently opened his EAT Restaurant for the weekends in Downtown Hammond. So we have another dining option. So, I think that we're heading in the right direction.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9688 PASSED

25-29 An Ordinance Enacting Proposed Amendments to the System of User Fees for the
Operation and Maintenance of the City Storm Water Systems

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for final passage.

Mayor McDermott - If the Council chooses to enact this storm water fee, even after the full implementation of the fee, we'll still be the lowest, when you consider the combined water, sewer, and storm water, we'll still be

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - the cheapest municipality in the State of Indiana by a long stretch. You know, I think there's one thing that you could say with positivity is, Hammond, our water, sewer and storm water fees are the lowest in the State. Bar none. So, this is adding a little bit, it's a dollar and a quarter we're adding. So I think it's what, \$15 a year that we're adding right now and that \$15 a year with our residents will add up to be over a million dollars and Milan has already pledged that \$million from the Hammond Sanitary District to the Capital Improvement Board, which will help us with storm water repairs. And I know that there's a number of Council people who sit on the Capital Improvement Board and I know that an extra million dollars to help you out with all the needs that we have in the City, it will help us. So, I hope you consider this. Thank you, Mr. President.

Councilman Kalwinski - What might ... you're saying about a million will go to Sanitary. How much total are we anticipating getting from this fee?

Milan Kruszynski, Sanitary District Manager - The first year it will be a million dollars.

Councilman Kalwinski - So, pretty much all of it will be going to the CIB.

Milan Kruszynski - The majority of it will be going towards the CIB, yes.

Councilman Kalwinski - And after that, when it's more than a million?

Milan Kruszynski - Then it will still be a million each year to CIB, the Storm Water Department will then be able to use those funds to do other improvements in the storm water system throughout the City.

Councilman Kalwinski - Okay, thanks.

Councilman Tyler - Just one more question, Sorry Milan. But how much would you anticipate you guys are spending per year in repairs now?

Milan Kruszynski - Best guess, the storm water budget's right around \$4.5 to \$5 million dollars. So, a lot of that goes to the Sewer Department to help them out and then the rest goes to fix whatever sewers we need done throughout the City that end up breaking. Probably within the next week to ten days, when the permit comes back from the State, you're gonna see a bit of a closure at 150th and Calumet because another sewer has broken there.

Councilman Tyler - How much would you say you could be spending on repairs per year?

Milan Kruszynski - We don't have enough money. Really, in all honesty we have about 200 miles of storm sewers throughout the City. Which is along the curb line, basically, and it would be hundreds of millions of dollars to try to replace all that. So this is a fix in place, Councilman, as needed.

Councilman Tyler - What does this mean to residents?

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Milan Kruszynski - Well, what we're hoping to get out of this is a lot of being able to attack and take care of the flash floods that we had this past summer. We have to, again, maintain those sewers, but we also have to repair them so the sewers have more capacity and then we could be able to accept all those flash floods and the hundred year rains every two or three years.

Mayor McDermott - You know, every month I get a report from Jack Smith, you all know Jack, Jack's in charge of the Sewer Department and he tells me, "Mayor, we got 25 miles done this month", and literally that's the purpose of the Sewer Department is to go out and vacuum out our sewers so that when we do have that big rainfall there's nothing there impeding the storm water going around. And I have to tell you, Jack's crew, they do a great job. They're regularly making progress. I forgot how long they told me it takes for them to get entirely across the City. Every five years. They start from one end and they work their way methodically through the City and then after five years they go back and they start all over again. But they literally ... that's one of the reasons when we have horrible rain storms that we're able to accept it and you go to other cities and you'll see a lot of the water is in the street. It's because their sewers are clogged and collapsed and, you know, if we do have a problem with the sewers, Jack's team will find it, tell Milan, and then Milan's got to have money in the budget to be able to repair it. You know, I remember one we had on Kennedy that was super expensive, right? That was a horrible one. You know, so sometimes you have those come along. That was the one where we had Kennedy shut down for two months. So, this is like he said. You know, I don't have to tell the Council this, for the last twenty five years that we've had gaming, you know, Councilman Mark would do a street back in the day and we had a lot more gaming money and Councilman Mark would come up with \$3 million and he'd do a whole block or he's do a couple blocks and part of that money that Councilman Mark spent his gaming money on back there covered water infrastructure because the Hammond Water Department didn't have enough money to do that. So we would just pay for it. And it would also cover storm water and other fees that the Sanitary District should have been covering but they didn't have any money either. So we're sort of estimating how much money we've spent over the years. Right now, we're sort of ... I know Dean in the Engineering Department is coming up with a number. We did this much since gaming came, we did this much work for the Water Department, we did this much work for the Sanitary District. But I think what we are doing now, I think Milan's million dollars is definitely help cover the cost that we incur covering for them. So, I think it's good. And Barry, it's a buck and a quarter first year. It's no fun, but it's a buck and a quarter.

Councilman Tyler - Yeah, and I wasn't questioning the need. I just wanted, you know, residents a lot of times ask, "We're raising this, where does the money go?"

Mayor McDermott - Any time we're raising rates, I have no problem being transparent, Councilman.

Council President Woerpel - I know when two projects, Schneider Street that we had to add sewers down the middle of it because of the flooding problem down the hill off 169th, and I know when we did Mahoney Drive just to attach the sewer there by, I think it's at 174th Street, it was about a quarter million that was added to those two projects.

Mayor McDermott - Right. And they have money in the Sanitary Budget that covers those emergencies that come up but that money runs out pretty quick too, Especially if it's a \$3 million hit.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Mayor McDermott - I can tell you guys with certainty, the Hammond Sanitary District doesn't have a lot of money. They don't. If you're asking me about the Water Department, the Water Department's in a different fiscal position, and they were broke for a long time. But the Water Department's definitely a lot ... and they don't use property taxes, which is why they're not here, but the Hammond Sanitary District, they're operating on a hair string budget right now. As you all know, we have big expectations from the Federal Government approaching us at the end of the next decade or so.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9689 PASSED

Mayor McDermott - I want to thank the Council for working with Megan's Office and working with the administration to get that done. It's always a relief to get the budget done. So thank you very much. I appreciate it.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-30 An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the City of Hammond for Zoning Purposes and Amending Ordinance No. 8514 (An Ordinance Establishing a Zoning Plan for the City of Hammond including the regulations and maps to Administer the Zoning Plan in order to Provide for Orderly Growth and Development within this City, all in Accordance with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as Amended) for Property Commonly Known as 3518 Sheffield Avenue and 345 136th Street

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd Reading by title, be referred to the Council as a Whole Committee for November 10th at 5:15 p.m. and Intent to Consider for November 10th.

Councilman Kalwinski - This is a new development in the 1st District on land that has been primarily under utilized and this development is an opportunity to put something there that makes sense given that it's right next to a lake and Lake Michigan is two miles away, for boats and RV's and I'm excited to see how this goes. The developer is eager to work with us. It's about twenty one acres. Seven of which is wetlands in two different locations on the property that will remain undisturbed. We're looking at a couple of buildings, one with a roof for the RV's and boats and another one that's enclosed, as well as a three story self storage facility. Both of those the developer hopes to break ground on in June of 2026.

Mayor McDermott - I echo what Councilman Mark's saying. I think this is a great project and a great location. It's land that's been underutilized for a long time. It's like a \$20 million investment. It's gonna be sightly. It's gonna have solar power. RV parking, I've learned recently, RV storage, is a problem in the region. Boat storage

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - makes total sense being close to the marina. I think this is a great project. So, I hope you guys strongly consider this.

Council President Woerpel - Any further discussion? All those in favor say Aye, all those opposed?

AYES: ALL

25-31 An Ordinance Vacating a 446.06 Portion of 125th Street lying East of the East Right-of-way Line of Gaspar Avenue and West of the West Right-of-way Line of New York Avenue in the 1400 Block of New York Avenue in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd Reading by title and be referred to the Council as a Whole Committee with a 5:15 p.m. committee meeting on November 10th.

Councilman Kalwinski - This property is, while it says it's a street, it really is not a street. It never became a street, and so the college needs this vacated for their future development for a community park and a practice field and a trail. So, vacating this property will make all those things possible on property adjacent to the college, which is currently owned by Redevelopment and will be leased to the college by Redevelopment on a long term basis, I do believe.

Council President Woerpel - Any further discussion? All those in favor say Aye, all those opposed?

AYES: ALL

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council President Woerpel - Looking at the calendar here, our next couple of meeting don't really conflict with the holidays except Monday, the 22nd. Do we want to just go ahead and have that meeting on that day? Rather than moving around? We're all good? Sometimes we move it when it's real close to the holiday, but this is still three days away.

Councilwoman Alexander - I say we leave it.

Council President Woerpel - Leave it? Okay. We have one on the 24th of November but the 27th is Thanksgiving, so leave that one too?

Various Council Members - Yes.

Councilman Salinas - I'd like to make an announcement that there'll be a tree planting event at Irving Park this Saturday, November 1st, sponsored by the Delta Institute and the Davey Resource Group. The event will take

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Salinas cont. - place at 9:30 a.m. The group will be meeting at the South Parking lot on Municipal Drive near the playground at Irving Park.

Councilman Tyler - I didn't see Mr. Salinas, Councilman Salinas, at my tree planning event this weekend but I'll be at yours, hopefully. But no, I just wanted to thank the Delta Group for coming out to Harrison Park this past weekend. I think we planted, maybe close to 40 to 50 trees. It was a great turnout, between 25 and 30 volunteers. It was perfect weather. We were done in less than two hours. So, I want to thank the Hammond Park Department and I'm looking forward to the tree planting event at Irving Park as well. So if you are free, please join us. It is a great time. Spend some time out in nature, plant some trees that hopefully we'll see within the next five to ten years, start to really grow and, of course, beyond that. But also wanted to announce that this weekend I was able to attend an event hosted by the Hope Angels Fund of Northwest Indiana at Hammond Central where Roland Parrish came back to Hammond and discussed his journey with battling cancer. So I wanted to just thank that organization for all the support they provide for people. Fighting cancer in our area and for Roland Parrish for sharing his story and for all he does for our School City and for our Civil City. I also wanted to announce that the Hammond Public Library is hosting a Halloween party Thursday, I believe, from 5 to 7 p.m., of course, here in Hammond. So if you all have little children that you want to bring they'll be some fun activities there as well. Then I just wanted to take a quick second and acknowledge a you man from the City of Hammond and give prayers and condolence to his family. One of my fraternity brothers, Dwayne Washington, who was the long time Director of the Hammond Boys and Girls Club, unexpectedly this weekend. He was someone who was a mentor to a lot of youth in our City and across Northwest Indiana. He was a great fraternity brother, he was a great young man. So I just wanted to send condolences to his family. Arrangements are still being made. Once we have more information I will share them, but really want to send heartfelt condolences to his family as his presence will be missed across our City.

Councilwoman Venecz - I neglected to mention the Jefferson Crime Watch. A newly formed group is going to meet at Jefferson School, Wed., November 12th, 6 p.m. So please come out, support the efforts of this new group and learn what's going on in your neighborhood.

Councilman Emerson - The Annual Vet's Appreciation Day will be held November 1st at 10 a.m. This is the 12th Annual Veterans Appreciation Parade in Hammond. It will go from Olcott Avenue down 173rd and Kennedy Avenue and there is a short ... Lima Lima will be there, a flight team, a flyover and American Legion and VFW's. There is a short Hammond Parks and Recreation number, you can call them, 219-853-6378 for information on Lima Lima Veteran's Appreciation Day Parade.

Councilwoman Venecz - I just wanted to remind everybody that the Hammond Police Department is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 30th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hammond Police Station on Douglas Street. This is a great opportunity, not only for the kids to dress up, but to come out and meet our police officers. Meet the people who serve and protect us and allow us to sleep at night knowing that they're there to protect us. So please come out. Bring your children. I know they will appreciate it and it'll be fun. The kids will get candy.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - I wish to express my regrets to our residents for moving forward with the public hearing on the City budget before the budget was readily available to the public at the last Council meeting. It may have been legal but it showed a lack of transparency on our part and the optics were dreadful. I would like to see, to be more transparent. I would like to see the Council put our agenda, ordinances and resolutions online before each meeting so the public can participate fully in the process.

Councilwoman Venecz - Councilman Kalwinski, have you checked with our I.T. Department. It seems to me that that would be rather labor intensive, particularly with a budget as thick as this is, or any other ordinance for that matter.

Councilman Kalwinski - I believe those discussions are worth having.

Councilman Tyler - Councilman Kalwinski, thanks for bringing it up, I meant to address that earlier. So I did reach out to our I.T. Department about getting those ordinances on the website at least as we get them. So just for the public to know, we get our packets usually Thursday morning, the Thursday before our Monday meetings and I was talking to our I.T. Department about the possibility of when we get our packets, them getting a copy and uploading it to the website. As of right now they feel like they can adhere to that request, but we're still in conversation to make sure that 1-If it's uploaded to the website it's done so in a place that is easily accessible for residents to find, as well as in the right format. So, I am hopeful that, like, we'll be able to figure this out, hopefully, within the next few weeks. So, for example. The ordinances that were up for consideration were added to the website. Like I said, I think we are still trying to figure out ... and Ray, thank you for your support in that. We're still trying to figure out exactly where they should list. The agenda was not listed so I think that's something ... that was a miss on my part. But I do think that we can figure out a way to get our packet out there earlier so that residents can see that in advance of our meeting. The other thing I wanted to discuss was it would be possible for us to list ordinances that we are considering for 3rd and Final on the agenda as well. Clerk Golec, I'm not sure exactly what that would look like, because there could be instances where they aren't brought out for 3rd and Final, but just wondering if that's a possibility for us to list the ordinances potentially available for 3rd and Final on our agenda.

Council President Woerpel - I can address that part of it. That would be kind of tough because they have to clear Committee before they come out. I mean, I don't know.

Clerk Golec - The Clerk has no knowledge of when the Council will be bring them out for 3rd and Final Passage.

Council President Woerpel - As far as what you brought up. We have had some discussions with the Mayor's Office and I.T. and we need to work out the logistics of it. I know sometimes, you know, ordinances and resolutions are due by Wednesday but they're running a little late and then exception has to be made and we got to work out like, ok, what day will they be up, maybe Friday morning or whatever and it's just my understanding that I don't feel like anybody has a problem with it that I'm aware of, but we just got to talk with I.T. and Scott and the Mayor's Office to work out the details of it. But I don't see it being an issue.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Tyler - I appreciate that Mr. President. I didn't think that anybody had a issue with it. I just wanted to start the conversation so we could figure out, to your point, the logistics of getting it done. So, thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski - I appreciate Councilwoman Venecz's comments and I appreciate Councilman Barry Tyler for pursuing that with the I.T. Department and with Ray, and for your input as well with the Mayor. I think this is one of those things that will have to be sort of tossed around and see how it lands and it may take several different looks as we get to what is the best way to present this online. Thank you to everybody for wanting to pursue this and make it work. I appreciate that.

Councilman Tyler - Sorry, one more thing. The agenda are listed. Sorry about that. They are already listed on the website. So, I think to your point though, it is maybe just figuring about how we can list the ordinances under that agenda so people don't have to search in two different areas and they can find all the information in one place.

Councilwoman Alexander - I can also just share they are ways and could talk with I.T. about it, because there are certain ways that we do things even on our side in education with links. Because if you're posting a PDF version of it. You can actually post a legible link that could link to a file that's held in a drive somewhere. It can be accessed. So, that's something that they can take a look into as well.

Council President Woerpel - Before we move to Public Expression, while you guys were talking about trees being planted. I want to that the SCA and the Hammond Park Department because I took that tour of Oak Hill Cemetery about a month back and there's a story of Rimbach, from Rimbach Street, and his son, who was a Hammond Police Chief, on his 70th birthday, the son, went to plant a pine tree out on his grave and when he was digging the hole he dropped over dead. When I heard this story I contacted the SCA and see if they could donate one more pine tree. So, almost 80 years later that tree was planted, a couple of weeks ago. So, we do plant trees.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Tom Kazmierczak - Councilwoman Venecz, thank you for remembering the Jefferson Crime Watch. Thanked the city for taking care of the truck parking problem at the old Walmart.

Robert Benoit - Representing the Hammond Alumni Association, which give scholarships to the graduating students at Hammond Central and Morton. There is plenty of funding but hardly any of the students are applying for the scholarships. The School City needs to do more to inform the students of available scholarships. If the numbers do not increase it will be opened up to the County level and Hammond will miss out on the opportunity.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

2024 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	13	27	10	24	10	24	14	28	12	27	9	23	14	28	11	25	8	22	14	27				
Katrina Alexander	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P				
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG				

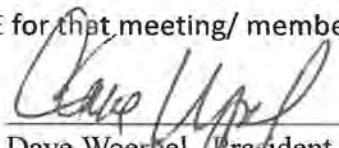
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P=PHYSICALLY

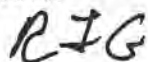
PRESENT

A=ABSENT

If the member qualifies for an exemption from the "Consecutive - 50" requirements, draw a circle around the E for that meeting/ member.


Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:56

cb

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*