

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on February 28, 2022 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, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Nice to be back. I wanted to start off First off I appreciate Councilman Woerpel recognizing what's going on in the Ukraine right now. The atrocities committed by the Russian Nation against the people of the Ukraine, a democratic, free, loving nation. We decided to do a small part, I know it's not a big deal, but we changed all the colors of the lights on the bridges and on City Hall to reflect the colors of Ukraine's National Flag. So, if you noticed that, we did that yesterday. I want to thank Dean for doing that. Also, I wanted to start off with unfortunate news, as well. I hate starting off with pieces of information. We lost an employee today. For those that are not aware, Michael Vandenberg, he was our mail guy, he was a Port Authority employee for a number of years, passed away tragically today at the age of forty nine. Which is really tremendously young and just sad. Obviously, everybody at City Hall was grieving all day. I just wanted to let the Council know. We put the flags at half mast across the city because of our lost employee. So, I'm sorry that I have to inform you of that. He was a great guy and we're going to miss him very much. If you don't mind, a moment of silence for one of Hammond City employees who tragically passed away today. (Moment of Silence) Thank you, Michael Vandenberg, great guy, very sweet, the kind of guy that went around and talked to everybody in City Hall. So, we're gonna miss him very much. His family, I'm sure, everybody is grieving right now. You may have noticed a change in the basement. I know a lot of you come in through the basement. We did a change recently to make it easier for the public, particularly women on the basement floor, or the ground floor of City hall, to be able to use the restroom. The way our security doors were aligned before, if you were a member of the public, a woman, on the first floor and you wanted to use the restroom you had to either go to the ADA restroom, which is unisex, it could be male or female in there or you'd have to go to the second floor or the third floor. We didn't think that was fair. There's a perfectly good, brand new, remodeled, woman's room on that floor and we had to change the security gates about ten yards to the north to accommodate that. We're also looking at making an area down there with the vending machines, making it healthier so it's not just junk food and soda. We're actually talking about fruit, you know. I don't know, maybe we have to look at who's doing the current vending machine because I don't think they are really giving it much effort to be honest with you and I

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - think the employees and the residents that come into City Hall deserve better. So, we're taking a look at making that whole little area down there, the newly created area we did, maybe a vending machine area for the many people that come through City Hall every day. So, I'm sure you guys noticed that the doors are a little bit further to the north. That's the reason behind it. Within the last couple of weeks we celebrated Black History Month Celebration at the Hammond Sportsplex. It was a great turnout. A lot of hard work went in by a lot of different people. Particularly Owana and her crew, the Community Development. Obviously, the Special Events, the Sportsplex staff worked very hard. A number of you were in attendance. I appreciate the Elected Officials that were there. The honored leaders of the African American community and without mentioning the Ministerial Alliance I would be remiss, they are the ones that really spearhead a lot of what we did that day. So, thank you to everybody involved. I know Councilman Barry was there. I know Councilwoman Katrina was there. I hope they enjoyed it as well because a lot of hard work was put into it and it's obviously a great venue to host such a great event. We also hosted 219 Day at the Hammond Civic Center. So it was a busy couple of weeks within the last couple of weeks. 219 Day was celebrated, we had the lead singer for the band Boston and the lead singer for the band Journey playing with the same band that night and I think it was very well attended. We got a lot of complaints that it was very loud. It was a concert. So, we sort of got to figure out into the future if we're gonna have a concert or if we're gonna have a social event. There was a little dispute that night. But Eileen Ibarra, Hammond's Special Events Coordinator, that was her first gig. I thought she did a great job. I want to congratulate her. She had a lot of help from Jill Gajewski from the Hammond Port Authority. Special Events works really well together as a team, so thank you to them for putting on 219 Day. We are getting real close to announcing our Festival of the Lakes line up. I'd say, with confidence, that we have four of the five acts committed. We're only doing five nights this year. We're not doing Tuesday like we did last year. We have, I'm not gonna tell you the bands because I can't until it's finalized but I've committed to a major country music act. So we had a good country night last year so we went bigger this year. I'll be announcing that shortly, hopefully that was the first artist we made a deal with. We have a major pop rock act. I think that it'll blow the roof off the place. It's gonna be shocking when we announce that. We're under verbal agreement with these but things sometimes do happen and things fall apart so until we're actually under contract I can't announce anything. A major rap artist, I have a feeling some of you may know that major rap artist because we've been in negotiations with this major rap artist for the better part of three years but I'm not gonna get into details until we are finally under contract with this major rap artist. But we've been under contract with this major rap artist before and I really, really, hope that he shows up this year. He's very popular and he has a lot of tv opportunities. I mean, I think he went to the superbowl, I heard something about that. So, I'm not getting into detail but it's a big rap artist, very, very, big. And then a very popular rock and roll band we're under verbal agreement with for Friday night. It's never played the Fest before, very popular. The only night we don't have under verbal agreement right now is Latin Night. We had such a big night last year we had to make sure that we could compete with what we did last year and we had big shoes to fill. Los Tucanes de Tijuana who played last year, I think that was the biggest night we have ever had at the Festival of the Lakes. We want to continue to move up every year and bring a better line up every year. But we're always really striving to have a very, very, diverse line up. So, that's something that's important to us. Lots of turnover, personnel-wise lately. Lots of turnover. Lots of people leaving for higher paying jobs, bringing in lots of new people. Lots of movement internally. We've done some things to try to prevent people that are valuable employees from leaving. For instance, in the Hammond Sanitary District and the Hammond Water Department

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - we have employees that are certified water handlers in the Water Department. We have employees that are Class 4 Operators in the Sanitary District. These employees are extremely valuable to us, and they're under contract, like all other employees. We start crunching numbers and the whole markets changed. I know you guys know that. But like, people are making \$15 an hour working at McDonald's now. So our salaries in comparison to how the world has changed is starting to make people look elsewhere and there is employees that we've trained too hard and we can not lose. So, we made the Hammond Sanitary District and the Hammond Water Department with certified water handlers and with Class 4 water handlers, gave them \$6 pay raises. Which is significant, and it's competitive with the private sector. I want to urge everybody that is listening to me right now. I'm gonna talk about some open jobs that we have here in the City of Hammond. The Water Department and the Hammond Sanitary District, if you're smart and you're willing to work, you know, they have to work shift work. But you can make a good living and it's an important job and it's not going anywhere. We're always gonna be making water. We're always gonna be treating water. This is the type of job you could start now and retire from thirty years from now without ever having to worry about layoffs or loss of hours or anything. Like I said, we just gave \$6 pay raises to the ones that got qualified. We did that to keep them and we did that also to motivate the ones that are going slow. Because we need them to hurry up. We need to have a certain number of water handlers on site at all times and if we start losing them and they start going to the private sector, Indiana American Water, we're sunk. So, you might hear something about that. Obviously, those water handlers, those Class 4's are extremely happy with the City of Hammond right now. CDL drivers, if you're watching out there. We have jobs for you right now. They pay very well. You know, you'll work, sometimes, we just had a snow storm where they worked 36 hours straight, you know, double time, time and a half. Every time we seem to have a major snow storm it always happens on Sunday and we're paying double time right off the bat on Sundays. So, it's a great job if you're a CDL. If you want to come to Hammond and be a laborer, we're starting to really phase out of that whole we'd rather have drivers. What happens is, we bring somebody in and they're like, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, I want to be a laborer" and then we're like, "You're gonna get your license, right?" "Yeah, yeah, yeah, I'm gonna get my license", and they never get their license. So we're like phasing out laborers. We don't want laborers, we want drivers. We want CDL drivers. We want CDL smart people that want to get qualified and make a career out of City of Hammond and we pay a competitive wage. So we're looking for CDL drivers. If you have a CDL, I mean, you could get a job within two weeks at the City of Hammond, making good money, right now. If you have questions, Personnel's on the main floor of City Hall, which is the 2nd floor, right down there on the main level. It's right by the College Bound Office. Ms. Sharon Daniels, whose birthday it is today, "Happy birthday, Sharon", go in and see her if you're a CDL driver. Correction Officers, if you have a young man or woman that wants to be a police officer or a fire fighter, this is a great way to do it. You start off as a Correction Officer. Captain McKechnie, who runs the jail, hates it when I say this, but we bring you into Hammond City Jail to guard Federal prisoners, sometimes you bounce out and end up at the Sportsplex, or the Port Authority or in the Water Department, or Police and Fire Department, which is what it was meant for. But we have open jobs as Corrections Officers right now. Starting wage is at over \$40 thousand a year. Hammond Police is hiring. I know I was with Chief Short the other day at New Hope Baptist Church right here in Hammond and at the very end of the service, Pastor Polk let the Chief get up and talk about how we're trying to hire Hammond Police Officers from the City of Hammond. It's very important to have a police department that looks like your local community. I appreciate Chief Short for putting that out. Hammond Fire Department, Chief Smith, is always looking to hire as well. We want to hire Hammond residents. But to be a police officer you have

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - to have a clean record, you've got to be willing to go through background, you have to be physically fit. Same as to be a Hammond Fire Fighter, you have to be an EMT, you have to be physically fit, you have to go through background. These are great jobs. There's Hammond Police Officers, with overtime, and a couple years on the job, that are making \$80 thousand a year. A lot of them, by the way. Because overtime is aplenty, which is good, we offer our officers a lot of opportunities for overtime. It's a great career. Clerk Golec's a retired Hammond Fire Fighter. Councilman Rakos, a retired Hammond Fire Fighter. Councilman Torres, a retired Hammond Police Officer. I mean, great careers, and they're open right now. We need you, especially Hammond residents, please, if you're a young man or woman looking. Labor operators, at the Water Department. Smart, young, want to get qualified water handler, want to make good money. Water Department is hiring right now. Building Maintenance at the Police Department. Hospitality Manager at the Sportsplex. Like a business minded person. These are good jobs. It's a job that pays close to \$60 a year. Demanding job. The Sportsplex is busy seven days a week. So, you have to be willing to work weekends. You'll get called in at night. So this is a type of job where it's more of a profession. You're taking on responsibilities. It's not like you're punching the clock at 8 am and going home at 4 pm. Hospitality Managers, demanding, but pays well and it's the Sportsplex which is a cool place. We also have the Basketball Athletics Supervisor position which pays well also, at the Sportsplex. It's not just like watching basketball and chilling. You're gonna be there on the weekends with this job. You're gonna be watching the tournaments. You're gonna be making good money but these are demanding profession jobs, so. Last but not least, so those are the open spots that we have, I'm publicizing them because I know a lot of people watch your meetings. But if you know of anybody that needs a job, please contact Sharon Daniels, Hammond Personnel, and get their resume and application turned in. Last but not least I wanted to update you with what's going on with NICTD. I'm not sure how much Councilman Emerson is aware of what's going on in the 4th District, Councilwoman Janet lives down there also, NICTD is proposing a parking lot that is basically the size of the East Chicago Train Station parking lot. Which is absolutely insane to me. It's like a 650-700 car parking lot their talking about. And it's absolutely being opposed by the City of Hammond. We sent a strongly worded letter to Mike Nolan, the President of NICTD, who sent a polite, we call them PFO letters. I'll let you figure out when I was in the military. It was sort of like a polite letter telling us, "Hey, this is what we're doing." But when you really compare what we are talking about, Hammond's Station, which is the South Station, which would be off of 173rd, will have a 650ish car parking lot and then you go to the next stop down, which is Munster, which is actually more dense, there's a lot more apartments in that part of Munster. It's right off of Ridge Road over there, over by Appleby's and all that area down there, and their parking lot's like 50 car parking lot, and ours is like 700. I just don't get it. It seems very random to me. It seems very, like, let's just put all the cars in Hammond. We don't want to put them in Munster. So we sent a strongly worded letter back to the PFO letter we received from NICTD, and I'm not planning on going along with this, and I don't know how the Council feels about this but resolutions from the Council mean a lot, Councilman Emerson, Councilwomen Janet, maybe you should think about a resolution in this regard. I want to give thanks to the City Engineer, Dean Button, who is all over this. We're not cool with this. I just want you to know this. I just want you to know that. Like, we've gone along with a lot of what they've asked. We offered to put the Maintenance Yard in our city. They were looking for a place to put that. We said, "Hey, put it here." More jobs, by the way, right? But like we've gone along and there's two issues we're having with NICTD. The first one is the size of the parking lot in the 4th District, which unacceptable at this point. It's a deal breaker for me. I don't know what happens. I don't know if it's litigation. I don't know what happens at that point but if they insist on going forward and we insist this isn't going to happen, we're gonna have to talk.

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Emerson - From the beginning I've been against I know at first they said a thousand car parking lot and to even have 600 there. And my concerns from the beginning was traffic. As it is, 173rd and Calumet, with Walgreen's and Dunkin Donuts is a nightmare right now. And I'm telling you, if you add a 600 cars it's gonna be crazy. It's gonna be crazier. And when I would present that to them, this is two years ago, they would say, "Oh, we'll take care of that, that's no problem." Well, I don't know, short of redesigning Calumet Avenue and 173rd, I don't know how they're gonna do that.

Mayor McDermott - So, we got that issue. I appreciate your input on that, Councilman, and I'm gonna keep you in the loop of what's going on. It's just letters right now. Another issue involves Councilman Mark and Councilman Torres, between the 1st and the 2nd Districts is the Gateway Station which goes there. I think most people that are looking at this project agree that's the area with the greatest potential for economic development. It's more of an area where you could build, like, you know, high, you know, TOD kind of things, right? But it's also gonna displace water, and we have to have a place to put this water. So there's a retention pond issue that we're fighting over. Which is, NICTD wants to put the retention pond close to Gostlin and Sheffield which makes no sense at all to us because that's the area that we seem like would be the easiest to develop. We want to put it where it's less real estate, like less high real estate area. So there's two issues that are getting sticky with us an NICTD right now. And we're contributors to this project. We're a big reason it went forward. I really want to see these areas change for the better but I don't think having a retention pond right by a brand new intersection we are building. I remember over ten years ago with Councilman Mark, sketching that whole area out and NICTD going along with us and we didn't have a stupid retention pond sitting there. I could tell you that. And I realize this water has to go someplace but I don't think that's the location for it. So, I want you guys to be on notice that although NICTD is moving forward, not everything is all lovey dovey between us and NICTD right now. So, I don't know if anybody has any questions. That's my report for the week. I appreciate you guys and if you have any questions, I'm available.

Councilman Kalwinski - Mayor, do you have any idea how many CDL drivers you need?

Mayor McDermott - Councilman Mark, it's constant. I mean, I could tell you if you had five people right now, I could probably have them employed with a couple weeks.

Councilman Kalwinski - And how about Correction Officers, how many you looking for?

Mayor McDermott - Councilman Mark, it's constant. Like what's going on it's a good thing by the way. We use the Correction Officers as a gateway to the Police and Fire, and actually it's not just Police and Fire, the young lady that runs the Sportsplex, Kim Roberts, was in that program. She wanted to be a cop. And then we ended up stealing her, we found out she had a Master's Degree in the Sportsplex that was under construction and we didn't even realize that. So we stole her and brought her over there. So it's sort of a feeder system, really. It's a Correction Officer, you're guarding Federal prisoners but it's like a feeder system into, you know, other parts, but usually Police and Fire though, Councilman Mark. But constantly, Councilman Mark. Like if you knew people right now we could get them in. Pat McKechnie is the key contact for that. Captain McKechnie he runs the jail, great guy.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, this is not a question. I just want to acknowledge the special recognition you gave to Paul Walker at the Black History Program. I know that he was very touched by it and just want to say thank you for that. It was of course he deserved it 100%, so thank you for that surprise. He was not expecting it.

Mayor McDermott - I know he wasn't. I've never seen that he's one of the strongest people I've known. I know you know that. When he came up there crying I almost lost it, I did lose it actually. We were both sitting there crying in a picture but Paul Walker's ... in fact, Paul Walker's on the Hammond Water Board and his term is up and he has an offer of re-appointment and I hope he accepts it because he's done a great job for the Water Department. But his offer is on the table as we speak right now. I'm not sure if he wants another four years of it he's gonna retire, but he means that much to me personally, and I know he does to you as well and to many others. I apologize, it's been a couple of weeks since I've been here. You guys are doing great work, keep it up. Thank you very much.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2022 and place on file.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approval)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MINUTES APPROVED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to approve the claims from February 9, 2022 through February 23, 2022. Claim #952 through claim #1390 inclusive.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approve claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved to suspend the rules.

ROLL CALL (suspend rules)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RULES SUSPENDED

Councilman Tyler- In honor of Black History Month, Councilwoman Alexander and I, along with the rest of the council, of course, encourage members of the Divine Nine Greek Organization from the Hammond Community and larger vicinity, and any alumni of HBCU from the area as well, to come to attend this meeting. We just want to recognize all of the organization and the alumni for their contributions to society. A lot of these people in the room who, are the reason I'm sitting here in front of you today, are the reasons Councilwoman Alexander is here today, and they do a lot for the community around Northwest Indiana. So, I just want to acknowledge all of you for your contributions to society. Without you, Hammond would not be as rich as it is in diversity and resources. So, thank you. Councilwoman Alexander, I know you want to say a few words, too.

Councilwoman Alexander- I just want to thank everyone for coming out and continuing to do the work that we've set out to do, which is building a stronger community, building stronger children and building a stronger world. I appreciate you and salute you on today.

Councilman Tyler- And if there is anybody that would like to say a few words, I don't know if you want to call out the organization that you're a part of or the HBCU that you attended. We welcome you at this time to come to the podium, if you would like to.

Derrick Taylor- I am the president of the local Gary Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Si which also includes chapters all over Northwest Indiana. I just want to thank you for allowing us to be a part of the program tonight. And I wanted to say also thank you to Brother Tyler for the outstanding work that you've done in the community.

Cynthia Warner- Lowe - Good afternoon, most of you probably know who I am. My name is Cynthia Warner-Lowe and I am the president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Eta Kappa Omega Chapter which encompasses East Chicago and Hammond. And we just want to say greetings and thank you for inviting us this evening.

Carlotta Blake- King-I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Inc, part of the Gary Alumni Chapter, and I'm proud to represent them, but I'm more proud to talk about my two sons who are both Morehouse graduates. My youngest baby is here. Damani, and my oldest, Jamal King was the first African American, as far as we know, to graduate from Morehouse College. So, we're very proud of that distinction in our family. Thank you very much.

22R-02 A Resolution Recognizing and Honoring Irv Cross for his Accomplishment as an Athlete, Scholar, Athletic Director, Mentor and the First African American Network TV Sports Analyst

Clerk Golec reads Resolution in it's entirety.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

SUSPENSION OF RULES cont.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved for adoption.

Councilman Tyler-I just, once again, want to recognize Irv Cross and the entire Cross family for their contributions to the City of Hammond. I myself had Mr. Ray Cross, who is here tonight, one of Irv's brothers, as a gym teacher and basketball coach at Eggers. He played a big part in my life and my upbringing and continues to do so for a lot of young people within the city. And Mr. Irv Cross is someone that set a high example for a lot of individuals growing up in Hammond, not just the black community, but across the board. Whether you are an athlete, whether you are somebody who saw yourself being on tv, as an adult, he was somebody that you could look up to and he led an example in the classroom, on the field, on the court and then later in his life, of course, on tv and through his community work, through the various organizations that are listed here in the resolution. So, this is a long time coming. It's definitely something that is deserving of him and his entire family. So, I just want to say thank you to the council for considering this and I'm pretty sure Councilwoman Alexander would like to say something.

Councilwoman Alexander- I have the same sentiments as Councilman Tyler, and just like Mr. Cross is in the room. It's so good to always see him. And his family has definitely had an impact on my life growing up. And we just want to salute your brother today.

Councilman Emerson-This is for Mr. Cross, my son went to Eggers and you had coached him when they won the football championship, the city-wide football championship, and I brought you in a picture to your office noting that you had other pictures in there of all the championship teams that you have provided. But I know this is for Irv Cross, so, watch him for years on tv and watch him as he played with the Eagles too. Thank you.

Council President Woerpel-I'll just add that as a 12 year old kid, I had to hear it every Sunday. My dad, to hear him tell it they had leather helmets, but he played high school football with that guy on tv at Hammond High. And this isn't a surprise knowing nothing about basketball like I don't. The most entertaining thing that would cause me to watch a game was watching Mr. Cross referee a game. He was animated, but he made it fun.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R02 ADOPTED

Councilman Tyler- I would just ask that we allow Mr. Cross or anybody from his family who's here to say a few words if they would like to?

Raymond Cross-Thank you, Mr. Tyler. Your honor, I'll be brief. I want to do one thing that is twofold, Irv was a great athlete, that's true enough, he was a great broadcaster, that's true enough, he made history by being the first African American in that position, that's true enough. But he also, to me, he wrote his own scripts. Now today these guys have everything, they have everything written out for them and sometimes they have difficult times

SUSPENSION OF RULES cont.

Raymond Cross cont. - conveying that. A little about Irv besides his athletic ability, this is what he felt very strongly about. He gave me this card about a decade and a half ago and I always carry it in my wallet. You know, this is inspiration to me too, and I'm sorry, my back is turned. So, I'll turn this way. And I won't need a microphone. Therefore, today I will think like a dynamic servant of God because I am what I think. I am not always what I think I am; I am what I think. I am not what I eat; I am what I think. Clothes do not make the man; thinking makes the man. Therefore, I will keep my thought processes alive and open to the voice of God. God did not call me to a life of failure, but to a life of success. This being so, I cannot fail as long as I do His will, allowing Him to work in and through me, motivating my every thought. Because my God is a great God, I will think with confidence, knowing my thoughts can never be greater than my God. Today I will think like the Apostle Paul, when he said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). And I thank the committee, council, for giving Irv this award and thank you, Mr. Tyler. Thank you all.

Teal Cross-I'm Irv's brother. I'm the 12th child out of the 15. And well, just prior to Irv's death I had talked to him on the phone. And he was telling me some things that he and I used to joke about when we were kids growing up. But one of the things he kept telling me is that he said, Teal, whatever you do, he said, do it right. Whatever it is, do it right. Now what he meant by that is of course he and I knew because we tell these jokes to each other. He said football is a wonderful sport. But it's dangerous, it's very dangerous. And so dangerous that in fact Irv had four or five different concussions during the years that he played. And as a result made him a very sick ill man. Now, later years now, I make mention of that for this reason. We all love sports. I know I love watching football every Sunday and see the guys cracking. But I remember when I played when I was in school, and I remember the headaches I used to get. We need to take into consideration what our kids are getting themselves involved with, not just the sport itself, but what it takes to be able to play this thing. But what it takes to be able to play this thing safe, and that's my concern. And that's a concern that Irv had prior to his death. So I don't know what Central is going to do over there for equipment as far as kids are concerned. Their coaches are really directing them towards physical type training where they're not going to be killing each other. Because when I played the thought was killing him, breaking his legs. Well, we don't want to do that. We want to play the game and play it in a way where everybody's satisfied. People can go home happy and nobody's out there laying on the field on a stretcher. So, it's a thought that I just brought to mind, and it's because Irvin told me. Thank you very much.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved to return to the regular order of business.

ROLL CALL (motion carried)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Venecz- I would like to announce that Animal License will be due March, 31st, and that will be in the Clerk's Office.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

22-07 An Ordinance to Amend Ord. 4872, Am. Ord. 8715, 8717, 9133, 9494, also known as Ch. 122 of Title XI of the Hammond Municipal Code as it pertains to Temporary Non-food Vendor Licensing in the City

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

Councilman Spitale-We voted for this ordinance, backing peddlers, licenses, and pop-up vendors in 2021. But the ordinance needed to be put on provision for temporary non-food vending license. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-06)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9540 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-08 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds from the Operating Balance for the Hammond Park Department

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on March 14, 2022 at 5:15p.m. and a Public Hearing on March 14, 2022.

Councilwoman Venecz- This ordinance will appropriate \$471,000.00 from the operating balance to various special events and areas throughout the city.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-08)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

22-09 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for the Hammond Park Department

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on March 14, 2022 at 5:15p.m. and a Public Hearing on March 14, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilwoman Venecz- This ordinance will appropriate \$24,133.15 from the Operating Balance Innkeepers Tax to the Hotel/Motel Fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-09)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

22-10 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 the City, all in Accordance with the Comprehensive/Land Use Plan, as Amended) for Property commonly known as: 831-849 Hoffman St.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on March 14th, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Councilman Torres- This is just reclassifying a piece of real estate on Hoffman Street 800 block from a R-1 to a C-1.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading; CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

22-11 An Ordinance Amending Ord. No.8514, also known as the Hammond Zoning Ordinance for purposes of Adopting a Planned Unit Development District Ordinance for the Douglas Pointe Planned Unit Development Establishing the Provisions for Parcels A, C, and H of the Douglas Pointe Plan Unit Development as a Supplement to the Zoning Ordinance

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on March 14th, 2022 at 5:15p.m. with an Intent to Consider on March 14th, 2022.

Councilman Spitale- Can Brian Poland come up to the speaker and shed a little light on this?

Council President Woerpel- I have a question for our attorney? Do I have the right to set the meeting times as the Council President? Because four Council as a Whole meetings at 5:15, we won't have enough time to do all four of them. Especially with these last two when there's appearing to be quite a few questions.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Attorney Berger-I think the council, you know, is the boss there about setting their own meetings. I would think they should listen to you.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to have the Council as a Whole Meeting set to 5:00pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading; CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Director of Planning- Brian Poland- On the ordinance to amend the Douglas Pointe Planned Unit Development is simply a text ordinance set to the zoning provisions for a portion of the property. Much came out of the expected or the approved development of a dialysis facility on one of the parcels. And we can discuss that further in committee.

Councilman Tyler- Can I be added as a co-sponsor to this?

Councilman Spitale- Brian are there any dialysis facilities in the City of Hammond?

Brian Poland- There are several. I don't know the exact number. One in particular that was discussed in the Plan Commission is a relocation. They're being evicted from the St. Margaret.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading; CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

22R-03 An Resolution Authorizing the Hammond Police Department to Apply for a 2022 Save Pedestrian Safety Grant

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

Councilman Spitale- This comes before us every year. The police will be targeting the stop arm violations, unsafe driving around school buses. Disregarding a school bus stop arm is a very dangerous and serious offense. We want students to arrive to school and return home safe.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R03 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Alexander - The site is still currently not updated so I can not give the Covid numbers but I can give vaccine numbers. Vaccine numbers for 46320, 5,969, which is 47.6%. For 46327, 4,978, which is 46.4%. For 46324, 10,275, which is 50.2%. For 46323, 10,483, which is 52.%. For 46394, 6,237, which is 52.8%. Once the site is updated I will try to give those other numbers.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE (adjourn)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MEETING ADJOURNED

2022 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	10	24	14	28	14	28	11	25	9	23	13	27	11	25	8	22	12	26	10	24	14	28	12	26
Katrina Alexander	E	P	P	P																				
Dan Spitale	E	P	P	P																				
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P																				
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P																				
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P																				
Barry Tyler	E	P	P	P																				
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P																				
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P																				
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P																				
Initials	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: 7:15 p.m.
cb/dw

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk