

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on September 26, 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.  
Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander.

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 - Hi, everybody. Nice to see you again. This is my report for September 26<sup>th</sup>. As you all know it's budget season and we're hard at work submitting our budget. Preparing our budget to submit to you and there's a lot of moving parts this year but I just wanted to give a little report, sort of a fiscal update on where we stand right now and the challenges we have facing us. Gaming revenues getting squeezed, although their really not horrible but we're certainly not the largest boat in the State of Indiana anymore. We're not even the largest in NW Indiana anymore. Hard Rock took that from us. Because of the business we lost at Hard Rock, to Hard Rock, actually, Horseshoe Indianapolis is sneaking up on us, we're really second/third, and then everybody else falls off a lot after that. But, so, Hard Rock has anticipated, did a real good job in it's new location and a lot of their new business is coming from Hammond. So, anyway, gaming revenues are getting squeezed. I think that just shows how important water revenue is to the City of Hammond. So, I think that's something, in the long term, that we should focus on in the City. Gaming revenues aren't going to get any better either. Besides, you know, the economy/recession we're about to head into. Illinois has already approved two locations. One in Chicago, on like the river, river north area. The other is going to be on Halstead , which is in Homewood, which is Halstead and 294. That one is going to be real close to Hard Rock. I imagine that will cut into Hard Rock's profits. It's right off the highway also. But that's pretty close to Hammond, also. Then Chicago, which is where we get a large percentage of our gamblers is gonna have another option right downtown and it's gonna be massive. So, that's just the facts about gaming revenue. So, I wanted to brighten your day a little bit with that. I wanted to talk a little bit about raises. Right now, usually when we turn in a budget to you, everybody's got the same raise. That's the goal I shoot for, I've shot for every year I've been your Mayor, and this year is going to be different. So, I wanted to talk to you about it. Obviously, you'll see the budget when it gets to you. For the record, by the end of this week or by early next week we should have our submission to you, the budget. In that budget we put, obviously, inflation over the last year has been close to 8%. That's no secret. So we have employees in different categories and it's very strange because it's, I don't think it's real possible to give the same pay raise to everybody this year. So let me explain. I think, you know, a lot of cities right now are

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

## MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - putting their employees in for larger than 2% pay raises. I've heard some cities, like Crown Point are putting employees in for 5% pay raises. I thought to put them in at 3% for Civil City employees not covered by union contracts. That's what we put in for. Obviously, the Council has, you know, their wishes and desires. You may not agree with that philosophy that I've taken. But, I put in Civil City employees with a 3% pay raise. Teamsters have a union contract. We negotiated years ago. We are in year two of the contract, we're coming up on year three of the contract. They signed up for 2,2,2,2. So they're getting 2% pay raises. If you remember, the Fire Dept. had, and the Police Dept., when they negotiated with us last time, they passed up pay raises because they wanted pension changes. We ended up agreeing to, in exchange for the pension changes we made to Fire and Police, we agreed to 0,0,1,1 for the four years. So, the Hammond Fire Department is in for a 1% pay raise as per union contract this year. Which is different than the 3%, different than the 2%. Police Department was in the same situation where they got pension changes, Police and Fire we always try to keep the same as well, police were due to get a 1% pay raise this year, however, as you all know, we met in Executive Session to talk about contract negotiations. We talked about the F.O.P. contract and the police are trying to remedy a problem that I wanted to detail for the public. I was driving down Indianapolis Blvd. today, I saw a Highland Police Department billboard advertising, "We need Police Officers in Highland". I'm looking on my chart here, I know that Highland pays right around the same that the City of Hammond pays for a starting police officer right now. But, if you see this chart I'm looking at, and I know you can't see it right now, we did research on all the police departments in NW Indiana and Hammond has fallen behind, unfortunately, for starting pay for police officers. The only reason I'm mentioning this is, as you're all aware, but I realize the public is watching this as well is we are losing young officers. For the first time, I've been Mayor close to twenty years, that we've never had a long list of applicants that want to be Hammond Police Officers. Now, this is not a Fire Department problem. I've always treated these two department very, very, equally, down to the penny. This is not a problem in Fire. In fact, if Fire we just got three applicants from another fire department in NW Indiana. I feel bad but we got three new firefighters coming over here. This is a police problem. Young people aren't wanting to become police officers and it's harder to bring in police officers and maintain our staffing levels. We're about to have a large turnover in the police department within the next year or two and we need to get ready with new younger police officers so we could absorb that turnover. Well, it's hard when we're not competing well with starting salaries. So, I met with the Council and we discussed this problem that we're having. A proposal was given to us by the F.O.P. and we turned it down. I think, after discussion with the Council, I felt that the will wasn't there on the proposal that the F.O.P. gave us. However, I took the liberty of submitting a counter offer to the F.O.P. that's more moderate than the proposal that was given to us and, obviously, the Council still has the will to go down to 1%. Alright? I thought this was the right move to make. We're building those raises into the budget and if the will is not there, first off, the F.O.P. has to approve the counter offer I've given to them. If the F.O.P. doesn't approve it, I'm asking the Council to draw all the salaries down to the 1% pay raise. If they do accept it, obviously, the Council needs to be on board with that as well. I want to tell you that our starting salaries will be as competitive as they are in NW Indiana. It won't be the top, but I think there's a lot of other perks that we offer in Hammond that makes us extremely competitive for the starting wages. Now, you know, starts off with pretty big pay raises to the officers at the bottom ranks and as it starts getting to the middle of management and goes higher and higher, the raises drop off a lot and we're asking for concessions from the F.O.P. on return. Significant concessions. So I wanted to let you know that in the spirit of keeping this thing moving forward, the F.O.P. came to us with a pretty good offer, but it was unreasonable

