

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety convened at 9:04 a.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026, in the Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Long – present; Ms. Greenwell – present; Mr. Kalina – present.

Under Conflict of Interest, Mr. Long will not participate in police matters.

Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve the Minutes of the meeting of August 20, 2026; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Under New Business, correspondence received from Bernard Grisolia, Fire Chief recommending the approval of the letter of retirement from Captain Dennis Banik, who has served the citizens of Hammond for 28 years to be effective October 19, 2026. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-508)

Under Matters From Board Members, Ms. Greenwell presents Addendum 1 to the Emergency Disposal Service Agreement with Looks Great Services of MS, Inc. for a \$250,000 increase. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-509)

Under New Business, Consulting Services Agreement with Del Sol Consulting submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-510)

Contract for Demolition Services with JM Industrial Services, Inc for the demolition of 821 Michigan in the amount of \$138,000 submitted for approval. Mr. Smith states the Church will reimburse. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-511)

Credit Application from Public Works with Midwest Salt submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-512)

Order to Rescind and Release Order to Demolish for property located at 7208 Alexander Ave. submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-513)

Agreement to Rehabilitate property located at 5125-27 Hohman Ave. submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-514)

Right of Way Permit (1) received from Engineering submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-516)

Neighborhood Special Events – Northgate Church, 2820 165th St. – Outdoor Service on August 30, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Requesting to block off the alley east of the building. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-517)

Garage Sale Permits submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-518)

Gas Station Exception Hearing – 3350 Calumet Ave. Mr. Smith requests states this station has had the exception since 2023. Mr. Nick Tangles appears. Mr. Novak states the place should be kept neat and the neighboring cars should be cleaned up. Mr. Smith advises if a citation is warranted, it would be to the owner of the property. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Out of Order, Plat – CLD Commercial Addition – 6525 Indianapolis Blvd. submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 26-520)

Under Old Business, Status – 7531 Calumet – Mr. Odatallah does not appear. Mr. Polak states he has not heard from Mr. Odatallah and requests no action and will proceed. No Action. (Ins. No. 26-521)

Status – 6826-28 Kennedy – Mr. Smith states this was set for a revocation for the bond, they did appear, reset for today. Mr. Polak states the final inspection is complete, update photos have been provided, remaining needs are the occupancy permit and Findings and Order needs to be paid. Mr. Smith states an Order to Rescind will be next week upon her payment of costs and bond can be released. No action.

Status – 847 117th. No one appears. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for status on September 17, 2026 with an order to appear; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Status – 1219 150th St. Mr. Smith states the majority of the brick wall was brought up to code, the wall was resided and garage was knocked down. Owners appear. Mr. Manual works with owners. Mr. Polak states the building permit, electrical and mechanical permit expired as of 8/22/26, needs new permit for any remaining work. Owner states the plan to keep on working and will obtain permits this week, and is aware building, electrical and mechanical permits has expired. Mr. Polak requests an inspection from the owner for Friday at 10:00 a.m. and will provide an update and reset for status next Thursday. Mr. Long states the inspections needs to be completed, updated permits and attend next week's meeting is required. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for status for September 3, 2026 with order to appear; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Denial of Business License Renewal Application – 922 Indianapolis Blvd., Popeye's Chicken.

Mr. Smith acknowledges Mr. Thomas on Zoom. This is on the denial due to a failure to renew that was sent by the Controller's Office on August 20, 2026. Mr. Thomas perfected an appeal on this. We are also in receipt of the 73 pages of 11 Exhibits. The city's position is they are standing on the denial of the renewal.

Mr. Thomas, general counsel for licensee. HZ Ops Holdings, Inc. The licensee is the largest franchisee in the US, maintain active and current business license and take these matters very seriously. A timely appeal was filed. They have two locations in Hammond and have been longtime members of the community. He has been working with Mr. Smith and this particular denial stems from 1) the application was not timely filed 2) did not have an active license at the time of August 14, 2026 incident in which an employee brought a weapon to the workplace inconsistent with company policy and engaged in an altercation with someone outside the restaurant. His understanding is this matter is still being investigated. They continue to cooperate with the police regarding this investigation. He received a subpoena from city counsel for records they intend to comply with and support the police investigation. Regarding the denial of the renewal, the city relies in part by a local code §119.12(A)(3) that the restaurant permitted or allowed the employee to engage in this conduct which is not true. The evidence in the packet, Popeye's contains a clear policy that prohibits employees from bringing any weapon or firearm on to the premises. The employee in question did violate the policy and when they found out with the help of the city, he was identified and terminated his employment immediately. No one in management condoned him having a gun in the workplace. The city denial of the license also refers to allegations regarding water issues, health and safety issues. The water department and health department came through and both indicated they passed the inspections. They are now operating in compliance with local regulations regarding health and water. The appeal is well founded, hoping the city will move forward, release the license. Witness, Director of Operations, Daniel Pina has special knowledge about the incident, company response, the employee's termination and how they overall conduct operations in Hammond.

Mr. Daniel Pina, Director of Operations for HC Foods, LLC, for NW Indiana, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. has worked for the company for 8 years. He is active in the field and visits these locations at a minimum of 2 to 3 weeks. He company places very high importance on the compliance with local business license requirements and is key to being able to operate in municipality. Mr. Pina received a phone call from the district manager on the evening of August 14 around 7 pm and indicated that there was an incident outside of the restaurant that a shooting occurred and police had investigation, cornered off the area and at this point the restaurant was closed. He was not informed beforehand that an employee possessed a firearm, he did not learn of any evidence that it was authorized that an employee to bring a firearm. The incident occurred on the exterior of the location and he was not physically present. The company policy maintains a policy that prohibits employees from possession of weapons while working and the policy is electronically with the other applicants, read and agree all the policies of the company. Evidence Packet, copy of the firearms policy, Tyreek Talley who was terminated, knew about the policy and signed off on it. After learning of the individual who had the handgun, he was terminated immediately. Cooperation with the Hammond Police Department – Mr. Pina states they were cooperative with everything that was asked. Mr. Pina's direct communication was with Assistant

Chief Christopher Gootee on Saturday. The conversation was around the conditions of the restaurant, the cleanliness and not having the water inspection updated. At no point was he asked about the DVR, the camera system. Their position is to fully 100% cooperate with all investigations. The Assistant Chief did not express that the company was not being cooperative. Mr. Pina drove to the location on the afternoon of the 25th to speak with the Assistant Chief but he was not available. Regarding the questions on the phone call regarding safety, water, ect., he explained that they try to upkeep the stores and he was at this location that week and did not see any issues and would look into the backflow device inspection because he was certain it was current. His position was he will get there and if there were any issues, he would fix them, correct and rectify them immediately. Due to the seriousness of the handgun, after it was determined that the employee violated the company policy based on the firearm policy within the handbook, he printed out the policy and met with each employee at that location to reiterate the standing of the weapons policy and they signed and dated the policy again in front of him. The evidence packet has all the employees at that location's signed acknowledgement stating they understood the policy and Mr. Pina made sure the employees understood and signed the policy demonstrating they take this seriously and want employees to follow all policies and procedures.

Mr. Thomas has completed and will rest on what he presented today as to the evidence packet and Mr. Pina's testimony and would like to ask the Board to consider what they presented on the appeal and release the business license, all the submissions have been submitted, renewal fee has been paid, all documents are there and hope the Board will allow the city to move forward and release the business license.

Mr. Smith questions Mr. Pina. Mr. Pina has no direct association of the process of the licensing and is aware there are timelines. Mr. Smith asks if he is familiar with the documents that were submitted which was about mid June. He is now aware but saw some paperwork after the fact. He is not aware of this business having a valid business license from August 1st and today. Mr. Smith states that one of the statements is signed by a Contrina Melton. She is a general manager. Dina, district manager, and Tykenia Roach, shift leader on the day of the incident. Mr. Pina has reviewed the statements and nothing indicates anything about an employee being involved in a shooting. Director of Operations was unaware because employees did not tell him another employee was involved in a shooting, would like to know this information and this did not happen. Tyreek Talley is the employee with the gun. Exhibits 6 documents are the signed ones from the post meeting, no Tyreek signature due to him already being terminated. The electronic sign offs for the company does not have a written signature for Mr. Talley prior to this incident.

Mr. Pina would like to keep the company employees safe and making sure they are not carrying guns to work and there is a policy for that. Carrying guns at work is both dangerous and unsafe. Popeye's training is not to carry guns at work. Mr. Talley was not a manager, he was an employee. Up to the shift manager to make sure all company policies are being followed. It is fair to say a company policy was violated by Mr. Talley on that day, namely carrying a weapon to work. Mr. Smith states there is a bullet proof glass at the counter and you are safer behind the bullet proof glass. Mr. Pina agrees. Mr. Pina states in the photos, Mr. Talley and another employee are behind the bullet proof glass. Mr. Talley would have to go outside the bullet proof glass, gone outside the restaurant to where the shooting occurred. Mr. Pina agrees they do not

train employees to go outside of a protected area and engage with a customer and be involved in a shooting. Mr. Smith asks if he is familiar with the Policy Acknowledgement Status Report, Exhibit 8. Mr. Pina is not familiar with this. Mr. Smith states it lists policies, whether it is required and then it mentions if it acknowledges. There are a couple that Mr. Talley did not acknowledge. Total acknowledged policy 2 out of 6, total of viewed policy, 2 out of 6, date of report was 8/26/26. Is part of this the part of the management to make sure the employees acknowledges that are correct, Mr. Pina states these are done electronically and wants employees to acknowledge. Mr. Pina agrees that Mr. Talley's 2 out of 6 is a failure to the policy that is required.

Mr. Thomas has a follow up. Mr. Pina agrees each location of Popeye's including this location maintain a video system to make sure there is proper surveillance of the property. The video is stored on a DVR player and the police department did retrieve and take the DVR player. The police department took it August 15th and agrees that because the police took the DVR player, that hindered the ability to investigate and determined what actually happened on August 14, 2026. There was no way to question the individual without the DVR. Mr. Pina saw the photo that identified Mr. Talley and the other individual was a cook, can't remember his name. Mr. Pina spoke with the cook later and he said he never saw a weapon, he came up front to see what the commotion was about and returned to the back. Mr. Thomas states he did provide written statements. Mr. Pina viewed his credibility and believed what he said.

Mr. Smith questions his testimony that there was no other way to ID Mr. Talley until he saw the photo which was sent on the 19th. Mr. Pina states correct. Mr. Smith asks if he agrees that there would be a way to ID Mr. Talley if the employees told him that Mr. Talley ran outside and was involved in an incident, this didn't happen? Mr. Pina said there was no way of him knowing who seen what. The management did not indicate that Mr. Talley was involved, the cook did not indicate. He has only viewed the photo, no police reports, or the investigation. No one mentioned to him that Mr. Talley went around the bullet proof glass, went outside and there was an incident and the statements that were written out did not indicate this. They did not mention that a customer was bleeding from a gunshot wound on the sidewalk up front, they did mention that someone was shot out front and the restaurant was closed. Mr. Pina does not know if Mr. Talley came back and no one reported whether he came back. Mr. Smith questions that he would want to do a count to make sure all his employees were safe. Mr. Pina states this was one of the first question to ask if any of the employees were hurt and they said no. They did not mention anything about Mr. Talley and did not ask anything specific about an employee. Mr. Pina does not know if Mr. Talley left.

Mr. Smith acknowledges Mr. Thomas' exhibits. Mr. Smith presents his exhibits, 1) search warrant, 2) still photo from the DVR and 3) recent subpoena from the Lake County Prosecutor's Office through the Hammond Police Department for an investigation for an attempted murder and batter by means of a deadly weapon and a robbery investigation.

Mr. Smith calls Lisa Serrano. Elisa Serrano, Business License Administrator. Part of her duties are to manage the licensing and renew of licensing for the City of Hammond. She is familiar with Popeye's, 922 Indianapolis Blvd. The dead line for renewal of a business license is due on or before June 30th but does allow a grace period of 31 days. Popeye's presented their

paperwork June 18, 2026, she reviewed them for compliance and she did speak with Ms. Patel around June 15. Her process if certain requirements are not there, she will write down what they are missing and she will let them know. She did let her know through their verbal conversation in June that she needed the Serve Safe which is required and important. She did not receive any paperwork did not have a valid license on August 1st and she received the Serve Safe certificates on August 19th and the Controller's Office denied the renewal. They presently have all the paperwork.

Mr. Thomas questions Ms. Serrano. She is aware of the other Popeye's they operate. The city did issue the license for the other location after the 19th. What are the issues that are causing the city not to issue its license for this location. Mr. Smith asks Mr. Thomas to be more specific. Mr. Thomas withdraws the question and will let the record speak for itself.

Mr. Smith calls witness Assistant Chief Chris Gootee. Mr. Gootee has been with the police department 20 years and his current rank is Assistant Chief. He is aware of the incident that occurred at Popeye's Chicken at 922 Indianapolis Blvd. The incident involved shots being fired outside the restaurant, a person was shot and injured, there is a on going criminal investigation and the Lake County Prosecutor's office issued a subpoena for information surrounding the shooting. To Mr. Gootee's knowledge, a Popeye's employee was involved in the shooting. No Popeye's employee informed him of the shooting. The officers and investigators made numerous attempts to recover surveillance video to get an accurate picture of what occurred, they were unable to and eventually made an appointment with a district manager to meet at the restaurant at 9:00 a.m. the next morning. Mr. Gootee helped download the video because it was a brand they had never seen before. After multiple conversations with multiple managers of the general and district level, no one was able to get them access to any video. Ultimately they applied for a search warrant to obtain it. At no time during the investigation did any Popeye's employee volunteer information to that another employee was involved in the shooting. Mr. Gootee said the employees stated they had no idea what had occurred, no one was arguing, there was no difficulty at all and had no idea what happened. No employee volunteer the information that a Popeye's employee had a gun while on duty at the restaurant until after the video. Mr. Gootee had to get a warrant to obtain the video. Exhibit 1 – Warrant. The person involved in the shooting has not been interviewed. None of the employee's statements indicate that an employee had a gun and the employees were not helpful and credible in the information they relayed about the shooting. Mr. Gootee believes the time delay to obtain the video did hamper the investigation in identifying the employee involved. Mr. Gootee did spend time speaking with employees and he did not perceive them to be professional and acting in a manner that he would expect from food service employees. There is a stark difference between the two stores. When Mr. Gootee walked in the north store, he looked around and there was a manager brought multiple children, baby in car carrier, everyone was laughing, smoke happened with the deep fryers in the kitchen saying hope this place burns down. Once they couldn't get the information displayed on the DVR system, they knew they had to call Mr. Pina and they all commented on what a process it was going to be to get a hold of him and have him become involved. Basically they knew there would be difficulty once Mr. Pina was involved. There have been multiple calls at this location and Mr. Talley and a firearm being mentioned before, frequent disturbances at this location compared to others. Mr. Gootee noticed both of the bathrooms had a printed sign that they were out of order and knowing a restaurant has a place to

wash you hands and use the bathroom, they were closed and thought it was unusual. He asked and the employees said they were nasty, disgusting and could try to go into if he wanted to. They also said things were never worked on or fixed appropriately and gave a laundry list of complaints about the business and Mr. Pina specifically. Mr. Gootee is familiar with things that help the police department from a security, safety and a public safety standpoint. His recommendation to the board would look like upgrade their surveillance system and connect to FUSUS so if there was an incident, they could access directly when there was an incident that occurred. There are several areas of the property that do not have any surveillance coverage, there are a couple broken cameras, some are so dirty you cannot see what was recorded on them. Not sure if they different employees, or train the employees that if something occurs, they need to know the truth about what happened. Their investigation through the video shows two employees left a bullet proof enclosure to confront someone who they were arguing with and everyone either lied about it or tried to cover it up, he then left and ran away with the gun. These are things the police need to know so they know who they are looking for and not stopping the wrong person, company business near are not on high alert and maybe a gunman is on the loose.

Mr. Thomas questions Mr. Gootee. Mr. Gootee has been in law enforcement 20 years, has had education and training on how to conduct criminal investigations. He has been Assistant Chief since April. He has had occasion to conduct criminal investigations in the Hammond area. When Mr. Gootee was there trying to recover the video, there were multiple managers including a general manager, district manager, either there or on the phone consulting with the operations manager and none of them could get it done for multiple hours. Mr. Gootee recalls speaking to Contrina Melton, Kykenia Roach, someone name Nikki and a manager who had a family emergency that morning who later showed up. No one refused to cooperate but they were unable to provide any access to the system to show what happened. Mr. Gootee states no one said "no we are not going to cooperate" but they also got no video the entire time they were there. Mr. Thomas asks if he is inferring that their lack of ability to get a hold of the video at that time was not cooperative, how where they not cooperative when he indicated that no one refused to cooperate. Mr. Gootee states if we are talking about video that inference may be correct, but the people they talked to in person said that they didn't even hear an argument and we know that is not true. Mr. Gootee is aware that managers in the stores need to get approval from someone outside of the store in order to release video, which is uncommon but he has seen it happen. Mr. Gootee is of the opinion that the employees mislead about him about individuals participating in this incident and covered it up. The people they talked to had to see Mr. Talley leave with another employee outside and told them they were not aware of anything and just heard shots fired, which they were obviously present for some sort of disturbance that occurred before Mr. Talley and someone else left the business where the bullet proof glass where they are safe, instead of calling 911 to report the disturbance, lock the business and keeping their safety, they unlocked the door to the bullet proof enclosure, went outside and became involved in a shooting, and then only after someone was bleeding and other people had called, then the police were called. Mr. Thomas has no further questions.

Mr. Smith has no follow up. Mr. Smith states the city rests on the evidence presented both included in city's presentation and the three exhibits as well as the Mr. Thomas' material as well as the denial letter from the Controller.

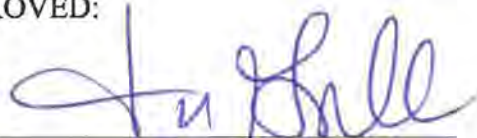
Mr. Long advises the Board will take this matter under advisement, will receive notification when the decision is made. (Ins. No. 26-522)

Mr. Smith states that during the pendency of the appeal, the store can remain open.

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 10:26 a.m.

APPROVED:

BY:


Tinisha Greenwell, Vice President

ATTEST:


Linda Norville, Board Secretary