

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on March 24, 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.

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, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - This is my address for March 24th. It's good to be back. I appreciate you all. Before you all tonight, Introduction of Ordinances, you have a few different items coming up. I wanted to talk a little bit about each one. I'm sure I'll be here in case questions come up later. Ordinances Numbers 25-06 and 25-07 both have to do with Food and Beverage Bond. A \$15 million bond we want to issue to pay for two projects that we've been discussing with you for quite some time with you now. The two projects that we're talking about is the Downtown Commuter Rail Station, we anticipate that costing around \$10 million, and then the extra \$5 million in this bond is gonna be paid towards the Hammond Sportsplex. The rest of the Sportsplex cost is gonna come from a Section 108 loan that's guaranteed through CDBG which is Federal Funding. So Federal Funding will pay for one half of the Sportsplex expansion, the other half will be paid for with the Food and Beverage proposal. That's what we're proposing to you right now. As everybody remembers, we passed the Food and Beverage Tax is anticipated to be able to pay for \$20 million worth of bonds. We only have \$15 million worth of bonds before you. So, we should easily be able to cover the proceeds of this bond with the proceeds of the Food and Beverage Tax. In fact, we may, in a couple years, realize we have more money left over than we anticipate. So, we're hoping that's the case anyway. So, we should easily be able to pay for this. I know it's Introduction of Ordinances. That's 25-06 and 25-07. You also have 25-08 before you, sponsored by Janet Venecz, in regards to creating new accounts for energy efficiency and conservation programs. Lat, but not least, a proposal to get us paving roads in 2025 with an action that doesn't begin until next year, in regards to the Wheel Tax. Next year that proceed was gonna start and we would have enough money to be able to fund the Capital Improvement Board with money to be able to do road maintenance. What we're asking you to do, we wanted to start in 2025, as opposed to 2026. If we pass this bond, we can do \$1.2 million worth of maintenance work this year. All proceeds will go directly to the Capital Improvement Board and they'll begin road work in all six of our districts in 2025 using revenue that they'll get in 2026. We anticipate, if you pas this, this year we'll do \$1.2 million worth of maintenance work. Next year we'll probably do \$1.2, the year after that we'll do \$1.2, the year after that we'll do \$1.2, the year after that we'll do \$1.2, and the rest of the proceeds, which is about \$1.5 million a year will be used to pay for the bond that we're talking about right now. If you didn't pass this,

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - it's not catastrophic. We'd like to see it so we could start maintenance work this year, but if you didn't pass this we'd simply wait one more year before we start our Road Maintenance Program, and it would be \$1.5 million a year instead of \$1.2 million a year. The whole reason we're talking about this is we wanted to start road work this year. So, if you don't agree with that, vote against it. It's not catastrophic, it just gets us working this year to help make our city look a little bit nicer sooner. In regards to the Mayor's activity log, I'm happy to report that we had a productive meeting with the owner of the Subway in the YMCA footprint. We had a nice meeting with her, expressed interest in her relocating somewhere adjacent to where she is right now. We realize that the city has responsibility to help in this. As you all remember, there's two things standing in the way of the next phase of the YMCA expansion, it's the Subway lease, that this young lady has another at lease ten years of leases in that Subway, and the Dominoes as well. So there's two items standing in the way, and I promised Craig White that we would get involved directly and that's what we are doing. Held Mayor's Night out in the 2nd District. I want to thank Councilman Salinas for hosting that night. It was held at the Hammond Academy of Science and Technology, and we had a technology snafu that night. I apologize to the residents that weren't able to watch Mayor's Night Out live. It's my fault. Something that we should have taken care of that we didn't and there's training going on internally so that that doesn't happen again, okay. I apologize. It was a snafu. We did post Mayor's Night Out the next morning. It wasn't live though. There was some people in the community that were not appreciative of it not being live. So, I acknowledge that was my team's mistake and I promise you we've talked about it and that won't happen again. I had breakfast with the Chancellor of Purdue Northwest, Chancellor Holford. Talking about the upcoming dorm project. Purdue is about to have a groundbreaking shortly. Councilman Woerpel, do you know about that? I'll make sure you get the data on that, okay? It's coming up shortly. They're talking about building a dorm along Woodmar Avenue, basically. The 7200 or 7300 block of Woodmar Avenue. It's on a different side of the street. So I'm sure the Councilman needs to be briefed on this so that you're more ... you're ready to answer questions. I'm sure there's going to be some questions that come our way. I had a productive meeting with the councilman from Griffith, Rick Ryfa. Rick's the Council President and he acts like a ... I'm not ... I think there's a lot of people that refer to Rick as the Mayor of Griffith. He's technically a councilman, he's the President of the Council, but he does act as a Mayor's type of capacity in the Town of Griffith. He came to Hammond City Hall. We had a really good discussion about water between our two communities, waste water, and getting on the same page. He hears some of the comments that I'm making about how we're gonna approach the EPA in the era of Trump and I think he was wanting to make sure we're all on the same page. So, I wanted to say thanks to Rick about a very productive meeting. It's good when Griffith and Hammond are on the same page. We were suing each other years ago, so anytime we're having productive meetings like that I think is real positive. We were talking about partnerships into the future between Griffith and Hammond Sanitary, I think that's real positive for all of us, so. Celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Hessville. That was awesome. Thank you, Councilman Rakos for all the work that you did, and HC3 did, with the St. Patrick's Day Parade. I've done a lot of parades in Hammond, that was very, very cool. It was packed. It was a beautiful day. You don't get those in March very often, but it was like 70 degrees that day. There were a lot of kids out. It was a really cool parade. So, thank you. I appreciate everybody on HC3 for what they did. Promoted a young lady recently to become the Hospitality Manager at the Hammond Sportsplex, Maria Martinez. Congratulations Maria for being the new Hospitality Manager at the Sportsplex. Held our monthly captains meeting at the Police Department. We meet with all the captains and chiefs, pretty much every three to four weeks. Guest speaker at the Northwest Indiana Forum membership breakfast in Portage, I basically gave them part two of the State of the City, so if you heard the State of the City, it was

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - basically the same speech a few days later. But it's a different audience. People from all over the Region were there. So it was nice to talk about what is going on here in Hammond. Met with Chris DellaFranco, you may be interested in this, Councilman Kalwinski, the Plant Manager of BP Whiting, in regards to the December 26th incident and he came around, he heard some of the comments that we had in this meeting. You know, it's interesting, guys, how many people watch your meetings, watch Mayor's Night Out. People that we talk about in here are actually watching, so in this case, Mr. DellaFranco heard some of the comments that we all made about the incident the day after Christmas. We had a nice meeting. I expressed some frustration to him. I think it was productive, but we'll find out.

Councilman Kalwinski - Is there any moving on what they're going to do? How they're gonna react differently and more timely to the community.

Mayor McDermott - Oh no, I mean we hammered on that part, Councilman Kalwinski. We had all my public safety, all the public safety was there, and Chief Grisolia was there hammering on them, and it's consistent, Whiting's putting the same kind of pressure on them, East Chicago's putting the same kind of pressure on them. They definitely got the message on the public safety angle. What happened during that incident was unacceptable. We didn't get the Material Safety Data sheets until like Saturday and it happened three days before that. That's unacceptable. They acknowledged, but whether or not they gonna stop having these magnificent, you know.

Councilman Kalwinski - They tried to steer you to County, they work with County's EMS, or whatever it is.

Mayor McDermott - No, I think ... I mean being honest, Councilman Kalwinski, they were being pretty respectful of the Hammond Police Department, Hammond Fire Department, East Chicago, Whiting, they were very humble, I have to say. They didn't come in fired up, they came in just like, "Hey, listen", you know, it was a productive meeting. Take it for what it's worth, you know. But I do appreciate when they come here. Two more things and I'll be done. Disabilities Breakfast, I want to thank all the Council People that showed up to that. It was the 39th Annual. I think that's one of the coolest events that we do, honestly. Everybody that goes there is so happy. I just want to say thank you to everybody that put that on. Last, but not least, the Little Calumet River Basin Authority, as we all know, former Councilman Dan Repay runs that, is doing a documentary on the big flood. They're going around interviewing people. They interviewed in Hammond City Hall about the big flood. So some of you may be getting phone calls. It's a pretty cool documentary they're talking about and if you were around in 2008 when everything went to hell on the levy you may be getting a phone call from WJOB about that. So, unless you have any questions, that's all I have.

Councilman Kalwinski - Any update on the data center?

Mayor McDermott - Yes.

Councilman Kalwinski - Can you tell us?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott - Yes. I'll tell you what I know. I heard there was a breakthrough between NIPSCO and the ownership group at the data center. Okay, Councilman Mark, that's what I heard. I didn't hear that from NIPSCO though, and that makes me nervous. Because I figured I would hear that from NIPSCO. So, if that's true, that NIPSCO has made a deal with the (unclear), that's great news for us. There's an incentive package that we worked out with them for that data center that's a very good package for all of us, if it passes, it's good for the data center as well. The whole thing holding it up is NIPSCO. If it's true they reached a deal, that's magnificent, we'll be talking about it at the next Council Meeting, I promise you. If we're not talking about it at the next Council Meeting, it's still just floundering along.

Councilman Kalwinski - Any word on the Fire Station opening?

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir. I'm glad you asked about that. Thank you. There was a hit list of items ... you know our Fire Chief is a contractor in a previous life. He's very particular, and when you do something for the Hammond Fire Department, the Fire Chief goes through and inspects it himself and there was some things that he didn't want to take on until they fixed it, so we didn't take ownership of that yet. But, it's literally within a week or two of being done. But Chief Grisolia is saving us a lot of money down the road by doing homework right now.

Councilman Tyler - Back to Ordinance 25-09, I know you shared that you want pass this so you can start doing some of those roadway projects this year. Does that include ... I know there's some projects that we've got matching funds for, grants for, are those going to continue this year no matter what or are those in jeopardy of being ...

Mayor McDermott - Okay, Councilman Barry, I don't really interject in the Capital Improvements at all. I want to start off and say that. My intention with this money, the Wheel Tax money has always been 100% for road maintenance. Okay? I don't think it should be used for matches. I don't think it should be used for anything else. I don't think it should be used for sidewalks, for parks, 100% for road maintenance. Because this is not, even when Wheel Tax is operating fully, it's going to be \$1.5 a year, so that money shouldn't be diluted on any other project as far as I'm concerned, Councilman. Now, if that's not happening I think I have to inject myself into it, okay? So that's my intention. If that's not happening, I'd prefer, I wish that you guys would tell me because you're all on, I'm not sure who's on Capital Improvement and who's not, but that was always my intention, Councilman Barry.

Councilman Tyler - And I understand that. The question I'm asking is, so like Columbia Avenue for example, we got through Community Crossings Grant, but I know that we have a portion of that that we have to cover, I'm asking, would that be ... it sounds like your answer is no, we wouldn't use this money to cover ...

Mayor McDermott - That is my answer, this money is not going to be used for that. This money is going to be used for maintenance.

Councilman Kalwinski - Is that equally distributed across all six districts?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott - It's \$1.2 for the whole city, Councilman. Well, I mean it may not be equally, you know, with the best of intension to equally represent all six districts, Councilman Mark, ok? But, like, what if Sheffield in the 1st in much worse shape than Southeastern in the 5th, right? Maybe one year we spend more in the 1st because we're working on Sheffield and then the next year, Southeastern needs a little more work and Sheffield doesn't. I think that Dean tries to approach it with an open mind about all six districts.

Councilman Kalwinski - The Capital Improvement Board will also decide how those dollars are spent?

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir. Well, I was informed today this is how it usually goes down. You know, I'm not on Capital Improvement. Usually Dean has a pretty good idea of what to get done. He approaches the Board and the Board says yea or nay. That's usually how it's done from what I understand. Now, I'm not sure. I don't ...

Councilman Kalwinski - My understanding, from what I can tell is the Board doesn't help decide what street's getting done, they pass the claim for (unclear), so somebody else is deciding, best I can tell. If I'm wrong, I'd like to know.

Mayor McDermott - Well, I can tell you who it's not. It's not me. I can tell you that. That's all I know. I don't say we need to this road. We don't need to do this road. Because I'm not ...

Councilman Kalwinski - (unclear) understand correctly, but when I talk to people when I come to the meetings it doesn't look like there's discussion about, as a Board, on what streets to do, but rather what (unclear).

Council President Woerpel - Mayor, I've been on it a couple times and to answer Councilman Tyler's question, Councilman Salinas and Councilman Rakos, you can correct me if I'm wrong, I believe Dean has stated that the Wheel Tax money is going for overlays, is that correct?

Mayor McDermott - Maintenance.

Council President Woerpel - Yeah, it's just repaving the street, right?

Mayor McDermott - Maintenance.

Council President Woerpel - Not curbs, sidewalks, like you said, sewers. And it ...

Mayor McDermott - To go back to Councilman Barry's original question, is this money going to be used as a match or anything? No. That's a clear answer to you question, Councilman. I'm glad we had this discussion though. Because I did want to put it out there. I don't follow Capital Improvement. I don't put my input in the Capital Improvement. I just trust the process, and if it's not working, then I need to inject myself. I thought with Capital Improvement, all due respect, I thought the less input I had the better. Because I didn't want anybody to think I was trying to like dominate and say this road needs to be done, this road needs to be done. In fact, I've taken a complete hands off approach. I trust Dean, because he's an engineer. So, that's where I'm coming from. If it's that's not working, I'll inject myself, Councilman. So.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Council President Woerpel - But as far as I know of the Capital Improvement Board, it's been my experience that Engineering seeks out a lot of Community Crossing Grants and stuff based on their grading of the roads on the conditions. And, like, I know some might say that my district hasn't gotten much lately. It's gotten a lot over the years. I'm just saying that there's roads in worse shape that Dean applies for these Grants, like Community Crossings on the different projects and it's my understanding that Columbia Avenue, we're all hearing about, that's a Community Crossings Project, correct? But, I mean, as far as who picks them, Dean keeps us abreast of where he's at on different projects and, I mean, it's ... no, it's, well ..

Councilman Kalwinski - He brings it and you don't say yea or nay to the project.

Councilman Rakos - Okay, but the point here is ...

Councilman Kalwinski (unclear) the claim

Councilman Rakos - The point here is this money here, from this ordinance is separate from the rest of what gets passed and what gets discussed at our Capital Improvement meetings. They're separate.

Mayor McDermott - I agree that it's completely separate. This \$1.2 or \$1.5, or whatever we end up getting from the Wheel Tax should be used for road paving maintenance only. So, like, any local matches on anything over here has to come from a separate source. I think we're all agreeable on that, right? I agree.

Councilman Kalwinski - I was hoping that we had input.

Mayor McDermott - You can have as much as you want.

Councilman Kalwinski - So far it doesn't seem to be ...

Mayor McDermott - But, like, okay, then I think we're being critical of the Engineer then. Because I trust Engineer and I don't really feel like I need to tell him how to do his job, personally, unless I think he's messing up. So, like, if you guys are critical of the way he's running it, I'm sure giving him input, I think that's ... and I'm sure he's watching right now, being honest with you. Because I know him.

Councilman Kalwinski - Maybe it's just me, I don't know.

Mayor McDermott - No, I'm sure Dean's watching right now. So, like, I think this is good for input right now on maybe he needs to conduct it a little different. But I could assure you this, there is nothing coming from the Mayor's Office to tell Dean which streets are getting done. I promise you that.

Council President Woerpel - I just wanted to say, and then I'll get to you. Is, like, I go into his office a lot just to B.S., and I'll go, "Whatcha working on?", you know, and he'll tell me, like, I'm working on a Community Crossings grant for this street or that street and 95% of the time I'll go, "Yeah, those streets are bad." I mean, it's not like he's hiding anything if that was the implication. I mean, it's as simple as going in and asking him,

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Council President Woerpel - "What are you working on?", that I always get the answers I'm looking for, as far as what's being done.

Mayor McDermott - I know Councilman Salinas is coming any second. The problem is there's way more need than money. I think that's what ... listen if we had way more money than need, we'd be taking care of all these problems. The problem is we have way more problems than money, Councilman Salinas. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

Councilman Salinas - This is my second year now on the Capital Improvement Board and I don't believe I've missed a meeting, perhaps maybe one, but with that said, on every agenda there is a line item for matters from the Mayor, Council or other Departments for their input. In my second year now, we've had, I think, two visits from the same council member, Council President Woerpel showed up, I think last year, and voiced a few concerns regarding different areas in his district. But I know Dean is open to suggestions, but he comes prepared most of the time with an idea of what is most needed and then we vote on it. That's exactly how ...

Mayor McDermott - I think that's fair. Like, I think if I was Dean, Dean has a pretty good idea of what he wants to get done and I'm sure he shows up with an idea of what he wants to get done. So, I acknowledge some of your concern, Councilman. I'm sure he's like, hey, these are the ones I thought about, these are the ones that grade out, these are the ones I want to get done. Do you guys want to vote on it? Oh, look at that, seven-zero, okay, let's move on to the next item, right?

Councilman Kalwinski - I want to take up more time on this. I'd like to meet with you sometime.

Mayor McDermott - No problem, I'm glad the Chief of Staff's here too. He's taking notes right now too and I'm sure Dean's watching. So.

Councilman Tyler - And I just want to say my experience, yes, Dean has his own recommendations of what he wants to get done, because like you say, he's a professional engineer so he understands that and has a perspective. But, he's always been open as for me, as a District Council Person, me coming to him and being proactive about the different projects that I would like to prioritize too. Then he'll give me feedback on if he feels it's correct or not and we'll go back and forth that then goes to CIB for approval.

Mayor McDermott - I have a feeling if Councilman Barry said, "Hey Dean, I want you to do this block of Tapper." Dean would be like, "Councilman Barry, that block of Tapper is in good shape." Right? I have a feeling he would push back like that. Like, "There's other blocks of Tapper we could do, Councilman, just this one ..." I have a feeling that's how he would approach it. I would hope that's how he approaches it, okay? In a lot of cases though, Councilman Salinas approached me today with three great projects, all three of them need to go, but the problem is a funding problem, right? So, I appreciate everybody's input. I promise you I'll talk to Dean personally about this. I know Scott will too, okay?

Councilwoman Venecz - I did serve on the Capital Improvement Board and it was my experience that I would meet with Dean and I would say, "What about?", and he would tell me why we can move forward, why we

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilwoman Venecz cont. - cannot move forward, is there enough funding. I would also communicate with other members of the Capital Improvement Board because not being a District Council Person, I didn't know about projects. So, um, I collaborated with some of the other members of the Board and it was a learning experience. I do have to say that.

Council President Woerpel - All I got to say is that if I went to him and said, "Hey, Mayor, 72 and 7100 block of Knickerbocker need to be repaved", I can guarantee you he's gonna tell be we need to do Sherman Street first. And I mean, I like the way he prioritizes the stuff.

Mayor McDermott - I usually, if I'm approached, I usually try to punt. Because I know that we have so much need and we don't have enough money to cover all that need. So, usually, I try not to make promises and I'm, like, we need to talk to Capital Improvement. We need to get it on their radar. Maybe I need to talk to Dean and make sure that we're communicating better with Councilmen so that you guys feel better about what's going through the pipeline. Like you should know, we had a reconstruction conversation today Al, and like these reconstructions are few and far between because they're so expensive. We used to do them a lot more than we do them now. So we should know which is the next street that's gonna be reconstructed. I mean, we should have a pretty good idea, all of us, so I'll talk to Dean. I appreciate you guys bringing it up. Scott and I will meet with him and we'll get on the same page. Okay?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2025 and place on file.

Councilman Tyler - Just a correction for the minutes. I was present via Zoom when the meeting started but I was here in person for the rest of the meeting.

Councilman Woerpel - Can you note that Carmen?

Council Coordinator Carmen Balboa - Yes.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to approve the claims dated March 5, 2025 and ending with claims dated March 19, 2025. Claim #2371 through #2836, inclusive. In the amount of \$12,136,851.97.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Venecz - I would like to announce that the Hammond Police Department is once again sponsoring their citizens police academy, April 15 through June 3. The deadline to sign up is April 7th. Councilman Spitale, Councilman Salinas, and I have all gone through this. This is awesome. It really gives us an idea of what our police officers do to protect themselves and our city. So, I strongly urge anyone who is interested to attend this, it's really quite interesting. The other announcement that I have is I got a e-mail from Animal Control. Animal Control has coordinated with Humane Indiana for free tax, and release spay and neuter program. Any individual who would like to trap feral cats, trap them themselves, can call Human Indiana and get the cats spayed and neutered at no cost to the individual to release back on their property. Up to one hundred free spay and neuter for Hammond residents. This over time will heavily reduce the population of feral cats. I don't know about anybody elses neighborhood, but my neighborhood I have a lovely neighbor who feeds cats who are out in the neighborhood and they have kittens and then there are more, and more, and more. So feral cats are definitely a problem. Also, any Hammond resident with an I.D. can have their dog or cat microchipped for free by Hammond Animal Control. This is up to three pets per household. NO litters. Just call 219-853-6507 to make an appointment.

Councilman Kalwinski - I'd like to announce that the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Associations meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday, at 6:30 at the Hammond Mohawk's Club and featured speakers will be the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding the property at 300 41st and update regarding the process of the soil sampling and water sampling and the results of those is what they will be reporting on. So all residents are welcome, all Council are welcome and of course the Mayor is welcome too.

Councilwoman Alexander - I would like to just thank Greater First Church and Pastor, Mr. Tavis Grant, for honoring me yesterday as a woman of evidence leading in power and purpose. So, I just want to thank their church for thinking of me and I just want to publically put that on record.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board - Councilman Salinas - Report from March 17, 2025:

Funding Allocation - No. 235 - Environmental Consulting for contaminated soil disposal reporting to Enviroforensics in the amount of \$3,920.00. This is where the city experience contaminated soil from and IDEM required closure report in the 1800 block of Summer Street. It turned out to being a petroleum waste contamination that was hauled away.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Upcoming meetings:

Edison Community Watch; Wed., April 2; 6:30 p.m.; Edison School
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues., April 1; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur., April 17; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

Irving Community Watch; Tues., April 8; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School
South Hohman Avenue Neighborhood Watch; Thur., April 10; Trinity Lutheran Church; 7 p.m.
Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., April 10; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Scholarship Fund Committee - Councilwoman Alexander - Last week the Scholarship Committee had a meeting. We had a really good discussion of how we should go forward. We had Ernie Dillon there and he gave us some background on the Council Scholarship that truly helped us out in as were continue to move forward with the Council Scholarship and how it came about and the things they did from the beginning when it was created. How it was created. So it was really impactful on what we should continue to do moving forward and we will be prepping to bring out that ordinance that Councilman Venecz has amended as well as getting ready to give those scholarship applications to the schools in Hammond.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

25-05 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 8242 and Amended Ordinance 8416 of the City of Hammond as it Pertains to the Common Council Scholarship Fund

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

Councilwoman Venecz - As we discussed in the committee meeting, this ordinance originally started back in the late '90's and we received a donation from the Whiteco Corporation and the stipulation for that donation was that we award fifteen \$1,000 scholarships each year. The money is managed by the Legacy Foundation and the reason for this amendment was because originally the ordinance stated all of the high schools in Hammond. We no longer have Clark, we no longer have Gavit, so this ordinance just kind of expands on the possibility of other high schools coming to Hammond and that way we won't have to do another ordinance. But we will be drawing names shortly, once we get the applications from the schools and awarding the scholarships to fifteen lucky seniors in the City of Hammond.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9668 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-06 Appropriation Ordinance City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for April 14, 2025 at 5:15 p.m., and a Public Hearing on April 14, 2025.

Councilman Salinas - This appropriation ordinance outlines the allocation of \$15 million from the issuance of bonds from the 1% Food and Beverage Tax for specific usage that the Mayor outlined in his address. \$10

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Salinas cont. - million for our Downtown Hammond Community Rail Station and \$5 million for our upgrades to our Sportsplex. AYES: ALL

25-07 An Ordinance of the City of Hammond, Indiana, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Bonds of the City and, If Necessary, Bond Anticipation Notes, for the Purpose of Providing Funds to be Applied to the Cost of Certain Improvements to the Hammond Sportsplex and Community Center and the City's Downtown Commuter Rail Station, Together With all Related Improvements, Equipment and Incidental Expenses in Connection Therewith and on Account of the Issuance of Bonds Therefore

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd Reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole for April 14, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.

This ordinance is the actual authorization and issuance of the sale of the bonds for the purpose of providing the funds for the two projects that were listed. The Rail Station Downtown Hammond and the Sportsplex. AYES: ALL

25-08 An Ordinance Creating New Fund (Fund #2491) for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading.

Councilwoman Venecz - This establishing a line item for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant the city was awarded in the amount of \$133 thousand. AYES: ALL

25-09 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Bonds of the City of Hammond, Indiana, to Finance the Costs of Street and Road Projects Within the City, and the Issuance and Sale of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance and Sale of Such Bonds, Appropriating the Proceeds Derived From the Sale of Such Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes, and Other Matters Related Thereto

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for April 14, 2025 at 5:15 p.m., and a Public Hearing on April 14, 2025.

Councilman Emerson - This, basically, deals with the fact that the gambling boat is down 30%. As the Mayor has said, it may be dropping even more. The streets in our city are in bad shape. This project will make the streets look better. AYES: ALL

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

George Stoya - There's little in the press these days, but it's something the Council and others should be looking into. Bird flu and how it's starting to spread. Robert F. Kennedy is our new Health Cabinet Official. His idea in tackling Bird Flu is to let the virus rip. Instead of culling the birds farmers should let it run through the flock and preserve the birds that are immune to it. The scientists are asking is he's out of his mind. This virus spreads to people. If there a flock of 5 million birds that's 5 million chances for that virus to replicate or mutate.

Matthew Marcum - A solution to the bird problem would be to eat more fish. VanTil's has a sale on Walleye Pike right now and the Rainbow Trout's good too.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Tyler, 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	
	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	P	P	P																		
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	A	P	P	P																		
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P																		
Initials	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.

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:50 P.M.

cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk


Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council