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - with what they were expecting in return. I moderated that. I don't know if the F.O.P. will still be interested. But if they are, I think what they are willing to concede is significant enough that we should consider it. So, if this all breaks down, or if you don't support me, you have the ability, as a Council, to cut back on what we put in, down to the 1%. Okay, that's your right. If you guys aren't on board with this, please do it, okay. So anyway, I don't know if you have any questions about that. I also wanted to cover a couple of other things. Maybe we could have questions after, if you don't mind. Looking at long term answers, I know we're heading into an election year and people are trying to evaluate what's in their future. I think it's just wise for us to think about what's in the future. Okay? Because we're doing some things in Hammond that need to be looked at and there's gonna be tough decision ahead in the future for the Hammond Council and for the Mayor. So, I'm just putting this out there. I said this four years ago, I say it again, be careful what you wish for, because there's tough decisions coming in our future. Decisions in the Hammond Sanitary District and \$250 million worth of Capital Improvements that we have to make to the Sanitary District. We have to make. We have no choice. \$250 million is significant. It's gonna require significant rate increases in the Hammond Sanitary District in the near future. Okay? That's realistic. We don't have a choice because it's the U.S. Government that's telling us to do it and they win every time. So that will be down the road for the Council and the Mayor to decide. As well as the fiscal challenges we face, including wage inflation, where starting officers demand 20% more than we're offering right now and that's a problem. Because if we just pick up the bottom officers, you've got to pick up middle management as well so that there's separation in ranks. So, I know that this hasn't been the most cheery report I've ever given to you. I apologize for that but I do want you to know we're looking real close at our books right now and I want the Council to be ready. We've got some decisions to make in the future. Trash and Recycling, we met with Trash and Recycling this week and discovered that the rates are gonna go up a lot next year. We charge \$20 and it doesn't cover what it costs to remove it. We get weekly trash pick up. We get weekly recycling pick up. What we charge the resident is subsidized by gaming. So these are the things that need to be addressed in the future. The buyout ordinance that you guys adopted, I appreciate. Our Civil City employees are looking at that. This was also picked up by the Hammond Water Department who passed it and made it so that if you are an Operator you can not participate in it. Which was fair, because Operators were given large pay increases so we didn't feel bad about that in the Water Department. The Hammond Sanitary District as well, picked it up. They're not as worried about Operators. Hammond Port Authority picked it up also. I think around a dozen employees have participated in it or are going to participate in the Civil City. So, that's my update. I'm willing to answer any questions you have. Sorry about the somber tone, but obviously, we've got budgets coming up and we're looking a lot at our books right now and a lot of people are asking for things. So, I don't know if you have any questions but I'm willing to answer.

Councilwoman Alexander - Mayor, will we get a copy of whatever you sent over for the .....

Mayor McDermott - No problem. I could do that today. We just got it out earlier, Councilwoman.

Councilwoman Alexander - That way we can see what the difference is of what was on the last one versus ...

Mayor McDermott - Yeah, yeah, yeah, there's a big difference and I will definitely get it to you. But keep in mind that they just received it today and they have to evaluate it and they may say no. They may say no, and that's something to consider.

MAYOR’S ADDRESS cont.

Councilwoman Alexander - Yeah, it’ll just be good to have something to look at and compare it.

Mayor McDermott - Okay.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes of September 12, 2022 and place on file. AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to accept the executive session minutes of September 15, 2022 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to approve the claims from September 7, 2022 through September 21, 2022. Claim #5565 through claim #5852, in the amount of \$4,868,548.77.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

22-35            An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of a 14-Foot Alley South of the 400 Block of Sibley Street lying Between Sibley Street and Fayette Street the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

No One Spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Kalwinski- Pulaski Park Neighborhood will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, from 6:30 til 8 pm at the Hammond Mohawks. Thank you.

Councilman Rakos- HC3 will have their general meeting on October 6th at 5pm. We will provide refreshments, and Chief of Staff Phil Tallion will be there speaking. That’s at 6pm at the Hansen Community Center, that’s at Martha and Alabama at 5pm.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS cont.

Councilman Rakos- On October 8<sup>th</sup> HC3 Fall Cleanup will be held and a meeting at the Hansen Community Center from 9 am to noon. We will put out memos to the schools we usually get a really good turnout from the students at Morton and Scott. But that will be on October 8th. Saturday, at 9 am. Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- I want to announce that the First Tee of Lake County is hosting Patty Bingo once again. Uh, the event will take place this Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. I believe it starts at 2 pm. And they're selling tickets either for \$100 tickets for a chance to win up to \$5,000 or \$20 dollars for a chance to win up to \$2,000.

Councilman Tyler- I was unable to make it, but the Hammond Branch of the NAACP held their Freedom Lunch again this weekend. It's an annual event, an annual fundraiser where they honor different representatives from our community who have made significant contributions to the lives of people of color and our city overall. Just want to congratulate Ms. Frank, a middle school teacher of mine, for the award that she received as well as Rev. Shirley Gillespie on her award and everybody else who received an award. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Torres - Brought out 22-35.

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Brought out 22-36.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - Met on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, we approved \$ 27,176.65 for the Chicago Street phase 1. Change order numbers 26-31. We also approved \$ 95,661.05 for Michigan and Indianapolis intersections improvements through First Group Eng. The next meeting will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The work study session will be held at 4:30 and the meeting will follow at 5:00 pm. Thank you.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

Community Watch at Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza; Wed., Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> ; 1 p.m.

East Ham'd Pullman Crime Watch; Tues., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> ; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center

Wed., Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> ; Edison Community Watch; Edison School; 6:30pm

Tues, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> ;Harrison Park Crime Watch; VFW; 6:30pm

Thur., Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>; Hessville Crime Watch; Jean Shepard; 6:00 p.m.

Fri., Oct 7<sup>th</sup> ; Irving Community Watch; Irving School; 9:15 a.m.

South Hohman Neighborhood Watch; Thur., Oct 13<sup>th</sup> ; Trinity Lutheran Church; 6:30 p.m.

Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> ; 6:30 p.m.; Whiting Mascot Hall of Fame

ORDINANCE 3<sup>rd</sup> READING-FINAL PASSAGE

22-35 An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of a 14-Foot Alley South of the 400 Block of Sibley Street lying Between Sibley Street and Fayette Street the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilman Kalwinski moved for passage.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-35)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9566 PASSED

22-36 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 7192, Otherwise known as 37.006 of the Hammond Municipal Code, Pertaining to Community and Professional Development Accounts.

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

Councilwoman Venecz- This is simply renaming a line item from Municipal Promotions to Community and Professional Development. This pertains to the Common Council, the Mayor, the Fire Department and the Police Department as recommended by State Board of Accounts. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-36)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9567 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-38 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 7554, Ordinance 8452, and Ordinance 9168 as it pertains to Councilmanic Districts in Second Class Cities

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Councilman Rakos- Set vote for final passage at the next meeting. October 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you AYES: ALL

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

22-39 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 1918 & 1940 165<sup>th</sup> Street Hammond, IN, 46320

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:15p.m. With an Intent to Consider on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and a Public Hearing for October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Council President Woerpel- Do we need both the intent to consider and the public hearing?

Brian Poland, Director of Planning- Well, you could include as he has, as he has stated, but you don't normally, you don't need a public hearing for a rezoning.

Councilman Tyler- Just a point of clarification. I know we don't normally do it but there anything wrong with us doing that?

Council Attorney Berger- It's legal.

Councilman Tyler- This ordinance is updating the zoning for purposes connected to the Crossroads YMCA. The new building will be on the corner of 165th and Indianapolis Boulevard and pertains to the strip mall that is currently already located there and changes to the zoning connected to that strip mall. AYES: ALL

22-40 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 6539 Indianapolis Blvd.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:15p.m. With an Intent to Consider on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and Public Hearing for October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Councilman Tyler- This ordinance is also a change and update for zoning. This one is connected to the Huhtamaki expansion. Um, and it pertains to the old Pizza Hut building that will now be a part of that new expansion.

Council President Woerpel- I noticed we have two representatives from Huhtamaki here if anyone has questions.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Dave Hamm- I explained to that young lady that if she'd probably explain it again at the next committee hearing as well as the second meeting. Do you want her to speak now?

Council President Woerpel- She can speak now. The big boss is here too, Mr. Blastic.

Katie Coff- Good evening. My name is Katie Hoff, and I'm from the law firm of Hepner, Wagner, & Evans. Um, I'm here with Rich Blastic, the Regional Manager of Huhtamaki. Um, I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have. I think Councilman Tyler did a good job of explaining that the petitioner here, the company, acquired the property that has the old Pizza Hut building with the intent of incorporating that property into our current business operations at their headquarters located right across the street. And that property, the Pizza Hut property, is currently zoned in a C-4. But in order to, they would like to have the same zoning classification as their main facility headquarters, which is in the I-2 zoning district. Thank you.

Council President Woerpel- Would this expansion make it one of the biggest plants in Huhtamaki in the United States? I just wanted him to get up and hear him talk.

Rich Blastic- David. We were having fun when we were kids. We were kids. We're excited. This is going to double our employee count. We're going to go from about 120 to over 220. We will not be one of the biggest but this business that we're bringing into Hammond, we will be the first entry of Huhtamaki who is a worldwide company, 38 countries, 20,000 employees. The business we're bringing in, it'll be Huhtamaki's first entrance into North America. So, we will be very substantial and right now at this point, it's looking, it's reaching about a \$102 million dollar investment.

Councilman Kalwinski- Will there be any new products you're doing now?

Rich Blastic- We will, it'll be new products for us. It'll still be rough molded. We take the recycled paper, the curbside recycled paper, and produce packaging products. The four cup drink carriers. If you go to Starbucks and you buy a carrier, it's from Huhtamaki in Hammond. Um, Wendy's, all the different locations. We also make filler flats. We also make stadium trays. Um, we'll be entering the egg carton business also. That'll be the new entry for us.

Councilman Tyler- Rich, it's good to see you. Just want to get an update on the time line for when you guys feel like the expansion will be done.

Rich Blastic- Great question. Um, as you all know, the challenges with supply chains and electronics and that. Um, it's going well. We expect that building to be completed in March. We expect that building to be completed in March and it's on track. It's on track for the last section, will be the arrival of the roofing materials and then very soon after that, we will be installing multiple production lines.

Councilman Tyler- And I saw that you guys were hiring already. Is that in anticipation of that?

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Rich Blastic- Yes, we need to, you know, to bring on that many employees, Councilman Tyler, absolutely, because the great thing for many of our existing employees, it'll be an opportunity for them to move into... where a union shop or United Steel Workers. They'll bid into new positions into the expansion and then the new employees will backfill a lot of our current positions. So, that's why we're working now and come Q4 and Q1, we're going to be full speed and bring folks on.

Councilman Tyler- Is there any information you like to share on those openings that you guys are hiring for right now?

Rich Blastic- We are looking for mechanics, electricians, there'll be multiple salary positions including warehouse managers supervisors, a lot of our entry level positions which are starting at over \$23 an hour with good benefits, and we're having a lot of good applications. It's fun. We just hired a few people from the neighborhood. The one gentlemen tells me how now he walks to work. What a pleasure. He walks to work and we got another employee from the neighborhood, who rides their bike to work. So, we just love to hear that. But on our website, everything is now all the applications come through the US.Huhtamaki.com website. So, we encourage people to apply. Thank you

Councilman Kalwinski- What do you guys plan on putting on the old Pizza Hut site?

Rich Blastic- Well, we know that building won't be.... Time for that building to... but we can't do anything until we... can't touch it really until it's rezoned, but at this point, it's really not part of the current plan but it will be after rezoning. It will be incorporated and determined. Um, but there is really nothing planned right now expect for once it's rezoned and we put a plan together, we will be making that more attractive and moving that building.

Councilman Emerson- Um, we talked about this in caucus. Um, how far to 165<sup>th</sup> are you planning to go? Or are you all building to 165<sup>th</sup>?

Rich Blastic- We will have an entrance for deliveries off of 165<sup>th</sup>. Yes, this is a 250,000 square foot addition. So what you see right now at our plant, our foundation is about a 165,000 on level 1 and 160,000 square feet on level 2. So we're going all the way back to 165<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Emerson- So, right behind Petro's Restaurant?

Rich Blastic- Yes.

Council President Woerpel- That land is being cleared now right?

Rich Blastic- Yes, I would just like to say thank you to the City of Hammond. Also, we had to compete for this. We were in competition for this business and this opportunity. Many of you don't know. We have a operation in Marion, Indiana. Which isn't that far away and we were in competition and just the work on the council, through the work of the economic development, we're all making this happen. So, thank you very much.

AYES: ALL

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

- 22-41 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 9378 which is an Amendment to Ordinance 8514 to Amend the Hammond Sportsplex Planned Unit Development District Ordinance as a Supplement to the Zoning Ordinance for Property at 6600 Indianapolis Blvd. and 1918-1940 165<sup>th</sup> Street

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:15p.m. With an Intent to Consider on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and a Public Hearing for October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Councilman Tyler- This ordinance is in connection to, as it states, the Hammond Sportsplex and the zoning around that. Uh, given that we are working to update the zoning for the rest of that property there. This will be incorporated into that. I feel like I'm doing a horrible job explaining this. So, Mr. Poland if you can come up and share additional insight.

Brian Poland- This is just a text amendment ordinance to the existing PUD district ordinance that as stated will incorporate the commercial properties. Um, discussed the proposed YMCA development on the former Carson's property and allow for an expansion of the Sportsplex Building. AYES: ALL

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Kalwinski- Congratulations goes out to college of Saint Joe's for opening their 63 unit dormitory so congratulations... (Unclear) Congratulations on your first homecoming victory.

Councilman Tyler- In my free time I coach over at Hammond Central and as of right now we're sitting at a record of five and one. And this week we play Morton in our Crosstown rivalry. Uh, at 7 pm at the new Hammond Central Field. So want to encourage all the Hammond residents. If you're interested in football and want to support high school students, then come out and check out the game, should be a good time. Thank you.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Kenneth Schoon- Before I go any further, I should tell you why I was asked to speak. I'm a retired professor of science education at IU Northwest, a former geology instructor at IU Northwest as well as what was then called Purdue Calumet. The author of a book entitled Calumet Beginnings, which was brought here at your last meeting. The ancient shoreline that passes through Hammond is called the Tolleston Shoreline because when it was first studied and then named, it was most obvious in the town of Tolleston since annexed by the City of Gary.

Ken Rosek- I'd like to thank the members who came out and visited our Dune Woodlands in Hessville. Um, one thing that we did in Hessville and a group of us did was develop a group called the Hessville Dune Dusters. And the idea behind the name was we dust the dunes meaning, we clean up the area. We have over 650 followers right now. We've got a good dedicated volunteer force that continues to clean. One thing that I noticed a couple of weeks ago and was brought to my attention was an area of the woods east end of the woods behind some townhomes off 171st street that still had trash. My understanding that this was a private part of the woods and I did not know that it was actually owned by the city. So, we are scheduling a cleanup for October, 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm. And we will have the Hessville Dune Dusters clean up that area behind those townhomes. One of the things I wanted to do was show you an alternative to the city's project of building a bridge through the Dune Woodlands. The best project that we see is a project that was created in West Lafayette, Indiana. It's an underpass that was created and it is similar to the type of situation that we have here in Hessville. It was constructed for \$12.5 million dollars.

Linda Anguiano- I first wanted to thank City Councilman Torres and I know Scott Rakos was there. I don't know if any other of you supported the Hispanic Heritage Parade or Festival. It was very well attended. On behalf of Progressive Democrats of America, we had a big booth. We support many different causes and issues. Such as the one that Ken just spoke about. We also had a petition to save those Dunes at the festival to save that woodland. We got 65 new signatures. I tried, but I couldn't get Scott Rakos to sign the petition. I really appreciate what Professor Schoon said. So I would like to ask the city council to please keep their minds open. I asked the Department of Transportation when were they having a hearing on this and they kept saying, oh, we think in April, oh no, its going to be in June. Oh, we'll let you know. When I talked to Mr. Rakos on yesterday he informed me that were numerous meetings already held. We didn't know and we would have liked to attend.

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

AYES: ALL

2022 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

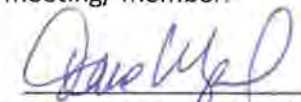
	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	10	24	14	28	14	28	11	25	9	23	13	27	11	25	8	22	12	26	10	24	14	28	12	26
Katrina Alexander	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Dan Spitale	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Mark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

E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY  
PRESENT

A=ABSENT

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

  
Dave Woerpel, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

  
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:10  
cb/dw

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk