

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on February 10, 2025 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Dave Woerpel presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.
Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Alexander

ABSENT: Kalwinski

TOTAL: 8

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- I want to thank everybody in the audience. There's a large presence of supporters of the Governor's Parkway Bridge here and they've been here since 4:30. So I want to thank everybody. There's literally hundreds of people behind me and there's more people out in the hallway trying to get in right now. We're at capacity in the Council Chamber and I just want to thank everyone that showed up, because I know the Council over the last few months, has been seeing green shirts out there. It was looking like they're the only ones that ever talked about this proposal, Governor's Parkway Bridge. There's a resolution before you today, and today we have a lot of supporters packed into the Council Chambers, so thank you for being here. I know that's up for an agenda item for later on. So, the Governor's Parkway resolution is going down today, we also have the CCBG budget up for approval, third and final today, and the section 108 loan for the Sportsplex expansion is up for approval tonight as well. Section 108 loan is a loan from the Federal Government that's helping us with the expansion of the Sportsplex by the way, so that's a real good project that you all are considering today as well, so thank you for that. I want to report to the Council, I'm sure you're aware of this by now, I wasn't here at you're last council meeting, but all negotiations between all unions is wrapped up. All unions have 4 year deals under their belt. Everybody appears to be happy, as happy as you could be. I'm pretty happy about that, and I want to thank the Council for the support during the negotiations, thank my negotiating team, my Chief of Staff, Scott as well as the unions that we bargain with. I think it was a really professional year for us. I wanted to report to the Council that, if it's not actually today, within the next day or so, the City of Hammond will be officially the owners of the haunted house site located off of Calumet and 80/94. We are in the process of writing the check. Councilman Emerson, if we're not the official owners today, it will be probably tomorrow or the day after. The City of Hammond will be the official owner of that site. We will be putting it out for RFP. We will be marketing that site looking for an impactful development in the 4th District that we can be proud of here, so congratulations, Councilman Emerson. 4925 Sohl Avenue, there's been a flurry of activity on this location recently. For those of you that aren't aware, it's the old Spohn School site. I've been communicating with Councilman Salinas about a lot of interest in that site. It appears that The First Baptist Church has made the decision to sell that site to Highland Christian School and Highland Christian School has big plans. They want to expand their presence here in the City of Hammond. I think that's a blessing for our city. Obviously the Spohn School site was used by the Baptist church for a long time and it sat relatively, under

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- utilized, I'm not going to say vacant, but under utilized for a long time. Scott, I believe that is the same group that owns Illiana Christian, is that true?

Chief of Staff Scott Miller- There's multiple groups looking to come together.

Mayor McDermott- but it's all like the same family?

Chief of Staff Scott Miller- Illiana, Crown Point, and Highland

Mayor McDermott- This is a group that has money, and the ability to get things done, and they're looking strategically at the Spohn School site as a possible expansion of their mission in Hammond. I think that's a positive. We do have an Economic Development project that we had for that piece of property and I think we can still make that Happen. That's our challenge right now is, there's 2 companies that are interested in building in the City of Hammond, and they're looking at about 100 million dollar investment. They wanted this piece of property. Obviously, that's not going to happen at that location, but I think we can still make that happen, Councilman Salinas. That's my mission, so that we don't have to say no to those 2 companies, ok? I think it's a positive that Highland Christian's coming, but I think we could do 2 positives. That's the goal. So, anyway, I met with Bill Gustafson who is the CEO of the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond. We've had a couple meetings over the last couple weeks regarding complaints I received from a resident during Mayor's Night Out. He called me. I didn't call him. I was confronted at Mayor's Night Out about what's going on at Horseshoe Casino by a resident at Mayor's Night Out, and Bill reached out to me and wanted to talk to me. I will report back to the Council once we've had, I have a meeting coming up with the CEO of the parent company. I met with Hammond Fire Department Chief and the Deputy Chief regarding open Battalion Chief positions. We interviewed 3 Captains in the Hammond Fire Department in regards to the open Battalion Chief position, and made the following decisions, we appointed Chris Trtan, who is a 32 year Veteran, who is a Battalion Chief in the Hammond Fire Department. We promoted Chris Trtan to Assistant Chief. We promoted Captain Brian Robson, who is a 27 year Veteran, who went from Senior Captain at Station 1, to North Battalion, Battalion Chief. We promoted Ryan Anguiano, a 20 year Veteran that went from Battalion Chief to the Assistant Chief Drill Master. Congratulations to those 3 firefighters and thank you for devoting your career to the City of Hammond and protecting us while we sleep. I met with East Chicago Mayor, Anthony Copeland, over the last couple of weeks regarding an item of shared interest between our Water Departments. It was a very positive meeting. I haven't talked to Mayor Copeland in a long time. He came to Hammond City Hall. It was a very pleasant meeting and I'm willing to talk to the Council more about that when I'm not on the record. It's an interesting idea that we're exploring with a neighboring Mayor. I met with Pastor Wilkerson. Obviously a lot is going on with the church. I indicated the Spohn School property. Pastor Wilkerson and I had a couple meetings about that. I want to thank him for working with us on that whole process. I met with the Hammond Utility Chiefs in regards to the new President of the United States and the effect of this administration change on the Hammond Sanitary District as well as the Hammond Water Department. I had lunch with Mayor Spebar from Whiting to catch up and work out issues between our cities. I'm sorry, this is a lot, but I've had a lot going on. I attended Mayor's Night Out in the 1st District. I'm trying to go faster. Breakfast with Chancellor Ken Holford from Purdue Northwest, he was telling me about a new dorm that's going to be going in the 5th District. Councilman Woerpel, multimillion dollar investment by Purdue Northwest, another dorm that they want to do there. He was telling me about that. Also, he wants to talk to us about Dowling Park. Purdue's interest in Dowling Park is strong. They are desiring a permanent presence in that park. So that's something we're

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- probably going to have to grapple with, I imagine pretty soon. I read to Miss Raquel Sterczek's first grade class at Jefferson Elementary School. I do that every year for her. I touched base with Councilwoman Janet Venecz regarding a variety of topics. I met with the Police Captains at our monthly meeting like I always do. I held meetings with Planning, Zoning, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Building Department, and HDEM, and Economic Development on Councilman Mark Kalwinski's favorite address, 3 141st Street. We had a high level meeting based on the Councilman's complaints and I know that address like, off the top of my head, and that's not good for that address. We have a meeting with the owner's of that property coming up shortly. I had breakfast with Councilman Barry Tyler on a variety of topics applicable to Hammond's 3rd District. I attended Hammond's Annual Black History Celebration at the Hammond Civic Center. I attended and played in Hammond's Employee Olympics. I want to thank the Council people that showed up that day. My team took 3rd Place. Hammond Fire Department wins every time, and they did again. They keep the streak alive. I attended the Whiting/Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce annual dinner at the Dynasty Banquet Hall. I want to congratulate Ron Novak who was selected by the Whiting/Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce as the Public Servant of the year. Ron's right there in the front row, so thank you. (audience claps) That makes up for the fact that I left the meeting early, so congratulations. I want to thank Ron, I want to thank everyone for being here. I want to thank the Council most of all. Sorry about the long report. That's all I got unless you have any questions.

Councilwoman Venecz- Mayor, I do have a question, with ICE agents being just across the border, how are we anticipating handling that here in Hammond?

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Ma'am. I've actually, the Police Captain's meeting that I do with the police, we actually brought that up this week talking about how the Hammond Police are going to respond to ICE requests. I'm glad you asked that, first off, this is a tough question. If the DEA came to the Hammond Police Department and needed the Hammond Police Department's assistance, or the FBI came to the Hammond Police Department, and needed the Hammond Police Department's assistance, and they were trying to get a bad guy, we would assist them. That's what we do. Just like if ICE comes up to the Hammond Police Department, with a specific request, trying to get a bad guy out of our city, Hammond Police Department will help them, Councilwoman. However, Hammond Police Department will not go on hunting expeditions. We're not going to go fishing, looking for people. If there is a specific target that ICE or the DEA or FBI or any federal agency, they have a specific target, they have an identity, a location, all of the necessary paperwork, we will help them, like we do with all federal agencies, but we're not going to go fishing.

Councilwoman Venecz- So in other words, criminals?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, Ma'am. We're not going to be going into schools. If the ICE agents do that, I don't believe they've done that, but if that's the way they're going to go, we're not going to be apart of that. I promise you that. If they want to get bad people, felons, violent criminals out of our city, I have no problem helping with that. I know the Police Chief and the administration is comfortable with that as well. I'm glad you asked that Councilwoman, we talked about that this week, so thank you for bringing it up.

Councilwoman Venecz- Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- Mr. Mayor, what details can be shared with us at this time about Highland Christian?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- I don't want to screw up the deal, but I think it's very encouraging, Councilman. I think that First Baptist Church at Spohn School, they were a very under utilized piece of property. There's room for a lot more students there. I think that a well funded organization like Highland Christian could fix the school up and make the necessary improvements to attract a large number of students, and with the voucher laws being the way they are in Indiana, a kid could go to that school for free. I imagine, it's going to be a high quality school, so as the Mayor, I feel good about what we're doing, as Mayor, because my job is to provide a city that's livable, right? I understand that the School City may not love this development. I understand that, but as a Mayor, we are giving options to our residents. We're giving other options and this is a proven school with a great track record.

Councilman Salinas- Would this just be at high school level?

Mayor McDermott- Last I heard, Scott, I think it's K-12, if I believe?

Chief of Staff Scott Miller- To begin with, they're looking at elementary, and then building up there to high school as well. They're also not looking to start this coming fall, a whole year and a half from now.

Councilman Salinas- Would they be expanding that building? Were they looking to expand it? Were they just going to operate currently?

Chief of Staff Scott Miller- I believe Spohn can hold 1400 students, so like, there's no need to do expansion, but fixing it up, absolutely. The roof is, there's places where you can see daylight where the roof is right now.

Mayor McDermott- If it is going to be a school that offers athletics, there's room there to grow, but they would need our cooperation from the city as well. It's not like, they could operate in a vacuum without coming to the Hammond City Council or to the Mayor, so we'll have our chance to ask questions, and get answers, and give our input in this process, Councilman, and it's already zoned a school, for school, so they could buy it for a school, we don't have to rezone it, but they're gonna need our help. I have a feeling this is going to be a good group to work with. I think you're going to be impressed as the 2nd District Councilman.

Council President Dave Woerpel- Anybody else got any questions or comments for the Mayor?

Mayor McDermott- I apologize about the length, but there's a lot going on and I just want to be transparent with you all.

Councilman Tyler- Just following up on Councilman Venecz's question about ICE, I know that we're not legally required to assist with immigration efforts, and I'm trying to just better understand what you're saying. In your statement, we are not agreeing to assist with immigration efforts unless it is connected to pursuit of someone who has committed a crime?

Mayor McDermott- A targeted violent criminal

Councilman Tyler- Correct. Ok.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- So if they're like, we have an undocumented resident of Hammond, that's being convicted of rape, and we can't find them, or he's accused of, and this is where this person is located, and we're gonna go there, and we need the Hammond Police Department to assist us. Those are the cases we could help with. Let me give you another example, we want to hangout at the Sportsplex, and identify everyone that walks in. We want the Hammond Police Department's help. No. Ok? Specific targets, violent criminals, just like we do with DEA, Councilman. Just like we do with FBI, we assist these units, so ICE wouldn't be any different. If it's a violent criminal.

Councilman Tyler- Thanks Mayor, just wanted to clarify that.

Mayor McDermott- No Problem. Thank you.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of January 27, 2025 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to approve the claims from January 28, 2025 through February 5, 2025. Claim #877 through claim #1376, inclusive. In the amount of \$10,110,277.02.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

25-01 An Ordinance Appropriating the Proceeds of the Annual Action Plan and Dealing with other Matters Pertaining to the Expenditure of Plan Proceeds for Program Year 2025

Council President Woerpel- Does anybody wish to speak? (x3) Hearing none, public hearings are closed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Rakos- I wanted to let everybody know from HC3, our St. Patrick's Day parade will be on March 15th starting at 2 p.m. We have a new parade route. It will start from Morton Elementary School to 171st, down Kennedy to 165th and then East down 165th to Harding School. It will be on March 15th at 2 p.m.

Councilman Tyler- I know the Mayor touched on this, but I want to thank the Black History Celebration Committee for putting on another Black History program that was well attended and well orchestrated, so thank you for that. I also want to announce that the PTA is having their Founder's Day dinner on February 21st at

COMMUNICATIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler cont.- Dynasty Banquets at 5:30 p.m. The Ophelia Steen Center is having their Black & White Ball on Saturday February 22nd as well. The Mayor's Disability awards breakfast is on March 20th at 8 a.m. at Dynasty Banquets

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board- Councilman Salinas-The Capital Improvement Board met on February 3, 2025. We dealt with:

Item A- Funding Allocation #230- 4600 Blk of Torrence Ave Reconstruction; United Consulting; in the amount of \$16,800.00

Item B- Funding Allocation #231- General Service Contract; NEIS Engineering; in the amount of \$60,000.00

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Spitale - Brought out 25-01

Community and Crime Watch - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

Mt Zion Pleasantview Plaza; Wed., Feb 12; 1 p.m.

Edison Community Watch; Edison School; Wed, Mar 5; 6:30 p.m.

Harrison Park Crime Watch; VFW on Hohman; Tues, Mar 4; 6 p.m.

Hessville Crime Watch; HC3 Community Center; Thurs, Feb 20; 6 p.m.

Irving Community Watch; Irving School; Tues, Feb 11; 9:30 a.m.

Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Calumet College; Thurs, Feb 13; 6:30 p.m.

South Hohman Ave Neighborhood Watch; will be sometime in April

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

25-01 An Ordinance Appropriating the Proceeds of the Annual Action Plan and Dealing with other Matters Pertaining to the Expenditure of Plan Proceeds for Program Year 2025.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9664 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-02 An Ordinance Appropriating the Proceeds of a Section 108 Guarantee Loan and Dealing With Other Matters Pertaining to the Expenditure of Loan Proceeds for Program Year 2025

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. and a Public Hearing on February 24, 2025.

Councilman Tyler- I just want to add a little bit more information about what the loan will be for. It's for the expansion of the Sportsplex. I guess the Mayor, you want to discuss?

Mayor McDermott- That's ok, Councilman, you can do it.

Councilman Tyler- Well, no, I would love for you to share more about what the expansion will include.

Mayor McDermott-Sure, I have no problem, I'll wait until you're done.

Councilman Tyler- No, I just wanted to share that's what the ordinance is for.

Mayor McDermott- It's around a \$10 million expansion, Councilman. I know that the Section 108 loan is probably 40-50 percent of the total cost. The other cost is earmarked out of the Food and Beverage Tax revenue that we are getting currently. This will pay for the entire expansion. Obviously, the Sportsplex is doing fantastic. Our Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer programs are exploding. Over half of all the kids in those programs are Hammond residents. I know it's not all Hammond residents, obviously it's a big Sportsplex, but over half the kids that participate in those programs are Hammond residents. It's exploding. Obviously it's done so well that the YMCA chose to move right next door. The YMCA is doing so well that we're getting Economic Development opportunities over there that are sort of outside of the box. I have one on my desk right now that I can't really talk about at this time, but it's stuff that we've been talking about for a long time. So I think that whole area over there is doing fantastic Councilman. I appreciate you sponsoring the ordinance because I think it's an important project, so thank you.

Councilman Tyler- With the expansion, Mayor, I know from my understanding, we'll be able to host maybe some NCAA tournaments?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. One of the problems that we have, it's not a big problem, but it is a problem, is the volleyball side, the girls and the guys hit it so hard that the ball hits the roof. If we were a little bit higher on the roof, we wouldn't have that problem. It is a distraction, especially from these D1 teams that you're talking about, Councilman. So if we want to attract that kind of talent, we have to have a little bit more clearance on the roof. What we would do is, this new section, would be volleyball only. We could still have volleyball in other parts of the Sportsplex, but it's a taller roof, and we'd move them into this section, and it would allow us to host larger tournaments. This is just one more space, we could convert the whole thing over to a basketball tournament or a volleyball tournament or soccer, whatever we wanted to do. Right now I know the sand volleyball courts have been relocated from where we built them. It was the City of Hammond labor that built them. We kept the important part, which is the expensive sand and we're relocating that behind the Sportsplex as we speak, technically on the West side of the Sportsplex. Thank you, Councilman.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Salinas- According to the floor plan, some of the designs here, the soccer fields will be relocated to the front of the building, is that correct?

Mayor McDermott- I could probably get Kym up here to explain it exactly because these change so often. Do you want me to? I believe she's here. Hi Kym, can you explain so I don't say something wrong? You can come up here, or you can do it there, it's up to you. This is Kym Roberts. She just got inducted into the IU Hall of Fame, and she runs our Sportsplex here. So, congratulations, Kym. IU Northwest technically, I don't want to misrepresent.

Kym Roberts- Thank you. So, yes, the soccer courts will be relocated, or fields, to the front of the building.

Councilman Salinas- I see a couple of, are they smaller fields? Or what is our plan?

Kym Roberts- So, it is going to be a 5V5 field, and then on the sides it's going to be a 3V3. We're going to introduce some different aspects to soccer, as well as, a fooseball program that we're going to do with the volleyball and basketball courts.

Councilman Salinas- So are we getting rid of the walls that are currently up?

Kym Roberts- Correct, there will be no more walls. It will be wall to wall turf.

Councilman Salinas- Thank you.

Council President Woerpel- Kym, will you be willing to come back and explain that when we discuss this in caucus in 2 weeks.

Kym Roberts- Sure.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, I appreciate it. Councilman Salinas, this has all changed so much, I just wanted to bring in the expert.

Council President Woerpel- Between the Sportsplex, The Y, and the Shepherd Center, I've seen about 1500 people this weekend. I signed my grandson up at the YMCA and I looked at that stair master and thought about getting on it, so.

Mayor McDermott- There's a lot of people here right now, and I want everyone to hear me, that whole area over there is performing very well. I know I get to stand on the stage and cut the ribbon, and that's wonderful about being Mayor, but I want everybody to know that I could not do it without the cooperation of the body of who I'm talking to right now. It's a team effort. You guys are involved every step of the way. You give us the green light and we go out and do it. I want to thank you, because when I took over as Mayor, that area was dead. It was a dying mall. And now, you go over there, and the big complaint now is, I can't find a parking space, or there's cars parking in my neighborhood. Those are good problems to have, because we didn't have that problem 20 years ago. Thank you for your help, Council. I think we're pretty close to being done with that project, and this is just one more step in it, so thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Emerson- I walk with my wife 3 times a week there and it's amazing, and I want to thank Kym for what she's done there. It's great, and we walk 3 times a week, sometimes I miss Fridays, but I do walk 3 times a week with my wife Jean.

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Emerson, there's thousands of Hammond residents, thousand of Northwest Indiana residents, that participate in the walking program at the Sportsplex, and we don't charge them. So I appreciate you bringing that up. That's a part that we don't talk about very often, is that every day, the dozens or hundreds of people that go there just to walk, so thank you for bringing that up.

Councilman Woerpel- Any further discussion? Since we're putting it in committee, I don't believe we need a roll call. We can just do a voice vote. All in favor? All opposed? AYES:ALL

25-03 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 9643 of the City of Hammond as it Pertains to the Classification of Vehicles Subject to the Municipal Vehicle Excise Tax Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-6-5-2(a)

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on February 24, 2025

Mayor McDermott- I just want to public to know this is not, this is a technical correction to the original ordinance that we already discussed. We took the original ordinance and approached the BMV with it, and they had 2 technical corrections to come back with you, and that's what's before you is 2 classifications of vehicles that weren't discussed in our original ordinance. I don't believe there's too many of those vehicles in Hammond, but you don't piss off the BMV. That's usually the rules I operate by, so we're before you with a technical correction. That's what is this present ordinance.

Councilman Tyler- Sorry, just for clarification, just so the public knows, those additional vehicles are mini trucks, and military vehicles.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. Those are mini trucks, and military vehicles. Right. We didn't include those in the original ordinance and the BMV flagged us. Our ordinance didn't take place for, if you remember correctly for another year anyway, so we have plenty of time. I don't want to delay too long, but it wasn't like it was time was of the essence. We found out about it and we approached you with this.

Council President Woerpel- Hearing no more discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying Aye. All opposed? AYES:ALL

RESOLUTIONS

25R-02 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hammond Authorizing the Filing a Section 108 Loan Guarantee Application and Designating Signatories for Payment Voucher on Letters of Credit for a Section 108 Guarantee Loan Project

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moves for adoption

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

RESOLUTION NO. R02 ADOPTED

25R-03 A Resolution of the City of Hammond Common Council in Support of the Governors Parkway
Railroad Overpass Project

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moves for adoption

Councilman Rakos read the resolution in its entirety

Mayor McDermott- I want to point out to the assembled crowd that the City of Hammond has taken a number of steps along the way to get to where we are, an 8 year journey to where we are right now. We've approached the Council numerous times. We've approached the public numerous times. Just like right now, this is not required by law. This is like, a final check to make sure we're all on the same page from where I sit, because once you're in, we're sending this straight to INDOT. Lets make no mistake about it, right now, I have on my desk, 3 letters from residents of Highland, Hobart, and Gary. They're writing letters actively right now to INDOT to try to kill this project. I don't know if I'd ever find myself so bothered by a project in a neighboring city, that I would send a letter to INDOT to try to kill money for a project in their town. So what that Highland resident, and that Hobart resident, and that Gary resident are telling us is, don't take that free money, just keep living with those trains there. It's unacceptable. We have a bridge being paid for by federal and state money. We have no Hammond money in this project at all. It's basically 100 percent being covered by federal money and state money to take care of a problem that has existed in our city for 100 years, and I have a group of people with a straight face, that are telling me to say no. Let me give you the ramifications if we say no. If you're telling me to say no, I think it's a humongous mistake. I think generations will laugh at this body if we say that this is a bad idea. Generations of Hammond residents will laugh at us. I think it's a massive mistake that they're asking us to make. Massive. We need to fix it. We need to show unity right now. That's why we've flooded this resolution. It's where the money meets the road. Let's go. I'm in. I've got my construction vest on. Once you approve this, it's green sign to me to secure our property and get ready for construction. That's how I'm approaching it. This is Hammond Property and we're going to get ready for construction because it's imminent at this point.

Councilman Tyler- From my understanding, there's some information in the Council office that is pertinent to the conversation, so if you don't mind, I'll just go grab it for a second.

Council President Woerpel- Is that pertaining to an email, where someone from the public wants to add an amendment to this?

Councilman Tyler- Yes.

Council President Woerpel- We don't take amendments from the public on resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler- I would like to read it just before we move forward. So I guess I'll make a motion for a...

Council President Woerpel- I'm not telling you that you can't go get it. Go ahead and get it.

Councilman Tyler- Well I don't want you guys to move forward with the vote without me.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved for a 5 minute recess.

Mayor McDermott- Can a person who is not even in the Council Chambers second a motion to delay the Council meeting that she's not even a part of? Is that even legal?

Councilman Tyler- Yes.

Mayor McDermott- That's legal for a person who is sitting on her couch to delay a meeting in City Hall?

Councilman Tyler- She has full voting rights in the meeting, Mayor.

Councilwoman Venecz- Mr. President

Council President Woerpel- The motion has been made and seconded.

Councilwoman Alexander-Mayor, if there is a problem with me sitting at home, I would be there if I did not fall down during the ice storm. I would be there in public, so excuse you for saying that. That was very insensitive.

ROLL CALL VOTE (recess)

AYES: Alexander

NAYS: Spitale, Venecz, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler

Motion Denied

1/5/3

MOTION DENIED

Councilwoman Alexander- Mr. Mayor, I have a question for you. I asked this during caucus and it was just in regards to federal funds with the state of what's going on in the country and the President saying about dollars. Is this going to be affected with the federal dollars dealing with what he said about not being able to get funds and things like that? Do you know that answer?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, it will not be affected. Governor's Parkway will not be affected.

Councilwoman Alexander- Ok, the other question I asked...

Mayor McDermott- The pedestrian bridge may be affected. This one, we have the money in hand.

Councilwoman Alexander- Ok, so is there already plans for the pedestrian bridge, is my question, dealing with the kids.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott- That's a side. I don't want to talk about something that has nothing to do with this resolution on the table. It's distracting. So I'm going to stay focused here on Governor's Parkway Bridge.

Councilwoman Alexander- Well then, can you do me a favor, since you don't want to talk about it there, can you please talk...

Mayor McDermott- Oh, I could talk with you after the meeting, but you're not here.

Councilwoman Alexander- Well, Mr. Mayor, I explained why I'm not there. I got really hurt falling down some stairs.

Mayor McDermott- It's alright, I apologize.

Councilwoman Alexander- I just didn't appreciate you being insensitive when I would actually be there if I was not hurt. If you can, we can talk over the phone regarding it. I just want to know a little bit more information, and you are the main person that has that information.

Mayor McDermott- Sure, no problem

Councilwoman Alexander- Thank you for being so rude today.

Councilman Emerson- Mr. President...

Mayor McDermott- Mr. President, I just got attacked and I want to respond. I take it personally when you make \$40,000 a year and you have a track record of not showing up to meetings. So all you have to do is look at the attendance record and see the ones who are always doing zoom, and then you can tell me, is it easy to talk to this particular Council person? You make \$40,000 a year to be here. \$40,000 a year to be here for 24 meetings a year! \$40,000! How many people in Hammond would take that job? Lots! I can't talk to people that aren't here. I don't like zoom. It's not the pandemic anymore.

Councilman Emerson- I was moved by, I'm on page 3, whereas in an effort to mitigate any disruption of Briar East Woods, INDOT, and Hammond will fund the SCA to replant approximately 24 acres of trees, double the number of trees impacted by this construction, and I was pleased to hear this.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Sorry, when I was grabbing the packet, I think I missed Councilwoman Alexander's question, and it was in reference to the pedestrian bridge, is that correct?

Councilwoman Alexander- That was my second question, but he already said he wasn't going to answer that, and I asked him if he would talk to me separately about it, but I don't think he will and I wasn't trying to be any kind of way. If I was there, I would actually be there. I don't miss meetings that often. If I am on zoom, I would take his comment as to you and I being on zoom, but that's not the case here, and that's a sidebar, but again, if I could be present today, I would definitely be present, but if Mayor does not want to talk to me, that is perfectly

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilwoman Alexander cont.-fine.

Councilwoman Venecz- Mr. President...

Councilman Tyler- Sorry, I didn't get a chance to ask my question. My only question is, I know we've had several conversations, and when we talk about the Governor's Parkway overpass, we also talk about the accompanying pedestrian bridge, so I guess my question is, I know that part of the complaints from the public is that the Governor's Parkway doesn't address the issue of kids climbing over the tracks, but in response to that, we did enter into this agreement on pursuing the pedestrian bridge that does solve for that, correct?

Mayor McDermott- Sort of. I don't totally agree with your preposition though. You lead into it saying Governor's Parkway doesn't help people that walk. You basically said that, and I don't agree with that. I think the pedestrian bridge that's closer to Scott Middle School is better. How about that? Ok, Councilman? I'm not trying to argue, but the pedestrian bridge that we have planned close to Scott Middle School, is built for the kids when there's a stopped train, right there. The argument, Councilman Barry, is that it's unrealistic to think a kid that lives in that neighborhood by Scott Middle School is gonna go all the way around Governor's Parkway to get to Scott Middle School, so that is accurate what you're saying, but it will help people on foot, it will help people on bikes, it's just out of your way. So that's trying to answer your question, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- We really need to show unity, I hope the Council can support me on this.

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Rakos, calls for the vote.

Council President Woerpel- Can I just ask, can you withdraw that motion, because I'd like to say a few things on this issue too, because I can speak from the chair?

Councilwoman Venecz- Yes, Mr. President. I withdraw my motion.

Council President Woerpel- Thank you. I am not quite understanding, does this address the pedestrian bridge. I don't get the logic of, if it don't address the pedestrian bridge, than we should just send it all back, and say ok, if we can't have a pedestrian bridge, than we don't want the way for cars to get around through Hessville. So I know I went to Gavit, but I don't quite understand that logic. Number 2, I've not only lived in Hessville, I've worked in Hessville, and like I said in the Caucus, as long as I've been alive, trains have been a problem in Hessville. When I worked on Kennedy Avenue at the Post Office, there were times that I was on the street for 12 hours. I had to wait for a train for an hour to get back to the office, and then had to sit in the parking lot, waiting for the cars to go through, and I'm sitting there shivering. I'm not asking anybody to feel sorry for me, but I hear one side saying trains aren't a problem no more in Hessville. What Hessville do you live in? They are a problem. It's kind of disingenuous to say well trains aren't a problem no more, that problem is gone. Really? Like I've said, I've got grandkids that live by Harding School. I go by there house every day. Is it a mirage I'm seeing when I'm stopped by the trains? Come on. 7-8 years ago, we addressed the problem of trains being a problem in Hessville and we found a way to fund it through a grant. When I hear these people say, hold on, I've got a better idea. Ok, maybe you do, but do you think we can go, hey state, never mind what we just put in for,

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Council President Woerpel cont.- give us that \$12 million dollars and let us try a new project. That's 2 reasons they're saying delay the project. You're not addressing the pedestrian traffic, so we throw it all away, right? That's the logic I'm hearing. Number 2, A few people don't like our idea. I've sat here and listened and I kept my mouth shut. I listen to people's opinions. Everybody's got a right to an opinion. For them to tell me, we're your bosses, and you're not doing what we say, I'm sorry, I walked my district in 2023, I know where that train stands as far as my constituents, and granted I don't just represent my district only, but my district, it's overwhelmingly in favor of it. It may be because between Kennedy Avenue, and let's say, Osborne, a lot of people go that way to go to the mill. Like I said before, you wanna talk about the environment? I sat in a post office truck, for hours at a time, sometimes backed up, to the other side of the bridge, by Van Til's, I'd see nothing but exhaust fumes running. Is that good for the environment? Try to explain to your boss one time when a deer ran up the hill and breaks a mirror on your car, and they say what happened to your vehicle? I got hit by a deer. How well do you think that went over at the post office when you ran up the hill and hit a deer? I was sitting still, and the deer ran up the hill and hit me, and they're like only this could happen to you. My point is, when I hear, trains aren't a problem, or response times, or kids crossing the railroad tracks, I agree. Kids should not be playing or crossing over the trains, but does it come down to 9 Council people and a Mayor to tell parents how to raise their children? Seriously, is that what it's come down too? We gotta say no because parents let their kids cross over the railroad tracks and I hear, how are you guys gonna feel? I'm gonna feel horrible. Like I said 2 times, and I'll say it one more time, I don't know how many of you can say that you sat in a car listening to your grandson on the phone because his dad is dying, and he's crying saying something bad is going on, my dad's sick, get here grandma and grandpa, get here grandma and grandpa, and I'm caught by a damn train. Don't tell me I don't give a shit about kids. That's all I got to say.

Councilman Rakos- The reason I read that because I just have so much, I tried to write it out today over the weekend. I just have so much to say about this situation. The residents in my district overwhelmingly want this bridge to avoid the train traffic in Hessville. It's been like that for decades. Before I got on this Council, I was leaving this City Hall walking with a woman in her 20's and a woman in her 70's, and the woman in her 20's told us, you know trains are really bad in Hessville. Is this something new? We both, the woman in her 70's, I was in my 50's at the time, and we both go, no, it's been like that. The woman in her 70's has gotta be almost 85-90 now. As long as there's been cars, trains have been a problem, especially in Hessville. It's the way it is, it's the way it will always be. We've had talks with policemen, firemen, other times where they say, hey we'll take care of it, we won't do that, and then sometimes they will. They did for a little while, for a couple months. They'll slow down the train track, which means, they could do it, but they didn't wanna do it until you know, they didn't care anything about it until it was put on the news. They didn't care. Railroads don't care. My constituents, the people in my district, deserve to have this thing. It's for safety. I was a firemen for 36 years. Yes, I've seen people hit by trains. I've seen what trains can do to the bodies. I have seen that on the fire department. If we don't have safety as the number one reason of why we're doing this, if that's not an issue over some trees that are going to be replanted, then I don't know what is. Yes, we need this bridge that's being provided for us for free. The state and the feds are paying for it. We've been discussing this for years.

Councilman Salinas- I just would like to say that as Hammond's 2nd District representative, I've consulted my precinct committee members as well as my neighbors and friends in our neighborhood, and we wholeheartedly support this Governors Parkway project and also support Councilman Rakos, and Councilman Woerpel who's district this project surrounds

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler- I just have a few quick things to share too. I think what's happening here is, there's facts, versus like, opinions. I think that is kind of what we're getting hung up on. I know that trains are a problem. I don't think anybody within our city would disagree with that statement. Some of the facts that I want to clear up, and I think, Mayor, you've touched on this tonight, and I think this resolution has touched on it too, but the fact is, there is no, like Councilman Rakos just said, There is no Hammond money for this project, so we are getting this fully funded by outside sources, which I think is a great thing. I know that the current project would take away 12 acres out of the 32 acre dunes, right? As a part of this project, we are recommitting to planting 2 dozen acres worth of trees in the area surrounding the project, and I know that there's arguments in terms of the current ecosystem, that we are demolishing to build the bridge, and how the new addition of these trees doesn't solve for that, but I do think there's some silver lining in that and I think it does show our commitment to our city and to the environment. I hope the people who oppose this, if it does pass tonight, and if we do move forward with it, will come together with us, will have conversations with us, in determining where those trees go. Having that conversation, and how we can better utilize other green spaces in our community, to provide some of the preservation that they are so hard fighting for as they have been for the last couple years. I do want to commend the folks who have stood up here and spoken out, because it is hard. I know it's tough. It takes courage to come up here and speak on issues. I know that all of us don't agree with everything that has been said. I know that, once again, there has been some misinformation, but I do just want to say that these people are just stepping up and speaking on something that they wholeheartedly believe in, and as a black man in this country, I have to commend that. I wish more people would step up and fight for things that they believe in, especially in what, I believe, has been a not a volatile way for the most part over these last couple years. The other thing I wanna touch on, is you know, I, when I think about the historical significance or the argument of the historical significance of these dunes, I know that we are only touching a portion of it, so hopefully there's still room for people to enjoy the dunes even after this bridge is built. We've spent a lot of time talking about this, so maybe more people will come out, and we'll be able to get the rest of the woods marked as a historical landmark or something like that. Like, hopefully this just starts that conversation so we can preserve it. I'm somebody who also cares a lot, once again about the environment. I saw somebody saying this was environmental racism, I don't understand how that is the case. From my understanding if you look at the rest of the, and Dean correct me if I'm wrong, but if you look at the rest of the proposed alternatives, this is the plan that touches the least amount of homes in terms of removing places where people actually live, and to me when we have to rank, taking someone's home, versus eliminating a few acres of trees, my heart has to go with the people in the residence. That's why when I reviewed all of the proposed alternatives, this one is the one that makes the most sense. Sorry I've spoken so much, just wanted to go on record to share that, and once again, thank everybody here for showing up tonight in support of this, and everybody who showed up in opposition of it too, who are downstairs and couldn't make it in. Thank you for expressing your opinions on such an important issue.

Councilwoman Venecz- We just got sucked in to their conversation. We passed an ordinance on December 27, 2021 to move forward with this. We have listened to all of the reasons why the group is in opposition to this bridge. We've listened for how many years now? We just got sucked in to their conversation. We voted on it. We passed it. Case closed. The only reason for this resolution tonight, is to make absolutely clear, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we passed the ordinance back in 2021. That was the purpose of this.

Council President Woerpel- And Allocated the funds

Councilwoman Venecz- Yes, and so everyone could see when we passed it, when the public hearing was held,

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilwoman Venecz cont.- that was the purpose of this. I call for the vote.

Council President Woerpel- Councilwoman Alexander had a comment she wanted to make.

Councilwoman Alexander- Just a quick comment.

Council President Woerpel- I'm a man of peace.

Councilwoman Alexander- I never said I didn't agree with the bridge, because it's going to help our public safety officers get to where they have to go to. The only question other than what I did ask was, can we also find another solution to figuring out something dealing with the kids. That's it. That was not for us to have a whole whatever that just was. That was literally for some clarity and getting answers and the only person that can give us those answers, is Mayor. So I want, to the public, my apologies, but again, I am sorry that I am home. If I could be there, I would be there in person with you all, so thank you for that.

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Spitale, calls for the vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE (call for the vote)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

MOTION CARRIED

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

RESOLUTION NO. R03 ADOPTED

Council President Woerpel- Councilman Tyler, take a 5 minute break so those that were downstairs, can come upstairs now.

Councilwoman Venecz- Are you serious?

Council President Woerpel- I gotta pee!

Councilman Tyler- I make a motion that we take a 5 minute recess

Council President Woerpel- 5 minute recess, thank you.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to resume the Council meeting.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Alexander

ABSENT: Kalwinski

TOTAL: 8

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Elvia Fuentes- I want to formally restate the protest against Governors Parkway.

Mary Levan- I thoroughly hope that we can save Briar East Woods.

Dave Matura- This is bigger than the city. It's about our environment. Briar East Woods is there to absorb the rain water and the CO2. It's there to produce oxygen. We need green spaces for the health and development of our population. We've lost 30 percent of our bird population. The trees that you've planted by my house, they're all dying. You've already voted, so it's in the rear view mirror. The next generation is going to think you're crazy for cutting down trees over the inconvenience of a train. Please don't vote for the bridge.

Andrea Jo Senters- I recall having 7 inches of rain in 7 minutes. With you removing those trees, am I going to have to get flood insurance now? Where will the animals go? I like walking my dogs there. Why can't we turn it into a learning center like Sand Ridge?

Joseph Hines- Tonight Hammond City Hall staged a spectacle called a parkway. Let's be clear, this is an infrastructure. It's a wrecking ball aimed at Briar East Woods. Now we have a new data center coming up by the bird sanctuary. This isn't governance. It's a coo against the people. You claim this will ease train delays, yet your maps reveal the truth. 68 residential lots and commercial zones carved into the heart of our ancient dunes. Cheaper fixes were dismissed. You siphon funds into vanity projects. You closed the Woodmar YMCA, leaving families there without community anchors. We see your game. You think locking us in basements will keep us docile.

Paula Taylor- I didn't know that we had this beautiful area. I was familiar with Gibson woods. We need the trees to breathe. You can't just say that you will plant more trees. I'm old enough to remember insects and butterflies that we no longer have. I raise butterflies here, but I release them in Valpo. They put a bridge in downtown, and by the time they were done, everyone had already started shopping in Illinois. Time moves on.

Lisette Montanez- It's incomprehensible what just happened here. 8 yes's. We live in an industrial strip. We have BP and Cargill, and we're just getting hit from all directions. They get tax breaks though. Everything smells foul around here these days. You're destroying thousands of living organisms that can't speak for themselves. All of Hammond should have a say, not just Hessville. You guys are not going to be well known for something good. This is not good. I believe in God, and he would want us to preserve this. I worked for local

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Lisette Montanez cont. - union 399 and they taught us to represent protests. We fight for what's right. They have a voice. You are here to represent them and listen to them. It's some of your last days here, because they will be voting you out.

Cindy Murphy- Where are the butterflies? Specifically I want to say, where are the bumble bees? I grow verbena and didn't see a single bee this summer. I live in Hessville, we need health and safety, I support the infrastructure improvements. I want your great project to be excellent. The way to do that is to plant the native plants. Bring back our pollinators. Plant early mid and late summer prairie mix. Please plant Black Oak trees. This is about habitat restoration. When you restore the habitat, you restore the quality of life. The birds and the bees will come back. Make this project excellent. Make the retention ponds water gardens.

Joyce Grzych- You're destroying history. Everyone in this city, knows how to get around the trains. Go to 80/94 or Cline Avenue. You did do a beautiful job at Oxbow Park. Save the dunes. Our nature is vital to us. When is the last time anyone has ever seen a Salamander at your house? Devote the time and energy to our dunes. If you don't take the time to listen to your people, you will not be sitting in here any longer.

Hannah Watts- When I think about my future, I want to stay in Hammond, but when I hear McDermott say that people will be laughing at them, and laughing at you, if you do not take this decision, I think about what I'm going to tell my children when there is no more breathable air in this city. The disrespect I see from my constituents right now, especially you, Councilwoman Vincennes, who has been playing on your phone and staring daggers at every person who has walked up to this pulpit today. I am disgusted by the people I have chosen to vote into here.

Mary Schons- I am not against bridges or train delays. This is just a power grab to build new houses in an old growth forest. It's being disguised as this other thing. Creatures that can't speak for themselves are surrounded by people that insist that if they could speak, they would want to be killed or cut down. Trees and animals always bare the burden of our human greed. When the trees are gone, and the basements start filling with water, because we got rid of our natural flood abatement systems, well we can just wait another 4,000 years for it to recover. We can do better than this. We can put overpasses over so many more places. I've seen some of the replanting, they need to be replanted again. They can do better.

Michaela Spangaburg- A good deed, married to a harmful deed, is not a good deed. You have children being hit by cars at an increasing rate because the individuals who sought the favor of certain individuals in this city who were part of the last school administration, maybe part of the last board, functionally terminated your transportation for your youngest and most vulnerable children. Immediately members of your community came forth and appealed to you and to your executive branch and your administration and all the folks, for help to address this in any way shape or form, just to save lives. That help has not been meaningfully forthcoming. Instead, we're now seeing a small carrot of help, maybe like a baby carrot, being attached to something that clearly many people in your community do not want. Unity is not about conformity, unity is about consensus building and that means everybody. That doesn't mean doing the bidding of 1 person or 9 people or 10 people or 700 or 25,000. It means your whole city of roughly 70,000 people. You have a lot of people that are not being represented. We still live thankfully for now. We should continue to fight to live in a situation in which we have the right to vote and we have the ability to participate in what we term a representative democracy. I get the

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Michaela Spangaburg cont. - sense that your voters are getting tired. The facade of helplessness, of powerlessness, wears thin when the whole job of this governing body is to act as a check and balance, not an enabler. You're well within your rights if you discover down the line, that something legally or financially is not right, you're well within your rights procedurally and legally to revisit this issue, and I encourage you too, because one of the most disturbing things I witnessed tonight was the fact that we had unanswered questions about funding.

TJ Gaertig- That was very disappointing. I made this presentation for you guys. I'm glad it made it out to you technically before the vote. I wonder if the city administration had been forthcoming to you guys about this project. We have several options, and one of those is a pedestrian bridge on grand that will cost 4 ½ million dollars. The pedestrian bridge costs 7 million dollars. The overpass that INDOT researched on the same road cost 8 million. Could you imagine if we just went with that? It would be simple. When you guys voted to approve this funding, how many questions were asked? Did you know about the alternatives? Did you ask for it to be transferred to a different road that would solve all of the issues at hand? Then you could save the woods. A lot of you cheered me on that we were doing the right thing. Other people said you were playing us. I stuck up for you guys and just thought you needed more information.

Sandy O'Brien- I am here to support for the Briar East woods. They improve quality of life. There are alternatives, and it makes sense to rethink and change the plans to Grand Avenue. You can't replace the dunes. This is a place that can be restored. I am a botanist that has been there and did a report on it. It can be managed and restored. I'm surprised the Mayor isn't here for public expression. Our Hobart Mayor always stays.

Joseph Conn- My brother and I grew up wondering around the dunes in Gary. We did many activities. It was like a private park. We would play football. I'm in favor of you saving this area. I don't think you realize the wonder of a boy playing in nature so close to home. If you have the opportunity to rethink your position, I'd like you to think about the children in this community being able to roam free in the woods close to their home.

Leslie Poulos- I am a clinical psychologist and I help people with their mental health. Accessibility and ease of access to natural resources are shown to increase positive mental outcomes. We've spoken a lot today about finances, and saving nature due to ecology, and longevity. But we have a severe crisis around mental health. Urban woodland, when people of color have access to it, regularly display lower instances of depression, anxiety, and impulsivity which are highly correlated with violence. It helps our community with safety overall. This means actual nature, not city parks. I ask you to reconsider.

Anthony Higgs- Seeing the outcries of these constituents, I would advise you to listen to them. They are crying out. I was a councilman for 16 years, and I was victimized for things that I didn't do. This shouldn't have happened. The reality of it is, the people are crying out. Hear what they are saying.

Ken Rosek- This is a destruction project. Hundreds of old oaks are coming down. A geological gem in the middle of our city is being destroyed. You say it's for public safety? This all started to address public safety. You wouldn't show us the designs until 3 years later. The survey was very disingenuous. It looked like a bike path. The FRA told us that they Mayor knew this wouldn't solve the problem, but pushed it anyway. You guys pushed it. Said there would be access for the children. There's no access. Ground zero is Grand Avenue. This

PUBLIC EXPRESSION CONT.

Ken Rosek cont. - bridge is too far. We have tripled the amount of this project because someone wanted the development for the land. We asked for a solution on Grand Avenue for the kids, teachers, and first responders. This bridge creates a 1-2 minute diversion to every emergency response. It is a detour.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

2025 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

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


ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 8:11 p.m.
mg/cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk


 Dave Woerpel, President
 Hammond Common Council