

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MINUTES OF MAY 29, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety convened at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025, in the Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Long – present; Ms. Greenwell – present; Mr. Kalina – present.

Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve the Minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2025; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Under Correspondence, correspondence received from William Short, Chief of Police requesting the approval of Correctional Officer Tyler McKechnie, who has completed the one year probation period, shall receive the promotional raise due to him effective December 21, 2024; Officer Gabriel Gutierrez will no longer be performing the duties of a Traffic Officer and will relinquish his Traffic Specialty Pay effective June 10, 2025; and the approval for the resignation of Officer Anthony Munoz effective the close of business May 21, 2025. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-269)

Correspondence received from Safety Services & Supply requesting to close and reroute traffic in order to work on the CSX railroad tracks on Sheffield Avenue starting on June 8, 2025 for approximately 2 weeks which will require the “No Truck” signs to be covered during this closure on 165th Street. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-270)

Correspondence received from Controller’s Office requesting the approval of the renewal of amusement device license for the Hammond Yacht Club and Blue Kangaroo. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-271)

Correspondence received from Pete Burns, requesting approval for the Pat Mac Ride Parade through Hammond on June 20, 2025 with attached route and the approval from the Hammond Police Department. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-272)

Correspondence received from True Word Evangelistic Outreach Ministries to block 817-840 Cherry Street on Saturday June 14, 2025 from 12 noon until 6:00 PM for their annual Taste of the Grill Father’s Day block party. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-273)

Correspondence received from Norfolk Southern Corporation requesting street closure of Willow Court and State Street, near the intersection of the two roads and railway crossing, to perform work. This will start on June 13, 2025 approximately 7:00 AM and ending around midnight. Mr. Button states IHB will petition to close Stateline at the same time. Motion by Ms.

Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-274)

Correspondence received from Felix Gonzalez, Director of Hammond Public Works requesting residential parking only signs on 167th from Alabama west to alley on both sides of the street. Mr. Button states this was a resident request. Mr. Smith recommends this be sent to council for the 7 day notice. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve and forward the 7 day notice; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-275)

Under New Business, Declaration of emergency order to repair/demolish under I.C. 36-7-9-9 for 5217 Hohman Avenue. Mr. Kearney is in the process of obtaining quotes, if he proceeds he'll proceed under Section A or if he requests a hearing for the cost of the work he will proceed under Subsection (d) of that code and will give proper notice as required. Discovery Investments & Acquisitions, LLC, Marius Bolchis, 5217 Hohman Ave. Mr. Bolchis is LLC manager and co-owner. Mr. Kearney is informing the Board that he may take emergency action under the code, this is not a hearing, just informing the Board. No action needed. Owner states they have multiple plans but the roadblock is lack of parking for this building. They are actively looking for a developer for an office building. They only had plans to develop it as an apartment building with commercial but cannot do it now. Mr. Kearney states the immediate concerns are the panels flying off the building with the high winds last week. Photos provided. Owner is aware and cleaned up the grounds. Mr. Long states Mr. Kearney has a duty to act under the I.C. code and making this very clear the city is moving forward with the emergency. Mr. Smith states this property is currently under an active demolition order, we are in the process of bidding out the demolition of the property. There is an environmental report that is extremely concerning, they can get a copy from Ms. Taylor in Redevelopment. Owner's experts say they can cure it. They have covered the roof to not have more water damage, the panels are a safety issue and he is addressing so no one will get hurt. Mr. Kearney states it was complicated to get a phone number or email address to make contact but have been sending demo orders to the address available. Mr. Bolchis disagrees, he has been in the city approximately 50 times. Ms. Taylor has his phone number, email address and multiple emails with the city. Mr. Smith suggests this be reset for next week for a status. No action. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for status on June 5, 2025; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-276)

Agreement to Purchase Real Estate for property located at 5529 Sohl Ave. submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-277)

Fire Safety Plan received from ATL Special FX for the Brantley Gilbert Concert for FOTL on July 17, 2025 submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-278)

Mobile Food Vendor Application – Haven's Blessing – Mr. Erwin Cervantes appears. Mr. Cervantes has a mobile truck vehicle and will sell ice cream, will be moving continuously

from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM, mainly the south side of Hammond. Mr. Smith requests he review and comply with the ordinance. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-279)

Request for rental registration hearing and late business license hearings submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for June 12, 2025; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-280)

Garage Sale Permits submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-281)

Right of Way Permits (8) received from Engineering submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-282)

Resolution Authorizing the City of Hammond, by and through its Board of Works and Public Safety, to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority, regarding Engineering and Design Services at Optimist Lake. Mr. Smith states Little Cal will pay the most and will have grants. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-283)

Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement with Hammond Redevelopment Commission to transfer located at 600 177th Street and 626 177th Street. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-284)

Under Old Business, Downtown Hammond Cruise nights – closure of Fayette Street from Oakley to Hammond. Ms. Aubrey Zelenka appears. Mr. Smith would like Ms. Zelenka to talk with the building manager and get approval. Ms. Zelenka said she did confirm with person at the Banc Apartments. Mr. Long suggests to talk to Anastasia. Mr. Smith suggest adding signs the Friday before. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to conditionally approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-285)

Status speed bump request on the 800 block of Wilcox. Mr. Button advised that police department completed a speed measure and the area does not warrant. Any speeding should be referred to law enforcement. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to deny the request; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-286)

Resident safety concerns - Burton Court. Mr. Button states that Public Works corrected the sign, any illegal parking should be referred to the police department. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to refer to police department; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-287)

Under Rental Registration Hearings: 6219 Jackson – Owner's daughter appears. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to waive the late fee; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-288)

2141 Atchison – Agent/owner appears. This is a 5 unit building. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to waive the late fee; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-288)

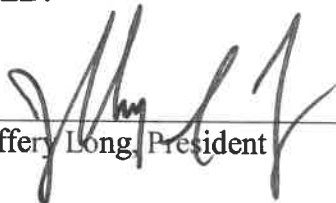
7515 Walnut – Owner appears. Mr. Polak states there is a homestead on the property and an unpaid board up invoice. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to waive the late fee, complete the homestead form and pay the invoice; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-288)

6237-41 Hohman - Owner appears. This is a 7 unit building, has a homestead and an unpaid board up invoice. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to waive the late fee, complete the homestead form and pay the invoice; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 25-288)

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Ms. Greenwell to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Kalina. The regularly scheduled meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

BY:


Jeffery Long, President

ATTEST:


Linda Norville, Board Secretary