

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on December 9, 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.

Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander

**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 everybody. My report for December 9, 2024, before I get into the activity log, I want to point out that about a month ago, the City Council rejected State Legislature's Police and Fire Merritt System. We presented 2 resolutions to you for Police and Fire, and you guys voted for both of them. I signed them, which gave our police officers and firefighters the ability to either accept the Merritt System that was offered by the State, or to reject the offer that was offered by the State and stay the way we've been operating for 130+ years in the City of Hammond and like we thought, the Fire Department, officially voted against the State's Merritt System, 101-16. It wasn't even close. I know the Fire Department is thanking you all for passing that resolution and giving them the ability to soundly vote down what the State was offering. The Police Department will vote on it this week. If they accept it, obviously the State's recommendation goes into effect. If they reject it, the system that we've been using for 130 years will continue with the Hammond Police Department. I did want to point that out. While I'm talking about Police and Fire, I'm happy to report, we've successfully completed negotiations with FOP 51 and their members that voted more than 90 percent in favor of a new 4 year agreement. WE have a ceremony coming up, I think its this week, where we're gonna have the leadership and everybody get together and sign the contract. Fire negotiations with local 556 continue, but we believe we are close to extending a formal offer as we work to clean up some language issue regarding the grievance process. One area where we focused on was to attract and retain paramedics, and we feel that we have successfully addressed that issue. It seems like if we were having an issue in the Fire Department, we were losing paramedics and that's something we wanted to try to stop, and we did so in this contract. We've extended formal offers for the Teamsters, to the Public Works, and to the Sanitary District, which should be voted on this week. We will be extending a formal offer to Water within the next few days. Operating Engineers, the City is ongoing with Operating Engineers, Local 399, which represents a small number of Park Personnel, as well as those who run our wastewater plant at the Sanitary District. Activity log the last couple weeks since we've last seen each other. The JROTC from Hammond Central came to visit my office, shortly after Veteran's Day, they had an entire ceremony and gave me an award for Veteran's Day, which is really sweet, so I wanted to say thank you to them. I met with Indianapolis attorneys, and the leadership of the Hammond Sanitary District regarding Hammond Sanitary District's long term control plan. I talked to you all about it at the last meeting, in light of

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

Mayor McDermott cont- the changing of administrations in Washington D.C. It's an interesting question and we know that we have about 300 million dollars in liabilities coming up in the Hammond Sanitary District. It's interesting with President Trump shortly about to take over, his view of the Environmental Protection Agency is obviously a lot different than President Biden's was, so we're talking to our attorneys about whether we should try to appeal our consent decree and see if there's any type of relief we can save our taxpayers. We're trying to make lemons out of lemonade, but it was an interesting meeting, if anybody has any questions about it, I'm willing to talk to you about that. The issue affects all of us, and Councils in the future, and Mayor's in the future, so obviously it's very important. I attended the Jean Shepherd Center's VIP Pickleball party. We had sort of a grand opening attended by all the sponsors and some elected officials. Council President was there, so it was good to see you out there. Holiday Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was here at City Hall. Councilman Barry was out there as he is every year. Definitely the coldest, probably the coldest ceremony I've had in Hammond, that I've been to, and I've been Mayor for a long time. It was really really cold that day, so the crowd was very small, and the staff works really hard to put it on, and it's sorta sad to see a small crowd show up, but it was a small energetic crowd. We had reindeers and obviously the lights are on, so Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays to everybody. I attended the visitation for one of our employees Steve Fowler who passed away. Steve was the former superintendent of Hammond's Recycling Department. He was currently employed with the Department of Public Works. A lot of people remember Steve from the years he spent at WJOB. Very young to lose Steve Fowler, a good employee. We're gonna miss him a lot. I attended the Police Captains monthly meeting, Monthly. I met with the owners of the Branding Room Floor Marketing Agency about ideas they had to better market our city. I met with multiple people familiar with operations of the Hammond Fire Department in regards to an open Assistant Chief position we have currently on the Hammond Fire Department. Ed Lomeli recently retired. He's off the books at the end of the year. The Assistant Chief is the quarterback on the department. It's the Chief in charge of all the firefighters when everybody goes home. It's an important position that's open. We swore in a new class of firefighters, had the Christmas parade in the Woodmar Section of Hammond, South Shore event in the city hosted by the SSCVB. I was in Downtown Chicago over the weekend, and Hammond had over 25 people from the administration and from the Council there. It was a good teamwork and good to see everybody show up. Today I just got back from the Indiana Conference for Mayor's. They were very interested in our gas station ordinance. They're very proud of us, and there was a room of 70 Mayor's getting briefed by me today on the ordinance that we passed a little over a year ago, so very interesting. I know you guys have a lot before you today. We have an ARPA clean up ordinance before you regarding 370,000 dollars that needs to be appropriated before the end of the year, and Megan has some ideas. I know you guys have talked about We're calling it the omnibus permit administrative ordinance that's coming before you which is just some misc. fees that are going up towards the end of the year, and the ordinance ratifying the actions of the Board of Public Works and Safety is coming before you as well. There's a few that passed, so if anybody has any questions, I'm here, other than that, sorry about the long report, it's been busy.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of November 25, 2024 and place on file. AYES: ALL

#### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from November 20, 2024 through December 4, 2024. Claim #10334 through #10670, inclusive. In the amount of \$4,387,053.90.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- Last week I attended the services for a Mr. Keith Speaks, who was a Hammond High graduate and former Executive Director of Neighborhoods Inc., here in Hammond. He passed away unexpectedly. I just wanted to once again give his family our condolences. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board- Councilman Emerson-The Capital Improvement Board met on December 2, 2024. We dealt with:

Item A- Funding Allocation #223- The Summer Street reconstruction change orders 1-4; Reith Riley Construction in the amount of \$19,753.44

Item B- Funding Allocation #224- City wide pedestrian bridge inspection; EGIS in the amount of \$43,200.00

Item C- Funding Allocation #225- EV charging station site; NIES Engineering in the amount of \$12,680.00

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz- Council as a Whole will be bringing out 24-29 and 24-30

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz- Upcoming meetings  
Irving Community Watch; Tues., Dec 2; 9:30am; Irving School  
Whiting/Robertsdale; Thurs., Dec 12; 6:30pm; Calumet College

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

24-29 An Ordinance Creating a New Fund (Fund #2486) for the FY24 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Implementation Projects Awarded to City of Hammond Police Department

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

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. 9653 PASSED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

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

24-30 An Ordinance Creating a New Fund (Fund #2487) for the FY24 Cops Technology and Equipment Program Awarded to City of Hammond Police Department

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved for passage.

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. 9654 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

24-31 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries for Elected City Officials for the City of Hammond, Indiana Commencing January 1, 2025 be it Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on December 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 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

24-32 An Ordinance Authorizing the City Controller to Transfer Funds From One Line Item to Another Within Various City 2024 Budgets

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on December 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 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

24-33 An Ordinance to Further Appropriate From the ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for Purposes that Fulfill the Intent of the American Rescue Plan Act (Version 4.0)

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on December 30, 2024, with a Public Hearing on December 30, 2024.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 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

24-34 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond Authorizing the City of Hammond, Indiana, to Issue One or More Series of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds and Approving and Authorizing Other Actions in Respect Thereto

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on December 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 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

24-35 An Ordinance Respecting and Ratifying the Actions of the City of Hammond Board of Public Works and Safety Related to Traffic Regulations for 2024

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 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

24-36 An Ordinance Amending Ordinances 3601, 3947, 4304, 4307, 4678, 4880, 4951, 8383, 8435, 8552, 8602, 8779, 8781, 8814, 8821, 8887, 8888, 8889, 9197, 9201, 9206, 9208, and 9446 Also Known as Sections 32.49, 94.061, 94.062, 150.025, 150.045, 150.058, 151.51, 150.125, 150.058, 154.40, 156.20 of the Hammond Municipal Code as it Pertains to Certain Fees and Procedures Relating to Building Contractors and Wastehauling and Administrative Services Provided by the Hammond Police Department

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on December 30, 2024.

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Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 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-21 A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Community Investment Plan (Version 4) for the City of Hammond for the Use of Funds Provided Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moves for adoption

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. R21 ADOPTED

24R-22 A Resolution of the Hammond Common Council Approving the First Amendment to Development Agreement Among the City of Hammond, Indiana, the City of Hammond Redevelopment Commission, the City of Hammond Economic Development Commission, and Crossroads Young Men’s Christian Association, Inc.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moves for adoption

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. R22 ADOPTED

24R-23 A Resolution to Appoint Suzette M. Kubacki to the Hammond Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moves for adoption

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. R23 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel-As the Mayor stated during his address, we had the funeral for Steve Fowler, a week ago, Monday, and I just wanna commend his coworkers for outside the building, the church, they paid a nice tribute to him, by lining up as the hearse went by and all that. I would also like to express the Council's condolences to Isabel Escobedo on the passing of her husband Joe Escobedo. I don't think anybody in politics doesn't know who Joe was, and he passed away, I believe Monday. Also, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and one last thing, I know Ken's brother who I've known for about 30 years, that Ken speaks in front of us, is fallen on some hard times, so I wanna wish him well too, Ken.

Councilman Salinas- I also want to wish our secretary a happy birthday, Elizabeth Reyes. She's a big help in the office behind the scenes for us all, so happy birthday, Liz.

Councilwoman Alexander- As we enter into the holiday season, just continue to keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers that is going through something this season. We know that things get harder during this time, but definitely want to keep them uplifted, and that even in this season just continue to laugh, live, and love everyone around because it is a hard time. That is my deepest prayer for them, so Merry Christmas, and we'll see you at the next one.

Councilman Tyler- I believe as well as Liz's birthday, Councilwoman Venecz, just celebrated her birthday too, so happy belated birthday.

Councilwoman Venecz- That numbers getting too big Barry, thank you.

Councilman Woerpel- They both turned 30 right?

Councilwoman Venecz- Yes

Councilman Tyler- I know Jake Jacobs will be celebrating a birthday soon, as well as Clerk Golec, correct? So happy birthday to all of our December birthdays.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved for the reappointment of Greg Myrick to the Hammond Redevelopment Commission, set to expire December 31, 2025.

Councilman Tyler- Like I said, this is a reappointment. I think he's been on there 6 or 7 years. Maybe even longer. I talked to him, he said he wants to do 1 more year. I know he's been a real contribution to the Redevelopment Commission. We'll be sad to see him go when he does transition away from this board, but thank you Mr. Myrick, I know you're probably watching at home, for your contribution and I look forward to working with you for another year.

ROLL CALL VOTE (reappointment)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Ken Rosek- Greetings Council. Thank you Councilman Woerpel, I appreciate that. The Briar East Woods documentary came out. We've had 2 packed houses so far. We are so proud of Jana. She did a great job. She's now traveling the world. The Hessville Dune Dusters had a post about a clean up that went viral. There's another video of the Cub Scouts that is going viral also. We are gaining support because we're doing the right thing. We have no hidden agenda, we are good people who do this for free. The bridge will lower our quality of life. If I didn't think this was the right thing, I wouldn't waste my time. Instead I'm here every other week trying to convince you all of what matters. I wish you could all respond to us, maybe we would actually get somewhere. Why is the City opposed to discussion?

Casey King- I'm a freelance artist and designer, also a founding member of the Whiting/Robertsdale environmental neighbors. I've been assisting in the advocacy of the Briar East Woods. We now have merchandise. We are circulating the documentary among environmental organizations, universities, legislatures, and the public at large. We're also showing the film across NWI and beyond. The details of this blatant disregard of public and environmental safety by the City of Hammond are being put forth to the public. The story is spreading and it is your responsibility to address this. One of the most powerful moments in the film comes from Mayor McDermott, stating the following regarding his Governor's Parkway plan. This was from Mayor's Night Out in 2023, and I quote "The kids that walk there, they're still going to have to walk. They're still going to have to go through the train unless they walk the long way and I realize that's probably not going to happen with kids. I agree that's a weakness. The kids that walk are still going to have the temptation to go through trains" Mr Woerpel, several meetings ago, you spoke in response to a resident who had expressed opposition to the wheel tax, you said there was no straight forward solutions to problems in this city, and we understand that. However in the case of Briar East Woods, it is clear as day, that both an overpass or an underpass at Grand Avenue, provide a straighter and shorter roadway providing the safety for kids that this entire project exists to solve. These solutions also allow the ancient dune woodlands to remain. We've been presenting straight forward solutions.

George Stoya- I've been looking over the incentives being given to the quantum corridor and digital, I forget the other part of it, that's run by Dan Dockich and those guys on the lakefront there, and I know the Mayor's pushing it, and I know it has to be incentivized, but my god, we're giving away our first born. They don't pay any sales tax on their personal property purchases or their purchases of power. Currently we have NIPSCO wanting to raise rates up to \$45 a month on people. I wonder if they're connected because that data center is gonna draw a lot of power. Are we paying for that too? It's not just the sales tax. I'm sure the City's offered deferments on taxes or whatever else. I just wondered if this Council is gonna explain some of this to us. If we're being asked to fund NIPSCO's new infrastructure and power needs, are you guys gonna come to bat for us when they start asking for more money? They're not gonna be taxed on the power, who's gonna make up for that? You know who, it's us. So I just wish you would look into it and consider what you can do for us.

Terry Steagall- You have a duty to protect the public and the city property. You've done some good things, and some bad things. When you start looking at things in your community, you start thinking what would mother earth say? We need to take into consideration our decisions, because if we look at the Grand Calumet, that I grew up by, it was a toxic pit at one time, and the city made their fair share of contribution to the pollution there. Once they got 14 areas of concern from the EPA, they were able to get federal money for a super fund. We wanna make sure that gets better and not worse. The next thing is the Little Calumet River, we have a problem there. The Mayor has opposition to the consent decree that we've all agreed too, and the Judge hasn't changed it

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.**

Terry Steagall cont.-yet, and I believe at the last council meeting, he threatened to stop the project if he could, and tonight he said he's looking to amend that. I just want you to know that Highland has already started their part. They've allocated the 70 million to get the project started and construction has already started. We also need to look at the state line generating site. There hasn't been enough oversight there as far as what goes on there. Councilman Kalwinski, you might want to take note, back in 2013, Mr. Beamsterbore, said he was gonna do a clean closure, and he said it a few times at least until 2018. There was never a clean closure, might have been a clean cover up. A clean closure would outline test wells, and boarings and all kinds of things to make sure things are cleaned out properly.

TJ Gaertig- I just wanted to bring this back to the beginning and ask how did we get started with this project. It was to help kids get safely to school if there's a parked train. As you heard Casey say, this clearly does not solve the problem. The Mayor even said it himself. Maybe you heard, well we already have the money, we're never gonna get it again, we have to jump on this opportunity. Then we reached out to the FRA, and they said Hammond is a high priority with kids walking to school, so if you guys have a better solution, you're at the top of our list for receiving additional funding. That's not quite true is it. At this point the City Council has taken no steps to pause this project, to look at other alternatives. Maybe we should listen to our community who is crying out saying we don't want this project. Governor's Parkway destroying Briar East Woods. I have to assume that you are in support of this project because it's moving forward and I need you guys to help us out here in Hammond. If there's something that you have reservations about, please talk to me. We have come up here for years trying to give you the details, and it's driving me crazy. If you have questions, let me know. We need to get this taken care of.

Grace TaFolla- I work in Hammond planting trees. I worked all summer in the blistering heat because there's barely any trees in the City of Hammond. I noticed that there was nothing but clear skies and barely any trees except the ones the SDA has been planting for the last 6 years. Lake County's 2023 report said that you only have about 16 percent of tree canopy coverage. That means that you're costing people extra on heating and cooling. You're costing yourself extra in the winter from the ground being covered in the snow when you don't have trees or leaves to prevent that. You're making the community ugly by not having any trees. They improve value. Cities like Whiting with huge trees in every residential area, make the city look beautiful. Whiting has the money because they're polluted by BP, but you guys get the pollution too, and it's important for us to take care of the environment that we do have left. I brought more people out this evening because this is something we care about. You are the public's connection to the city government. The public is telling you now that they want to save Briar East Woods and you need to find a compromise. It is your job. The soil in Hammond is bad quality because most of Hammond is developed and ugly. I've been planting a native garden at Morton High School, and just with the few little plants that I have planted, so much life has come into those gardens. There's so much life in Briar East Woods that you are taking a home away from that was here before you were. This is something super important to us, and we're gonna keep coming back until you work with us. You are tired of hearing us? Then speak to us and come to a compromise. Stop just pushing your own agenda. This is the people's agenda. This is a democracy, not your city. Thank you.

Anthony Higgs- My concern is there was a meeting last week concerning NIPSCO. There are a number of people that are really suffering throughout the entire city that are really struggling. I would hope that you all, especially the Councilman from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and their large members would get involved in this process. If nothing else but to send a letter to the regulatory commission in regards to the increase in NIPSCO. People are

*Prepared by  
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Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Anthony Higgs cont.- struggling. The funds are gonna be cut short as it relates to North Township and Calumet Township. So if NIPSCO goes up 22 percent, people are gonna be struggling on paying their medications, or trying to pay a utility bill. Please help in this respect. They need help, and I hope you would step up to the plate. I'll continue to fight til I die.

Andrea Centers- I have 2 German Shepherds and I'm disabled. I saw Mayor McDermott and Frank Mrvan looking for voters, and they asked me if I could vote, I said I was able. They asked what I wanted done in the community, and I told them to have those woods cleaned out so I can walk my dogs. Now that taxes and prices have went up, I can only walk so far and I can't afford more than one tank of gas a week. So to walk to the woods for fellowship with my friends and other people that I see. The woods have been there for like over 14,000 years. I was trying to do research. I have a soft place in my heart for that, and displacing all those animals is really disturbing. Each tree provides oxygen for 3 people. All of those trees aren't just taking up space, we enjoy walking through and talking to each other and having pizzas delivered and playing music. We clean it up every 2 years. We're willing to do it and take care of it. Since I've been here, the quality of my life is now starting to go down because everything is so expensive. I'm gonna have to walk in the cemetery because that's the only place that's like country to me. I really enjoy walking through those woods, and seeing the animals, and taking pictures, and watching the birds. You guys should be thinking about the community.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Woerpel, 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  | 24  | 8   | 22  | 12  | 26  | 9   | 23  | 15  | 28  | 13  | 25  | 9   | 30 |
| Katrina Alexander   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | E   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | E   | E   | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P  |
| Dan Spitale         | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | 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   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P  |
| Mark Kalwinski      | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P  |
| Alfonso Salinas III | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | E   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P  |
| Barry Tyler         | P   | P   | P   | E   | P   | E   | P   | P   | P   | P   | E   | P   | E   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P  |
| Bill Emerson        | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | P  |
| Dave Woerpel        | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | 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   | 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 | RJG | RJG | RJG | RJG | RJG |    |

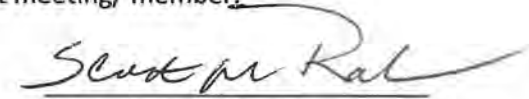
E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY

PRESENT

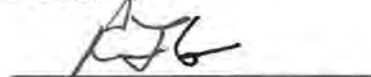
A=ABSENT

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: 6:58 p.m.  
mg/cb

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk