MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL JUNE 25, 2018

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on June 25, 2018 in the Hammond City Council Chambers.

Council President Janet Venecz presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

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

ROLL CALL
PRESENT: Markovich, Spitale, Kalwinski, Torres, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
ABSENT: None
TOTAL: 9

READING OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes of June 11, 2018 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Markovich, supported by Councilman Higgs, moved to approve the claims from June 9, 2018 through June 20, 2018. Claim #3478 through claim #3806, inclusive.

Councilman Markovich, supported by Councilman Higgs, moved to amend in:

Claim #3807	Optimist Club of Hammond	Common Council	$100.00
Claim #3808	Optimist Club of Hammond	Common Council	$100.00

ROLL CALL VOTE (amendment)
AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Kalwinski, Torres, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 AMENDMENT ADOPTED

ROLL CALL VOTE (as amended)
AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Kalwinski, Torres, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS APPROVED (as amended)

PUBLIC HEARINGS
None

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Torres - I got a letter from Mr. Mark Svara, in the 4500 block Pine, he reads letter. I read an article in the Tribune from April about the work that your doing in Hammond to create quite zones from the trains, I would like to find out more and the status of this project and if there is anything I could do to help. Just to say that 56 thousand dollars has been approved for this project, just to do the engineering. It's just on Sohl, just north of Willow Court. This is the only location at this time. So, we will see how that goes and what is suggested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community & Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz announced:
Tues., July 3; Harrison C.W.; VFW on Hohman Ave; 6:30 pm
Tues., June 26; Pulaski Park N.A.; American Legion; 6:30 pm

Councilwoman Venecz - At the crime watch meetings, most recently, questions have been asked about Fireworks. And I just wanted to read the Fireworks Ordinance that is in place. The use of fireworks is prohibited within the City of Hammond city limits except as follows:
Between the hours of 5 pm and two hours after sunset on June 29, 30, July 1, July 2, July 3, July 5, July 6, July 7, July 8 and July 9.
Between the hours of 10 am and Midnight on July 4.

Councilwoman Venecz - In case anyones interested for future reference. Between the hours of 10 am on December 31 and 1 am on January 1. If a company or individual seeks a waiver from this section set waiver must be obtained through the Hammond Board of Works. So if anyone hears or knows of anyone who is shooting off fireworks outside of those parameters, please call the Hammond Police Department. One more thing that has been brought up at the Crime Watch Meetings. Last year on July 1our City suffered a horrible lose of a young man who was in his yard playing baseball. Someone shot a gun up in the air and we all know what goes up, must come down and the bullet came down and lodged in this young mans head and he did not survive. So, we also have an ordinance against discharging firearms in the City of Hammond. It shall be unlawful for any person to fire or discharge a firearm of any kind or nature whatsoever within the City. However nothing in this section prevents the use of these weapons in shooting galleries or in any authorized place which is regulated by the Hammond Police Department. It shall be unlawful for the parents, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of a minor under the age of 21, to knowingly permit the minor to fire and firearm of any kind or any nature whatsoever in the City. For those gun owners if you are so inclined to shoot your gun in a celebratory fashion, please do not shot it in the air, shot it at the ground, if you must. I would highly recommend that you avoid any such activity to prevent any such tragedy from occurring in the future. And that is why community is not just about me, it's about us.

ORDINANCE 3rd READING - FINAL PASSAGE
None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

RESOLUTIONS

18R-31 A Resolution Authorizing the Entry by The Hammond Redevelopment Commission into An Installment Contract and Taking Certain Other Actions Related Thereto

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

Councilman Spitale - This is all about the financing for the new Sports Complex. And I was gonna have Heather come up and explain it.

City Controller Garay - Good evening Council. As you know, we are building our new Hammond Sports Complex and the old Woodmar Mall site. It is set to be completed by the end of September and it will be valued at about $17.9 million. So we have been exploring different financing opinions for that, one of that was a HUD section 108 loan, that financed a large component of that. This is another component that we are utilizing, about $6 million in financing through an installment contract. It will be repaid from TIF revenues on an annual appropriation pledge. It does not impact the tax rate or count against our debt limit. So this is a financing tool that we can use toward this project. Any other questions on this one?

Councilman Higgs - Heather, what's the total cost for this project?

City Controller Garay - The total cost is about $17.9 million, if we hit all the contingency dollars.

Councilman Higgs - I would like to be added as a co-sponsor to this resolution.

Councilman Kalwinski - So, how many HUD dollars came for this project did we use?

City Controller Garay - It was about $8.7, so they had points offer, the opinion to do section 108 loans. Our current section 108 loan was expiring and they approached us about doing another project. So it is repaid primarily by CDBG distributions on an annual basis. It's at a lower interest rate then we would normally receive from a banking institution. So it's a good tool and we had those dollars available now that our past one was getting ready to be paid off.

Councilman Kalwinski - So are we applying for $6 million more dollars?

City Controller Garay - Yes. So the $6 million will be financed through a local bank, we are in negotiations, they are holding our rate for us now, as we had some hurdles to get through with some other financing. So this will be an independent loan from that bank.

Councilman Kalwinski - And are all of those dollars going to the Sports Complex?

City Controller Garay - Yes, this will all go towards the Sports Complex and there will still be a little bit of money that will be used from the allocation area, itself towards construction costs. We've been kind of building up a cash reserve there to find the right project. And we think that the Sports Complex will be a good project to replace Woodmar Mall. So we are using those funds in the best way can. We didn't want to deplete the entire cash balance and that's why we are going for this installment contract.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - So between the allocation area and the $6 million, that will cover all?

City Controller Garay - It will cover the expense of the entire facility, yes.

Councilman Spitale - When is it suppose to open?

City Controller Garay - I'm hearing, by the end of September. So we are moving along pretty well. We actually will get our first distribution from HUD this week. So, we are excited about that.

Councilman Higgs, supported by Councilman Torres, moved to be added as a sponsor. AYES: ALL

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)
AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Kalwinski, Torres, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R31 ADOPTED

18R-32 Resolution Recognizing and Honoring Pearline Jenkins and Designating the 900 Block of Conkey Street as "Honorary Pearline Jenkins Street"

Councilman Higgs, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved for adoption.

Councilman Higgs asks Clerk Golec to read the resolution in its entirety.

City Clerk Golec read the proposed resolution in its entirety.

Councilman Higgs - Just to add to her many attributes. Miss Pearline received numerous keys from former Mayor's of the City of Hammond. One happens to be our current Mayor's father, who gave her a key to the City. And also Duane Dedelow, who was a former Mayor of the City of Hammond. Miss Pearline attributes and contributions to our City is phenomenal and I'm so happy to be honored and be placed in this position to give her recognition. All though she's gone, but she won't be forgotten. Her legacy will live on. Not just in the City, but in the nation. Miss Pearline was phenomenal and committed to the betterment of African American and people in general. She was truly a fighter and she fought to the end. And it was all about making Hammond a better place for all the residents, not just one particular color. She also served as secretary for Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the late Dr. A.R. Burns, for forty-six (46) years, where she was honored. And I have a memento from the program where some of the people that honored her on September 23, 1993. The master of the ceremony was McKinley Nutall and JP Davis, who was the former president of the NAACP, who's now deceased as well, was on the program. As well as, James Jenkins, Miss Burns. The welcome was from Rev. AR Burns, who's also deceased. And Royal Blackman sung a solo, who's been active with NAACP for a number of years. As well as, Rev. Maurcie Paris who lives in the 3rd District and also the former Councilman, in which the seat I hold, Rev. John Paris was the pastor from the First Tabernacle Baptist Church was a speaker. It was just, it's historical and I'm just overwhelmed and I just thank God that he placed me there before her artifacts would have been thrown in the garbage. And all though I knew, how many contributions to

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Higgs cont. - the City and having an opportunity to sit on the porch and talk to Miss Pearline and her husband on many occasions and having conversations, I never knew in a million years that I would be the one to have to, actually, moved forward and naming a street, in which she lived and we so concerned about, not just her street, but her entire community. It's just awesome and I just thank God for allowing me to be in this position and may her legacy and memories live forever.

Councilman Woerpel - After seeing the drawing of the picture there, Councilman's right. She didn't care, people were people to her. I can remember being an eighteen (18) year old, nineteen (19) year old kid with long hair walking that neighborhood with a mail bag on my shoulder and she was giving me glasses of water. Before there was bottled water. She's a very nice lady and I commend you on recognizing her Councilman.

Councilman Higgs - Also, I recognized Miss Pearline back on February 25, 2008 while she was still living and some of my colleagues that was sitting on the Council then were, Robert A. Markovich, Kathleen Pucalik who's picture is here in our chambers, who's now deceased signed it, as well as Dan Repay, me myself, JoAnne Matonovich, who also is now deceased signed off, and Mark Kalwinski who's the Councilman from the 1st District, Kimberly Poland who's no longer on the Council and Homero Hinojosa and Alfonso Salinas all signed this and I'm going to be presenting this Mt. Zion as well as the rest of the artifacts that I got from her home. I just wanted to make sure that she was recognized at least twice by me in my ten (10) year of being on the Council. I'm just overwhelmed and anybody in this community, I'm sure Mr. Walker probably is emotional as well, having conversation with Miss Pearline she was straight forward and she played no games. It was about the community and she wasn't to be sold or bought. It was strictly about Hammond and East Hammond community.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to suspend the rules to allow the audience to speak on 18R-32.

ROLL CALL VOTE (suspension of rules)
AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Kalwinski, Torres, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 RULES SUSPENDED

Paul Walker and Rita Jackson spoke.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to return to the regular order of business.
AYES: ALL

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)
AYES: Markovich, Spitale, Kalwinski, Torres, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R32 ADOPTED

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Higgs - Recently I received a correspondence from the East Side Community Council, in regards to having a parade. I had meetings with some of the people that is very instrumental in the community. Such as Camille, PK and Zina and a number of other people, in regards to addressing the concerns about, which was formally known as Hammond dance, somehow another I guess it coincides with each other, is kinda complex. The reality of it is, we had a meeting and we were discussing what was needed, in regards to Hammond ? And I received a correspondence saying something about a parade and I was like, wondering who was doing what for this particular day, which is suppose to be on Saturday. And it said that Leroy Harwood was the president of the East Side Community Council. Well when we had meeting at House of Pizza and met with Leroy and Dorsey, Tommy Dorsey. He happens to say that he is the secretary of the organization. Which at that point, I had know other choice but to try to believe that he was the secretary. And he was taking notes, for this particular meeting. Seeing it's concerning the 3rd District and we're having a Hammond Day. Where people are gonna come home and celebrate for this particular day. So at that point we go on and continue discussing it back and forth and try to get clarity as to what is needed for Hammond Day. And so, the meeting was initially scheduled for, that Thursday, and somehow or another I was given a call by Zina to come on that Wednesday to meet with them. So I got out of my bed and I meet with them and that was fun. So then we had a follow up meeting, in regards to Hammond Day. And I'm trying to get clarity again as to what is gonna take place, in regards to Hammond Day. So when we start meeting and discussing Hammond Day, Leroy is not present. So, I'm trying to figure out where's Leroy? So, Leroy never showed up at this meeting. So I had no indication that, no idea that, you know this parade was gonna take place or what was going on. In particular which this particular event. Because if, to prepare for a parade, you need candy, you need a float, you need to decorate you car, what not. So I was trying to get understanding, so never did I get a clear indication of where or who was the president, not only that at that point Leroy was saying he was the president. So I'm like okay, fine. So, to make a long story short, in regards to the parade. We never got an answer as to, on the letter where the parade was starting? So my questions were at House of Pizza, where is the parade gonna start? And it saying the East Side Community Council Incorp. is pleased to invite you to the organization to participate in the first Hammond Day Parade on Saturday, June 30, 2018. The parade will begin at 10am sharp. All participants should line up at least an hour before the parade status. The starting point of the parade will be at Memorial Park, located on Highland and Ray Street. We ask the cars, trucks and floats, commercial vehicles, vans be decorated. Ok, Hammond Day celebrated where past and present residents in the City come together and enjoy each other. This a day filled with love, peace, fun and food. With the less of many Hammond residents has caused us to organize a day of celebrated life, one another and those we have lost. So, we ask that your organization please come out and enjoy this celebration. Please ask the parade, attached route. Never seen the parade attach route. Safety is a serious concern, please do not throw out candy or other items from the parade vehicles, rather such items should be handed to those watching the parade by persons walking with the parade. Please confirm the participation by email at the East Side Community Council and it's at escc4630@yahoo.com, by contacting Leroy Harwood Jr. then it has the phone number 219-603-6541, the office 219-746-1559. Leroy Harwood Jr. President East Side Community Council. So then we have another meeting in regards to the parade and East Hammond Day, which I've known it as. We have a meeting and I get to House of Pizza and I had invited individuals that I knew had participated with this event and one of them happens to be Verlon Jackson, Zina Anderson, Camille Robinson, Rita Jackson, myself, Queen Alexander and a number of other people were invited, but some couldn't attend, do to certain circumstances going on in their life. However, Councilwoman Venecz shows up, as well as, Ann Herbert and Dorsey. So they show up at this meeting, which I didn't invite them, now however Dorsey was informed of the meeting, but I had no recognition or even knowledge that they were gonna be present at the House of Pizza for

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Higgs cont. - this particular meeting, in regards to Hammond Day. So they show up and the question was for Ms. Venecz, who's the Councilwoman at Large, who's the president of East Side Community Council. On four (4) different occasions, Ms. Venecz told me her colleague on the Council, as well as my people within the community, that she's the president. So, to make a long story short, I requested information from the State of Indiana, Secretary of State. And it says, East Side Community Council in it's entirety registered Indiana Company No. 201008030009 Company is in incorporated on the 2nd day of August, 2010. Current status of the company is active, the company agency Sherry Robinson 1039 Drackert Street Hammond, IN, USA. The company president is Leroy Howard, 1039 Drackert Street Hammond, IN 46320 US. The company vice-president is Benjamin Morrow 1133 May Street Hammond, IN. Never seen him or heard of him in my entire life. I don't know who that guy is. The company secretary is Sherry Roberts 1039 Drackert Street Hammond, IN 46320. The company others, is Glenda Jones on Noble Street, no address is identified in this document, Hammond IN 46320. The company treasurer is Shirley Shepard, who happens to be in our audience today, I don't know if she's the secretary, I mean the treasurer, excuse me at 1050 Eaton Hammond, IN. So those are the board members that's been listed at the Secretary of State, in Indianapolis. And I don't think they have no reason to lie to me, about those the president. So, for whatever reason, I don't know why, for one they will be at a meeting, and there's nothing wrong with serving the community and actively involved, for the right reasons. But when your tiring to hold my community in bondage. I have a problem with that. And the problem is, that is has been going on far too long. I may not say anything, but I'm very observant and I watch everything that's going on. And the purpose of them actually being involved, is only continuously hold the community in bondage and it's unacceptable. It's ridiculous and there's no reason for anyone to sit up here and lie and say who's the president and who's not. Because it was a simply question and all we wanted to know is basically, who's the president and what would you like for us to bring to this event or what is it you expect of us to do for this particular event? Which is gonna be held on the 30th. Now time is running out and we have know idea what's going on. So, as a Councilman, it's my duty and responsibly when it's going now in my District, to at least show some concern. Whether it's a rummage sale, a fireworks or whatever. So, for whatever reason, Councilwoman Venecz, on four (4) separate occasions, said to me that she was the president. Then we ask when are the meetings held, we never got an answer to when the meetings are being held. Then I ask for board members, who are the board members, I couldn't even get the names of the board members from there, I had to request them. So until then, I had know idea who the board members were. It's ironic that Ann's not here tonight, but she's usually here when it's something pertaining to Councilman Higgs. But tonight, when she's was at the meeting, and this subject was gonna come to forefront, she's not here. Why is that? Where is Dorsey, well he told us at the meeting, that he's gonna be at his time share and Leroy said that he's gonna be at work. So, if they're gonna be at, one's gonna be at the time share and the one's gonna be a work and you're the president of the East Side Community Council, you mean you gonna tell me you having the parade and your not gonna be there to attend it? The only way I wouldn't attend the parade that I put my name on, is if I was either deathly ill, just could not get there, or some (?) measures. So the reality of it is, is that it just saddens me that Councilwoman Venecz would actually come to a meeting that I called, concerning my District, and the community that she serves, and basically lie, to not just me, but my constituents. And tell us she's the president of an organization that she's not. I have know idea, where it came from and it's just no right. So, it's just ridiculous, it makes no sense to me. And still to this day, I don't know in a weeks time, how this parade is gonna turn out. But for what I understand, no one is gonna be there, but the fire trucks and the police officers. And I don't even know how they can be there, when you seeing that we don't even know who's a part of this organization. So, and I know in the past, they've received money for different things, events they've held. It's

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Higgs cont. - kinda strange to me that tonight they are not here, but they're normally here when something pertaining the Councilman and when the Councilman's being attacked, whatnot. But when something pertaining to them, now we can't find them. But, and Ann and Dorsey is not a member, they may be a member, but they not on the executive branch of the East Side Community Council. Because the Secretary of State letter, states that they not the board members. So, in closing I would hope that this get rectified as best they can, because right now I don't know what kind of organization this is, it looks like a ghost organization. So, that's all I have to say. It really saddens me that it would come to that point. But that's what we're dealing with.

Councilman Torres - I would just like to thank the Engineering Department, Mr. Dean Button is here, our head engineer. For installing those drains by Columbia School. I went there during raining past day, there's no water collecting in that intersection and also 800 block of Truman. Thank you for promptly taking care of that.

Councilman Markovich - Earlier it was brought up about fireworks, so possibly maybe we should have a copy of the Fireworks Ordinance sent to the times and maybe the times can go ahead and print that in one of their articles to let people know ahead of time as far as what the fireworks ordinance is, you know, let it be known. So it can help them out. If they do an article then people will know. Just to read it off here at a Council Meeting, I don't know how many people are listening, but hopefully the times will do an article on it.

Councilman Markovich - The last Council Meeting I brought up about a special School Board Meeting that they had listed in the paper. And several people went there and unbeknown's to the procedures, several people wanted to speak. Well finding out the hard way, we have public expression here and people are invited to go ahead and sign up for public expression, if they would like to speak tonight on anything. And even if, you know the sheet is brought off the podium and given to the Council President, you know if somebody wants to talk we allow them, usually to let them speak, even if though they didn't sign up. But, at the School Board Meeting, several people wanted to speak, and they said well you didn't sign in. The sheet I guess as soon as the meeting started at 5:30, the sheet was taken off the table, put up on the podium by the president. And if your name wasn't on there, you were not allowed to speak. So a couple people that were at the School Board Meetings in the past, knew about it, signed in. Several people, including myself, wanted to sign in and speak and then we were not allowed too. Buyer beware I guess you can say, in a sense, that if you go to School Board Meeting you want to talk, you better sign that piece of paper before they bring it up to the table. Because otherwise, they are not gonna let you talk. I would hope in the future that they would show some concern that if people take their time out to go to a School Board Meeting, they want to be involved with the school. That they take the time to go there, that they should acknowledged them and let them speak and not just shut them off and not allow them to speak at all.

Councilman Higgs - I also want to thank Camille Robinson for who helped me clean off Ms. Pearline artifacts. When the gentleman actually gave them to me, with the exception of dusting them off, everything was pretty much intact at Ms. Pearline's house for what I could see. It was just the porch and the roof ? But the hot water tank was still in place, they only told me who bought it, he owns 123 properties. And also the pipes was still in place in the house and dishes. And it was also a gospel song that was with a needle, in her livingroom. And I also had an opportunity and God afforded me the opportunity to present Ms. Burns with some of Rev. Burns tapes on last Sunday at Mt. Zion Church. Again, I just wanted to thank Camille for helping me clean them up. And when I get a opportunity to get in there and get any other artifacts, they will be turned over to Mt. Zion

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Higgs cont. - Missionary Baptist Church. And also, there was a bank statement that was left in her property, where I turned over to Rev. Collins in regards to Ms. Pearline's affairs. Any concerns or questions in regards to that, you would have to address Rev. Collins at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. May Ms. Pearline's legacy live on and God Bless her and God Bless Hammond and God Bless the African American community and the City for all her efforts.

Councilwoman Venecz - I would like to announce that on Thursday, July 12th there is a fundraiser at Five Guys at 8231 Calumet Avenue in Munster. This is for our Council Secretary who has had some real health challenges lately. 20% of the fundraiser sales and an additional $1 for every milkshake, will be given back to Debbie Jimenez. So bring your friends and purchase a gift card and receive additional donations. That is Thursday, July 12th all hours of operation. Also, I wanted to announce that Mayor McDermott and the Port Authority are proud to announce the details of the Annual 4th of July celebration at Wolf Lake. The Annual Naturalization Ceremony will begin July 4th 5:30 p.m. at the pavilion. If anyone has not attended this ceremony in the past, it is truly moving to see people who and witness people who have gone through a lot to become citizens of these great United States of America. The ? Orchestra will begin playing approximately 7:30 and fireworks will begin at approximately 9 p.m. This is a free event, concert goers are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets and picnic baskets. Bags may be subject to search by security and other restrictions may apply. The launch ramp will close at noon on the 4th of July and reopen at the completion of the event. If anyone has any questions, you can contact the Aquatic Play Center at Wolf Lake at 937-7942 for more information.

Councilman Higgs - I just wanted, since the discussion came about some of the pioneers and I know the history of the community. Some of the other people that were very, very phenomenal in the East Hammond Community, Ms. Jefferson was one, Mr. Jewel Alexander was another one. They were sincere and committed to the community. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Ms. Willamae Durr, as well. She has done phenomenal contributions to our City. And in saying that, on MLK Day those are some of the individuals that should be acknowledged and given awards. Because they have really made contributions to this City, as well as the 3rd District.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Zina Anderson - I was addressing what Councilman Higgs was speaking about, about the meeting at House of Pizza. I was there and my issue is, you kinda like have me confused Ms. Janice. Because you did say, that you was the president. The question to you is, are you the president or is it a ghost corporation?

Council President Venecz - This is your opportunity to voice your opinion and the Council does not respond at this time. We can return to the regular order of business and the end of public expression.

Zina Anderson - Ok, you can ask, but you can't answer, is that what you said. Ok so.

Kendall Warner - Listen, I was one of the orginators of the East Side Community Council. When we first started forming that. And that was a few years ago. Now, I'm hearing, like was mentioned today, you's claiming to be the president of this organization. It baffles me how, not one of these Councilman's ask you to explain that. Councilman Higgs posed a question and you still haven't answered it. So I'm wondering why, I mean yall talked

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Kendal Warner cont. - around everything else, yall brought up all type of other, to me insufficient stuff. Because I want to know, since I was one of the first people to bring up about putting an organization together, like was put together and we all named it, East Side Community Council. I'm just curious, why you won't answer the question to the public. That don't make no sense. Yall can ask questions, yall can come up here, sit up here and make codes and ordinances and all that stuff, but somebody from the public ask you a question and you can't answer it? Don't make no sense to me. I can't understand how the rest of you Councilman's are sitting here, that's the president and she's claimed ownership of a black organization. And none of yall is curious about it? Don't make no sense to me. Yall have a good day.

Rita Jackson - I want to address the issue too, even though you can't speak right now Ms. Venecz. But you represent all nine (9) districts. You need to resolve this, even if you have to meet with us afterwards, call a meeting with us. Because there's a lot of hurt feelings. Maybe you didn't mean, to cause hurt feelings, but there's a lot of hurt feelings in the community. People feel like you lied to them. So, for your career, I would suggest you, try to mend it. You know, meet with us later. And on another subject, I'm asking there's a dip on Michigan Avenue in between Hohman to Sohl on the Northside. There's a dip in that highway. So 2nd District Pete Torres, and the three (3) Councilman at Large, Spitale, Markovich and Venecz, could yall look into that because, I think it happened during the winter months. And it's so tricky because your driving the speed limit and then out of nowhere you in a dark hole. That could cause a lot of damage to peoples cars. Because you don't even know, until your almost on it, in that dip. If you all could look into that, we would appreciate it.

Councilman Markovich - You said between Calumet and Sohl, you said?

Rita Jackson - Yes, on the northside. Michigan.

Councilman Kalwinski - Hohman and Sohl.

Rita Jackson - Between Hohman and Sohl, right. And it's a dip. Renaissance Apartments. But it's on the northside, no southside of the street.

Councilman Markovich - I'm sure the City Engineer making a note of it.

Councilman Markovich, supported by Councilman Higgs, moved to go back to New and Unfinished Business.
AYES: ALL

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Higgs - I think what was last discussed and I guess the question is again is, we are trying to get clarity as to why you came to the meeting and told us that you were the president, when your not. It was unnecessary and uncalled for. And I think the community deserves a answer, in regards to that. And I personally know what it is, I mean. And I've watched it and observed it for a number of years, being in my ten (10) year as Councilman of the 3rd District. And I know what it's all about. I'm willing to work with anybody, I don't have anything against anyone. But I won't tolerate is being mistreated by anyone. And I was elected for the people, by the people to do a job. So long as I serve in this capacity as Councilman, I'm gonna continue to fight for my

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Higgs cont. - community and my district. I don't care who it is. So in saying that, I mean, if you really truly want to get some influence or some help in the 3rd District, you can very well reach out to the Councilman and I don't have a problem with that. I never had a problem with that, but for some reason or another you seem as though you can circumvent me and go around me and think everything is ok. Well, it's not, it's not. And to just blatantly lie is just ridiculous, I don't understand it, I'm puzzled by it. So maybe you can answer the question for those that are in the audience and the general public, so they have clarity as to exactly what you meant by saying that you're the president, when actually the paperwork says Leroy is the president.

Council President Venecz - Councilman as you know, having served as president. A president must remain neutral and not engage in conversation. However, I am going to make an exception. I said at that meeting, that I would notify each and everyone of you the next time we have a board meeting and I will do so.

Councilman Higgs - That still doesn't answer the question, because you haven't told us, you told us at the House of Pizza, that you were the president. So you basically lied.

Council President Venecz - Councilman that's the extent of the comment...

Councilman Higgs - It's not the extent of it. Because the reality of it is, is you lied.

Council President Venecz - Any other new and unfinished business? Councilman...

Councilman Higgs - You lied. And your saying to my constituents...

Council President Venecz - Councilman, Councilman you were not recognized.

Councilman Higgs - This is ridiculous...

Council President Venecz - You were not recognized...

Councilman Torres - Ok, in reference to that dip, Ms. Jackson was talking about. You told me two (2) weeks ago, I did address it with the Engineers Department.

Rita Jackson - You did?

Councilman Torres - Yes, I did. It's in front of 462 Michigan on the southside. I wasn't aware that nothing was done about it. I didn't check. Ok, I did address it as soon as you told me about it.

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Torres, moved to go back to regular order of business.

Council President Venecz - Clerk Golec what do I do here, we have to go back to regular order of business. Which would be motion to adjourn..

City Clerk Golec - We're there now.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Torres, moved to adjourn. AYES: ALL

_____
Janet Venecz, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

_____
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:05 pm
jt

Minutes approved at the Common Council Meeting of July 9, 2018.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk