

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on June 24, 2024 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Scott Rakos presided.

Council Coordinator Carmen I. Balboa facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

#### ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

#### MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Nice to see you. Welcome back. Thanks for inviting me again, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I wanted to update everybody. I've decided to post the Chief of Staff position. As you all know, Phil Taillon took a job with South Shore Convention and Visitor's Bureau as a CEO. Today was his first day, actually. So, we're posting the job. I am going through the normal process. Internally, I'll take all bids. Then, we'll open it up to external candidates. So, for anybody that's watching that's interested, the salary tops out at \$155K. I think it's a great launching pad. Previous Chief of Staff's have gone on to run the South Shore Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the National Headache Foundation, Hammond Water Company, Hammond Sanitary District, one's a Vice President at NIPSCO. It's like my back up quarterback. You work with Department Heads. You deal with employee discipline. A lot of after hours work, like this, for instance. A lot of working with the Council. A lot of Indianapolis work. Required meetings every week. Mayor's Night Out. Required after hours meeting, and you're expected to know the City of Hammond very, very well. So, if you know anybody that meets those qualifications, please let them know we have an open job. I'll go through my activity log and then I'm gonna cover a couple action items if you don't mind. I should be relatively quick. I met with Councilman Rakos and other community leaders from Hessville for an update on Governor's Parkway Bridge as well as the Grand Avenue Pedestrian Bridge. I thought we had a great meeting. So, I appreciate Councilman Rakos for attending that along with those community leaders. Attended Meat by Linz welcoming party. Meat by Linz is not officially open yet but they did host a welcoming party. I know a number of Council people were there along with the Economic Development staff. That's in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Congratulations, Councilman Salinas, a brand new \$50 million facility is opening up. Hundreds of new jobs. Great new tax base for our city. Obviously, the Unions have been building it. It's just a great project, altogether, right there on Hoffman Street. It's literally, obviously, it's mostly freezers. It was sort of shocking to see it, you know, going in freezers that get well below zero. Pretty impressive facility. So, congratulations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. I met with my staff to finalize plans for the presentation we gave to you all in regards to the Food and Beverage Tax. You have that. Promoted Battalion Chief Danny Diombala to become Hammond Fire Department's newest Drill Master. The Drill Master holds the rank of Assistant Chief. So Dan, who was promoted from Battalion Chief to Assistant Chief and Drill Master is

## MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - responsible for, basically, training all of our Hammond Firefighters. So, congratulations to Dan on his promotion. Attended former Fire Chief Jeff Smith's retirement ceremony. Jeff had a thirty two year career at the Hammond Fire Department. But, the day after his retirement ceremony, I promoted Hammond's former Fire Chief to become Hammond's newest Department Head for the Hammond Port Authority. Anybody that knows the former Chief, knows he's a Robertsdale guy. Previously served on the Hammond Port Authority Board. I thought he was the perfect person to take over when Milan moved to the Hammond Sanitary District, so, Jeff's fully in charge of that now. It seems like we're starting to get everybody in place again after a lot of movement. Hammond Fire Department started negotiations with the city. We had a really good first meeting. I want to thank Mike Hull and his team for a good start. As everybody knows, First Responders are looking for significant pay raises. I think that's safe to say. They're talking 15 to 20% range. So, that's what I'm dealing with. If you guys have more particular questions. I have no problem answering them. I met with Tom Dakich, who's worked with us with the Hammond Data Center about some infrastructure issues we have up there at the Hammond Data Center. I met with Councilwoman Venecz over multiple issues. I appreciate her coming in the Mayor's Office to meet with me. Attended my monthly Police Captains meeting at the Hammond Police Department along with my Chief of Staff, excuse me, Corporate Council and my City Controller. Held interviews with multiple employees interested in working in the Hammond Mayor's Office, Administrative Assistant position. We promoted somebody today, actually, from the Police Department, Noemi Garcia, to be our next Administrative Assistant in the Mayor's Office. It feels like I'm getting my feet on the ground in the Mayor's Office as well, so. Everything except for the Chief of Staff. And last, but not least. I attended Hessville Little League's Home Run Derby in the 6<sup>th</sup> District. Really cool event. I appreciate being invited out and I hit a home run, which was nice. I couldn't walk the next day, but I did hit a home run on the day before that. Action items before the Council, I know you have you packet before you on the Hammond Food and Beverage Tax. I want to remind the public that we are required to do one public meeting, which I imagine you're gonna schedule today, that has to be completely separate outside of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Reading. So, tonight we're just introducing this, 1% proposal. The two things we want to fund with the 1% is expansion to the Sportsplex and the surrounding area, as well as the Downtown Hammond Train Station. I know it's in the packet we provided to you all. In the statute there's only three projects listed. Those two plus the pavilion at Wolf Lake. I love the Pav, but I have a feeling those two projects, the Downtown Train Station and the Sportsplex expansion will probably take what money we have available under this. But, presumably we also would be able to expand the pavilion with the Food and Beverage money. Two meetings ago we gave to you a resolution in regards to Franciscan. I know Councilman Salinas was carrying it. We're still asking you to hold off on that, if you don't mind. I know Corporate Council is working with Franciscan Attorneys and we're gonna come up to you all with a final proposal. This is a good thing for us to hold off. Everybody's aware. So, please, I'm asking you to hold off on that. Last, but not least, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Swanel, a company right here across the street from City Hall. Purchased the old Carpenter's Hall and they're proposing a Swanel Economic Development Area, Economic Revitalization Area, for a proposal that between Erie Street and Highland Street they're gonna build a brand new building, basically, and centralize their operations into a bigger building with more jobs and more assessed value, and that's right here in the TIF that's gonna help us, ultimately, develop around City hall. I think it's a great project. Swanel's been waiting a long time for this so if you have any questions, my staff's is available to help you out with that and I appreciate you and if you have any questions, I'm available.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilwoman Alexander - Just really quick, because I did not get a chance to ask this in caucus. Outside of those projects, could those funds be used for something else other than projects.

Mayor McDermott - No, ma'am. In fact, great question. The State Statute, the State, to give us this permission, our State, you know, they don't like taxes. We all know that. Indiana, it's one of the reasons we have such a low tax rate. So, for them to give us permission for this Food and Beverage Tax, it's literally three projects we could use it on. The Downtown Hammond Train Station, the Sportsplex, and a Pavilion expansion. And it's literally written in the State law that way. I'm glad you asked that. If we wanted to help fund the Fire Department with it, we could not do it. It would be illegal.

Councilman Woerpel - Mayor, we discussed this in caucus and this was passed by State legislation and the question was asked by a resident, well it's 1%, what prevents it from being 2%? It's simple, it's specific to these three projects at 1%.

Mayor McDermott - It's specific to these projects, max 1%.

Councilman Woerpel - And it sunsets in twenty years?

Mayor McDermott - Twenty years from July 1<sup>st</sup>. By the way, if we don't pass it for two years we would only have eighteen years. The clock starts ticking on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have twenty years from that day. It's gone, that ability. So, what we're trying to figure out is if it's, the State's telling us, we have \$40 million over twenty years is basically what we'll make from this tax. So, we're trying to estimate, because there's gonna financing costs involved and we feel like we could safely bond \$25 million for those projects now, and over the next twenty years it will get paid off. So twenty years from now, the Council and the Mayor aren't left holding the bag with, like, \$5 million left on bond. So, we're not overcharging. We know that there's going to be finance charges over the next 20 years. We're leaving enough money on the table so that we'll be able to pay it off, and twenty years from now, whoever the Mayor and whoever the Council is, isn't gonna be cursing us.

Councilman Woerpel - There was just two questions brought up on that.

Mayor McDermott - I'm glad you asked that.

Councilman Woerpel - And the two specific projects are the Downtown Station and the expansion of the Sportsplex and or economic development in that area.

Mayor McDermott - Yeah, projects related to. So, first off, let's look at the Sportsplex expansion. The expansion of the Sportsplex in itself will be \$10 million plus a couple. I think right now, without even engineering costs or architecture work, it's right about \$9 million right now, okay? At the end of the day that will be over \$10, and if we're saying we have about \$25 over the next twenty years, \$25 million if we spend now, \$40 million over the next twenty years, that'll leave \$15 million for finance charges. So, we're about \$10 million into the project right now. And if we're gonna be \$10 million on the Sportsplex expansion alone, Food and Beverage can cover the whole thing, you know. So we don't have to worry about economic development

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - around that area. And the Downtown Hammond Train Station, that will be right around \$10 million. So, we feel pretty confident there's not gonna be much money left for the Pavilion expansion, which I love that idea but I think that that's a much bigger discussion. We're not gonna be able to finance that on our own in Hammond. I think that we'd have to talk to other entities, or even a private entity like Live Nation. Why wouldn't they want to be part of something like that. So, we're sort of mentally leaving that one on the table. I think the way the State looked at this, was what are Hammond's three largest generators of tourism? The Sportsplex, the train and the Pavilion.

Councilman Salinas - I received some phone calls regarding the Food and Beverage, the lingo, so to speak. I was really clear with the residents that this tax does not include groceries.

Mayor McDermott - Thank you, I'm glad you asked that, Councilman. Exactly, you're exactly right. Let's go through a scenario. You go to Strack & VanTil and you buy groceries. NO, the Food and Beverage Tax will not apply to that. However, you go to Strack & VanTils and you buy a sandwich at the deli and you buy a bottle of water with the sandwich at the deli, I think the sandwich will have the 1% on it, the bottle of water will not. Maybe the bottle of water does as well, if you're buying it in one transaction, right? But is you're going and you buy deli meat and you put it in your cart, no 1%. You take it up to the front. It's a finished product. You go to a sandwich shop and they make the sandwich for you, 1%. You go to Grub Hub, 1%. McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, 1%, 1%, 1%. Okay?

Councilman Salinas - Thank you.

Mayor McDermott - I'm glad you're asking these questions. We've gone through these scenarios, it's confusing but it's the finished product we're talking about. Merrillville recently got the ability to do this. Their Council and the City chewed on it for a couple months and they ultimately passed it. But they were facing the same kind of thing we're facing and I was just made aware today from the City Controller, and I'm not sure if she's discussed with you, that no matter what happens, if we pass it we have 120 days where we have to wait for the Department of Revenue to get everything ready for the 1%, so. So even if we did it right away it would probably be 120 days before anything started happening. Any other questions? I'm sorry if this is going on too long but I'm just answering questions at this point. I'll be here for the debate, so thank you all.

Councilwoman Venecz - Each of the businesses that will be affected by the Food and Beverage Tax will be notified, correct.

Mayor McDermott - Yes, Ma'am. It's incumbent upon us to notify them. So, we'll notify them, what we were discussing today how we want to do it in the City of Hammond but part of that 120 day period I was talking about earlier is the Department of Revenue ramping up their system as we.. Because they have to also get ready for that 1%. So, if you guys pass this, we still, for 120 days, are gonna be in a period of time where it's sort of in limbo. Okay? Then we'll notify the local restaurants and the State Department of Revenue will notify them as well, and then 120 days after that it will start. If it passes the Council and signed by the Mayor, of course, I'm not presuming anything.

Councilwoman Venecz - Okay. Thank you.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

**DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

|                    |                 |            |         |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| Camila Perez       | Hammond Central | District 1 | PRESENT |
| Marc A. Rodriguez  | Morton          | District 1 | ---     |
| Camila Salgado     | Hammond Central | District 2 | PRESENT |
| Kalesha Chavez     | Hammond Central | District 2 | PRESENT |
| Brianne Mattox     | Hammond Central | District 3 | PRESENT |
| Angela Villegas    | Morton          | District 3 | PRESENT |
| Marilyn Schuller   | Morton          | District 4 | ---     |
| Ja'Kyra Nunn       | Morton          | District 4 | PRESENT |
| Ava Meadows        | Morton          | District 5 | PRESENT |
| Kalib Kimbrough    | Hammond Central | District 5 | ---     |
| Thomas Haack       | Morton          | District 6 | ---     |
| Benjamin Adanekan  | Morton          | District 6 | PRESENT |
| Adrian Flores      | Hammond Central | District 6 | PRESENT |
| Skylar Pollard     | Hammond Central | District 2 | PRESENT |
| Camila Ruby Vargas | Hammond Central | District 1 | ---     |

Councilwoman Alexander - Each one of these student will receive a \$1 thousand scholarship from the Council. So we do want to congratulate each one of you.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to suspend the rules to take a group picture.  
AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to return to the regular order of business.  
AYES: ALL

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024 and place on file.  
AYES: ALL

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to approve the claims from May 30, 2024 through May 30, 2024. Claim #4685 through #4967, inclusive. In the amount of \$2,761,996.58.

**ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler - I just want to thank the New Hope College Day Ministry for hosting their, I want to say, their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual College Day event, which was held yesterday at New Hope Too for ... Sorry, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual College Day Event, so for about forty students who are currently in college or about to go off to college, they put together packages of dorm room items, anything that they would need for school and gave those to those children yesterday. So, thank you to Ms. Diane Hicks and the entire College Day Ministry of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Councilman Salinas - I've got two items here I'd like to communicate to the public. First being the Downtown Hammond is currently hosting, every Monday in June, a Blues Cruise Event. A Blues Cruise Event is a car show, that's from 5 to 9 p.m. It's actually taking place today, right now as we speak. I went last Monday and it was well attended. It was nice seeing people in the Downtown Hammond area. About 150 people, 50 classic and custom cars showed up and I believe it is only going to get bigger. But if you have some time between 5 and 9 p.m. on Mondays in June. The cars are asking to enter, and the public asking to enter, around 489 Fayette Street. The second item that I have, I want to say thank you to the volunteers that came out for our neighborhood clean-up. Our first cleanup took place this past Saturday. We cleaned up behind Downtown Hammond's Strack & VanTil's. We went down Willow Court, cleaned up from State Line all the way to the Hohman underpass. Collected quite a bit of trash and thanks to the Public Works Department for picking up the bags in a timely fashion. We have a second cleanup this Saturday from 9 to 1, we'll be cleaning up Hudson Street from Cedar and Hudson we'll be traveling eastbound towards Columbia, finishing under the Columbia underpass. Thank you.

Councilwoman Alexander - Outside of our scholarship recipients the class of 2024 graduated from all of schools in the city of Hammond and we just want to congratulate each and everyone on their new chapters of their lives as they go on and do greater things and hopefully they will come back and do even more things once they graduate from college.

Council President Rakos - I just want to announce that the Live in the Ville last, not this past Saturday but the Saturday before, Friday and Saturday went very well. Saturday we had rain but we still wound up having a good crowd. Friday the weather was perfect. It went really well and now they're in discussion possibly in September having movie in Hessville Park. That's our discussion that we're discussing right now. There'll be more information coming.

Councilman Kalwinski - I want to give a shout out to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. They came from Indianapolis to a Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association meeting at the Hammond Mohawk's to talk about their strategy for over site of the cleanup of the contaminated property at 3 141<sup>st</sup> Street. They were very comprehensive about how they will go about that. Along with them, I want to thank State Rep Carolyn Jackson for attending and being vocal about the cleanup there as well as County Commissioner Mike Repay, Lake County Councilwoman Christine Cid, North Township Trustee Adrian Santos and our friend, Councilman at Large here, Dan Spitale, for their attendance and feed back during the meeting and support to make sure that

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski cont. - this cleanup is done in a way that benefits the community and the local neighborhood and we then have set out an invitation to the new property owner at 3 141<sup>st</sup>, the old Taylor Chain site, and that is Sorea Properties out of Illinois. We've asked them to come to the next Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association meeting and we're waiting for their response.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Emerson - We will be bringing out 24-12.

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

- Community Watch Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza- Tomorrow; 1 p.m.; their building 940 Kenwood
- East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; June 18; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
- Edison Community Watch is off for the Summer
- Harrison Park Crime Watch; July 2; VFW on Hohman; 6 p.m.
- Hessville Crime Watch; Thur., June 20; 6 p.m.; Jean Shepherd Center
- Irving Community Watch is off for the Summer
- South Hohman Neighborhood Watch meets twice a year; will meet again in October
- Whiting -Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., June 13; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Also, this year the City of Hammond and the Community and Crime Watch groups are offering a free Ring Doorbell for Hammond homeowner residents. You have to apply June 24 through June 28 only on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of City hall. You must own and reside in your Hammond home. You must provide proof of home ownership and you must provide a valid driver's license or State I.D. Quantities are limited so I recommend that you fill out the application as soon as they become available, which is June 24<sup>th</sup>. This is an excellent tool for all of us residents to be the eyes and ears of our police department.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilman Emerson - We met on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and we dealt with the funding allocation for 171<sup>st</sup> Street extension with the Lochmueller Group in the amount of \$72,700. We also dealt with the funding allocation for the 2024 2CCMG Columbia Avenue, 167<sup>th</sup> to Summer Street. United Consulting in the amount of for design \$62,500. We also dealt with the funding allocation for Grant Writing Assistance in the amount of \$100 thousand. We also dealt with funding allocation for the Hohman Avenue Reconstruction Change Order No. 21, the Towle Theater vaulted sidewalk in the amount of \$32,400.

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

24-12 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 1424 Field St., Hammond in 46320

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

Councilman Tyler - As previously discussed, this is to adjust the zoning of a parcel of land located at 1424 Field Street. From my understanding the business will use it, as it was explained to us, as an outside storage area as of right now. But it will go from R-1U Urban Single Family Residential District and I-2 Manufacturing District to just I-2 Manufacturing District.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9635 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

24-13 An Ordinance of The City of Hammond Adopting A 1% Municipal Food And Beverage Tax 24-13

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and placed it in the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on June 24, 2024 at 4:45 p.m. and a Public Hearing on June 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Woerpel - Like the Mayor said during his speech and we discussed in caucus, this is only possible because of State legislation. It is for a 1% Municipal Food and Beverage Tax. That's on service foods, where you'd go to a restaurant or whatever. Also it was brought up about, well, you start at 1%, then you can make it two. We can't do that by State Legislation. It's specific to the three projects the Mayor mentioned, which are the Sportsplex, the train station Downtown, and the Pavilion. And it sunsets after twenty years.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

24R-09 Approving Certain January 1, 2024 Assessment Date Form CF-1's as Timely Filed with the Common Council of the City of Hammond as the Designating Body by Applicants Previously Approved for Economic Revitalization Area Deductions of Assessed Valuation, Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved for adoption.

Councilman Tyler - This resolution is to receive and approve the CF-1 forms for the businesses that have received some type of economic development agreement with us. There are seven businesses that are submitting their CF-1 forms, which means 100% compliance this year. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R09 ADOPTED

24R-10 A Declaratory Resolution Determining that a Certain Area of the City of Hammond, Indiana be Designated as the Swanel Economic Revitalization Area to Which Deductions from Assessed Valuation May be Requested by an Applicant to the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved for adoption with a public hearing for June 24, 2024 in advance of any additional resolutions connected to this agreement.

Councilman Tyler - As this resolution reads, it is to establish an economic revitalization are for Swanel who looking to get an assessed value of their land potentially to enter into an economic development agreement with the city of Hammond to support the expansion of their current property in the amount of around \$7 million. This will include the creation of another 5-10 jobs. They currently employ 42 people and they've been at that location in Hammond for since 1947. With this agreement we'll also ask for a public hearing.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R10 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Tyler - From my understanding there is a student here who is doing a report on the Hammond City Council and what he witnesses here at the meeting tonight. So I just want to acknowledge Mr. Cameron Walker. If it appears the rest of the City Council, I would love for him to come up to the microphone and just share a little bit more about the project he is working on.

Cameron Walker - I am a student of Munster High School doing a little project, you could say, for my U.S. Government class for summer school that I am taking. I really came here today really gain upon information that you guys are talking about to refer it back to my essay I am going to write, and really using key vocab words and, like, topics that we are learning in government and applying it to what you guys are talking about today.

Councilman Tyler - I should make the connection that Cameron's family is, although he attends Munster High School, he is a Hammond resident. His family are long time Hammond residents. He is the Grandson of Mr. Paul Walker, I'm sorry, Grand Nephew.

Cameron Walker - Also, with attending Munster High School, I also attended the Area Career Center of Hammond, Indiana, doing my role of Electrical Engineering there. Hopefully, pursuing the career of an electrician coming out of high school. Hopefully, December by early graduation with honor society also. Maybe finding an apprenticeship. Maybe around here. I know a place in Indiana called Autokiniton that I might be looking towards also or maybe a place in Illinois. I don't know. But I just wanted to add on that I am also a student of Hammond Schools.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

George Stoya - Was looking for more clarification on the Swanel Economic Revitalization Area. Specifically on the terms of deductions. Are we being too generous sometimes. Of the new jobs, do they live in and spend money in Hammond?

Theresa Torres - Is speaking on human dignity today. Was told Hammond is one of the most accessible cities in Lake County. I can tell you the seniors in the senior housing still can't make it to our offices or Downtown Hammond safely. If you're a wheelchair user it's impossible to find a home in Hammond. There is no integrated seating or audio link for the deaf here. There is pervasive ignorance in Hammond. Everyone knows what the ADA is, but discrimination continues to be a problem.

Raymond Fletcher - I moved because of actions by this Council. Having to ride my wheelchair in the snow and the rain just to get to work. You allowed it to happen. I moved 11 years ago and have had much success. Where I am treated like an equal.

Briana Totinos - Festival of the Lakes Disability Day is disappointing. A call to the Civic Center was very condescending. This Disability Day is focused on children. The event was so that I wouldn't be bumped into or stared at. The event is only two hours and starts at an inaccessible time. Calling it Disability Day is a lie. Instead of focusing on education and inclusion, you instead chose ignorance and exclusion. Every day is disability day for us.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Jordan Musenbrock - I lead a full life despite what some people may think looking at me. We have to do better. That's all we want. I would like to have a conversation with the person that chose to do a Festival of the Lakes Disability Day. That would be a start. It doesn't need to happen if just everyone were included. We're just people. Society lumps all people with disabilities together. I feel like we are being exploited.

Ken Rosek - I'm going to continue trying to save the Briar East Woods. There is misinformation being passed by this government. There are many more trees being lost than is being told. The underpass costs given had no basis. Be honest. Tell us the truth and then sell us the project. Don't make things up or diminish things. This will destroy the last natural place in Hessville.

T.J. Gaertig - Prepared a trail guide of Briar East Woods, including a sticker with a QR code to our website. There is a brief description of the area's historical importance in it and some of the animals and trees that you can find there. I used a GPS tracker to map them all. This is not a picture of what Hammond could be. It is a picture of what Hammond is right now. You have the choice to keep it that way or to change it. You could destroy it for the Governor's Parkway, which would do nothing to solve the problems.

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

AYES: ALL

2024 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

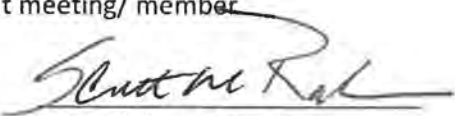
|                     | Jan |     | Feb |     | Mar |     | Apr |     | May |     | Jun |     | Jul |  | Aug |  | Sep |  | Oct |  | Nov |  | Dec |  |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|
|                     | 8   | 22  | 12  | 26  | 11  | 25  | 8   | 22  | 13  | 28  | 10  |     |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Katrina Alexander   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | E   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Dan Spitale         | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Janet Venecz        | E   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Mark Kalwinski      | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Alfonso Salinas III | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Barry Tyler         | P   | P   | P   | E   | P   | E   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Bill Emerson        | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Dave Woerpel        | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |
| Scott Rakos         | 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 |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |

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



Scott Rakos, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST: 

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:10 p.m.

cb

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk