

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on April 14, 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 observed

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- Hi, nice to see you all. This is Mayor's address for April 14, 2025. I'm happy to report to the Hammond Council that the Fire Department has moved in, officially moved into Fire Station #2 last week. They're moved in. We got the first tour last week. The administration did. We were there for our normal monthly meeting. We did it in that station. It's gorgeous. It's beautiful. We're going to be doing an open house, an official public open house very soon. I think we have a date, I just don't have it handy, if somebody could pull that up real quick, but if not. When is it?

City Controller, Megan Moore- May 1<sup>st</sup>

Mayor McDermott- May 1<sup>st</sup>. That's easy to remember. May 1<sup>st</sup>, so obviously you're all welcome. What time?

Dave Hamm- 1:30

Mayor McDermott-Thank you. 1:30. It looks a lot like fire station #8. That's sort of the new design for houses. We have accommodations for women firefighters in this new station as well. We have 2 full time active duty women firefighters currently and we plan to get a lot more in the future. To do that, we need to make our houses bigger and we need to have accommodations for the women fire fighters as well. Both of these new stations do. All fire stations in the future will have it as well. Right now, on the board we have Fire Station #7, on the board. We have it designed. We have a location. We don't have the money for it. So if anybody finds an extra 8 million dollars, give me a heads up and we'll make sure to get on it right away. Activity log: Met with Vince Parisi, the CEO of NIPSCO over the last couple weeks, in regards to Data Centers, believe it or not. NIPSCO is playing a very important role in Data Center development. They have limited amount of mega watts available and the Data Centers are looking for about 20 times more than the megawatts that are available from NIPSCO. I think it's important to have a good relationship with NIPSCO during the Data Center ordeals that we're going through. So anyway, I think it's good. I think we had a good meeting. I think I have another meeting scheduled with him coming up shortly. I met with the Economic Development team that's going to be presenting 2 proposals at the upcoming ICSE Trade Show. We're going to be pushing 2, we wanted to focus on 2, it's a

**MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.**

Mayor McDermott cont.- convention of all the biggest shopping centers and Commercial Real Estate Agents in the nation. It's in Las Vegas. We wanted to focus on 2 big projects that we thought would appeal to people from across the country. So we're focusing on the Gateway Station in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and the Haunted House in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Those 2 projects, we think have appeal to people across the country. We're going to be pushing real hard. Obviously if people want to talk to us about other projects, we'll be open minded to that. We just thought we'd be more successful by focusing on 2 high priority projects like that. If anybody has any questions, I'm willing to meet with you and talk also. I met with the President of the Ironworkers, Local 395 about a union issue that flared up over the last couple of weeks. It was over a small project and it was a union issue that got the union out of sorts. We had a good meeting. I think we put it away. It was about a \$17,000 issue. It's one of those where you don't have to bid it, and if you don't have to bid it, you don't get into the responsible bidding ordinance that we all passed. We fell into the gray zone, and I don't think the Ironworkers were very happy with the decision we made. I think we ironed it out. Hammond Police monthly Captain's meeting;

Chief of Staff Scott Miller- Pun intended?

Mayor McDermott- What did I say?

Council President Woerpel- The Ironworkers, ironed it out.

Mayor McDermott- Ha, look at that. Son of a gun. That was good. Hammond Police monthly Captain's meeting, met with the Captain's and Chief's from the Hammond Police Department regarding crime stats, trends, and personnel issues. This is a standing meeting we have. I give you the same report every month. Different issues come up, but we have a standing meeting with them. In that meeting, I have people from the Board of Public Works and Safety in there, the Controller's office in there, obviously the administration is present as well. I think all the Captain's are in that meeting, including the Chief's as well. I think it's a very, we've been doing it for years. I think it's a great way to stay in touch with what's going on in the Police Department. Right now, ever since we've passed our ordinance with the raises, we've been doing really good. We haven't lost a Hammond Police Officer to going to another department in well over a year, ever since we passed our ordinance. We fixed the problem and it appears that Police personnel has stabilized in the Police Department and in the Fire Department. I want to thank the Council for helping us get that accomplished. We held our monthly, in station meeting, with on duty Hammond Firefighters. We met with Shift 1 in new Fire Station #2, great meeting. I met with Dr. Richard Watson. He is the CEO of Calumet Quick Care, which is right over here on Calumet Avenue, 5518 Calumet Avenue. This is a business that wants to get more attention across the City of Hammond. It's an urgent care and they could use more business. So we're going to try to work with them and do like an open house or something like that. Dr. Watson's a great guy. He's invested into the City of Hammond and we want to help him out. I met with Dave Pavlik, one of the main financiers of the Hammond Data Center Proposal. He's an incredible person. We had a really neat meeting. He's a really young guy too, swinging big money. It's good to talk to people like that and keep in touch with what's going on up there at the Data Center. If that Data Center is approved, the one we've been working on, it's a game changer for us. It helps us a lot. Our relationship with NIPSCO, it's imperative to have a great relationship right now, and to explain what we're trying to do, because NIPSCO has a lot of latitude in where these megawatts are going to go. If they don't want to do them in Hammond, they won't come here. I spoke at the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce in regards to a homicide that we had earlier this week in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. It was a tough meeting, but I think it was a very good meeting, but it was a very tough meeting. I was literally days after a horrible homicide

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- that we had in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. I got my head shaved in honor of Izabella Angarica. I want to thank everybody that donated \$22,000. 100 percent of it went to the family of Izabella, so thank you to everybody that helped us raise money. She is fighting leukemia, and is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Lincoln Elementary School. She's a beautiful little girl. Last but not least, I attended the armored MMA event held last week at the Hammond Civic Center. We sold over 3,000 tickets to that. Basically if you're like a Game of Thrones type of person, and you like armored MMA, it was Heaven for you at the Civic Center this weekend. I want to thank Juan and everybody that worked real hard. It was the only time they've gone out of Nashville, Tennessee. The only place they've gone outside of Nashville, is Hammond Civic Center, so it was really cool. They're coming back in November. It was a huge success. Congratulations to Juan over there at the Civic Center for thinking outside of the box and bringing something big to our city. I have more to talk about when we talk about the resolutions and ordinances, so if you don't have any questions, I'll go ahead and wrap it up.

Council President Woerpel- Mayor, if you'll indulge me for a second? Speaking of people that are excited to come to Hammond, I was talking to you today and some of my colleagues about the new coffee shop in the 5<sup>th</sup> District. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez who opened that are sitting back here in the audience.

Mayor McDermott- Hi, guys. I've heard a lot about your place.

Council President Woerpel- They're residents of your district, and they're very excited about their new store in Hammond. Do you mind if they say a quick word real quick?

Mayor McDermott- What's the name of it again, Councilman?

Council President Woerpel- 219 Grounds Café

Mayor McDermott- 219 Grounds, and it's right across on 169<sup>th</sup>.

Council President Woerpel- right across from Purdue in fact.

Mayor McDermott- So 169<sup>th</sup> and Woodmar, basically.

Council President Woerpel- Yeah, and talking to them, that dorm is a big reason they're there and catering to the students.

Mayor McDermott- I agree.

Council President Woerpel- Would you like to say a word or 2 about coming to Hammond if you don't mind real quick.

Mrs. Gomez- Sure, so, my husband and I have been eyeing this building for years and we couldn't get a hold of the owner. We couldn't figure out who he was, and then finally, back in November, we got a hold of him. He liked our idea, and the area was good, so he agreed to lease it to us and we've been working on it since then. We were so excited to bring that home because we like to travel a lot. We would visit a lot of coffee shops and you know, places like that in other parts of the world, and we just wanted something like that at home. We're so

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mrs. Gomez- happy to bring this to our town and to share it with our community and we've gotten really good feedback, you know, a lot of people coming and coming again, and coming again, and bringing their friends, and telling their friends. We're super excited.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you very much. I appreciate it guys.

Council President Woerpel- Thank you for coming.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Dave. There's no reason that coffee shop shouldn't be hugely successful on 169<sup>th</sup> and Woodmar. There's no reason. There's 8,000 students across the street and a lot of neighbors that like coffee, myself included. 169<sup>th</sup> and Woodmar, a new coffee shop, let's make it successful.

Council President Woerpel- I tried to get in there for 3 days at 7 o'clock in the morning, and I take my nap by 9, so, I had to wait. I met them the other day, and they're so excited to be in Hammond, and I'm telling you, they're looking for other places to put businesses in from the conversations we've had.

Mayor McDermott- Nice, thanks. Any other questions?

Council President Woerpel- Thanks for coming.

Councilman Kalwinski- Good Evening, yesterday I was talking with builders at the Clark Field site, and a couple of them have built the outer shell with the windows in and they can't go any further because there's no electricity.

Mayor McDermott- Right. I heard about this earlier.

Councilman Kalwinski- They said that they were told it won't be until July or August where there will be electricity that they can run into the house.

Mayor McDermott- That's shocking if that's true, but it's handy that I have this meeting with the CEO coming up of NIPSCO. I was meeting with him about something else, but I will definitely follow this up. We all know that my former Chief of Staff, well a couple Chief of Staffs ago, Rick Calinski, is a Director at NIPSCO. He's a Hammond kid, man. He grew up in Hammond, he's still a Hammond kid. He doesn't live here anymore, but we have somebody watching out for us there. I'm not even afraid to say that out loud. Rick's a Hammond kid, he grew up here. I'll reach out to Rick. I would be shocked if that turns out true, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- Well, I hope you're right.

Mayor McDermott- I hope I'm right too, because that's shocking.

Councilman Kalwinski- The builder also mentioned that, Electricity was supposed to go on the easement which is the alley, but it's an easement, and that was changed to the front and apparently, I don't know if that has something to do with the notion that now sidewalks won't have a parkway in that subdivision. The sidewalks look like, according to the builder, will have to be along the curb.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- I'll follow this up tomorrow, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- I appreciate it.

Mayor McDermott- I heard something about this, this morning at staff. It was told to me in passing that this may come up. It came up obviously. I appreciate you bringing it up. Let me dig in on it and find out, so we can put this to bed. If it turns out to be July or August, we gotta fight for our residents. That's unacceptable. It's not like we sprung this upon anybody. We've been talking about this project for 5 years.

Councilman Kalwinski- The builder's say that they have 2x6 studs up and what happens in wet weather is those studs start to not be straight. So then when you put the drywall on, it's not straight.

Mayor McDermott- I'm on it tomorrow, I promise you. First thing, ok? I'll keep you in the loop obviously.

Councilman Kalwinski- Thanks.

Mayor McDermott- Any other questions? I'm going to be talking again obviously when resolutions and things of that nature come up, so I'll just save it til then. Thank you, Mr. President.

LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Cornell White, Interim Director and Tom Novak, President of the Trustee Board came forward to give a presentation regarding the Hammond Public Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2025 and placed on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to approve the claims from March 19, 2025 through April 10, 2025. Claim #2837 through claim #3378, inclusive. In the amount of \$13,254,522,61.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

25-06 Appropriation Ordinance, City of Hammond, Indiana

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 to 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

Council President Woerpel- Anybody wish to speak on these issues?

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, Mr. President.

Council President Woerpel- Mayor?

Mayor McDermott- Besides being Mayor, I'm Tom McDermott, I live at 7134 Knickerbocker. I know this is a public hearing. The appropriation ordinance, the ordinance, food and beverage bond, so to speak, is a 15 million dollar issue, and it's paid for with food and beverage tax proceeds that are within the City of Hammond. It's funding 2 projects. 1 project is the Hammond Sportsplex expansion, it's undergoing right now. The sources of revenue for that expansion is multiple sources. One of them is a low interest loan from the federal government that's in the process of being approved. The other is the proceeds from what we're approving right here. I appreciate Councilman Salinas for carrying that. The other project is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. So that was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, the Sportsplex expansion. The other project is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, that is the Downtown Hammond Train Station. 100 percent of the money for the Downtown Hammond Train Station will come from this bond. Also, the 1.2 million dollar bond is an idea that we had when the wheel tax was passed. If you'll remember correctly when we passed the wheel tax, we did it too late to start paving roads this summer. When the wheel tax was passed, it was passed the deadline where it wouldn't be implemented until next year, which meant we couldn't begin doing roads with the wheel tax proceeds until next year. Speaking with our Professional Engineer, Dean Button, resident of Robertsdale, by the way, Dean said, Hey is there any way we could do in addition to what we normally get from the casino revenue, which we all know is shrinking rapidly, is there anything we can do this year, to help me get some roads done? We came up with this idea. This is the idea. Bond for the future. 1.5 million dollars that we're going to get in future years, we can do 1.2 million dollars worth of work this summer if you pass this. We can start this summer. Next year we'll do about 1.2 million dollars worth of work. The summer after that we'll do about 1.2 million dollars worth of work. The summer after that we'll do about 1.2 million dollars worth of work, if we pass this bond. If you don't, it's not like Hammond is gonna fold up and go away. This isn't like, life or death, sink the ship stuff. If you don't pass this, we're not going to be able to do 1.2 million dollars of road work this year. We'll have to wait until 2026. That's the repercussions if this isn't passed. The food and beverage, that's imperative. This is nice. How 'bout that? Food and beverage is imperative, this is nice. If we pass this, it's nice because we can start road work right now and it's going to look nicer. It's not going to sink the ship if you guys say no, but we could do it right now. I like doing it now, because our roads look like crap and I want to make them look better. I know that there's some push back on this. I think that's insane. We can do road work right now. Like right now. It's not going to cost us anything. We already did the dirty work. We passed the wheel tax. We can do it right now. If you don't pass it, I'm not going to stomp and storm out of here. It's crazy if we don't pass this, so anyway, if you have any questions, great, if not, consider that my public comment.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilman Tyler- I just want to congratulate a couple of people from the City of Hammond. One is Scott Cuipak, who is a teacher at the Hammond Area Career Center, who won the skills, he was honored as the Skills USA Advisor of the Year. I actually graduated high school with Scott. I know he's been at the Career Center maybe close to like 15 years if not more. I know our Chief of Staff, Mr. Scott Miller is very familiar with him. Scott, I don't know if you want to say anything about Scott Cuipak, but I know he puts his heart and soul into teaching those kids over there skill in the trades. He's done a lot of work for people around Hammond too, so just very proud of him.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- Scott's fantastic, and what Skills USA is, think about this, where you have high school students, actually competing in carpentry, and trades events against other kids from other Career Centers. They literally show up, they give them a blue print they've never seen before, and they actually have to build it. Then they're judged based upon their construction quality and such. He won the award for the Advisor of the Year across all programs in the state. He's had a State Champion from Morton High School, just last year, his student was the National Champion actually, not the State Champion, National Champion, the whole country, in carpentry, just last year. He has a top quality program right here in Hammond.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you. The other person I would like to congratulate, is the entire staff over at Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza. I know this would be near and dear to your heart, but they just had a inspection, an inspired inspection, and they scored a 99 out of 100 for just kind of overall ranking of their building. I want to congratulate Miss Short and her entire staff for the good work that they're doing over there to take care of our seniors within the City of Hammond, so thank you.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Salinas - Brought out 25-06 and 25-07

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Emerson -Brought out 25-09

Capital Improvement Board- Councilman Salinas-The Capital Improvement Board met on April 7, 2025. We dealt with:

Item A- Funding Allocation #237-PASER and Sign Inventory Supplemental; First Group Engineering; in the amount of \$16,552.50

Item B- Funding Allocation #238-Kennedy Ave Road Diet Tree Removal; Howard Tree Removal; in the amount of \$6,100

Item C- Funding Allocation #239-2025 Annual Resurfacing- in the amount of \$1,000,000

Item D- Funding Allocation #240-165th and Stateline Intersection Improvements; Construction Engineering; in the amount of \$30,600

Item E- Funding Allocation #241-Marble Street Reconstruction; Change order No. 3; in the amount of \$5,097.60

*Prepared by*  
**Robert J. Golec**  
**Hammond City Clerk**

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

Item E- Funding Allocation #243-Sink Hole at 225 Russell Street; Dyer Construction; in the amount of \$6,851.38

Council President Woerpel- Brought out 25-08

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

25-06            Appropriation Ordinance City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Salinas- This is the appropriation ordinance for the 1 % beverage tax that we will be issuing bonds for in the amount of 15 million dollars. 10 million dollars which will be for the Downtown Hammond Train Station and 5 for;

Council President Woerpel-Are you bringing it out for 3<sup>rd</sup> and final passage?

Councilman Salinas- Sorry about that, my apologies.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for final passage

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: Kalwinski, Tyler

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

7/2/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9669 PASSED

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 for final passage.

Councilman Salinas- Just as the Clerk Golec mentioned, this is the authorization of the actual issuance of the bond portion.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: Kalwinski

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

8/1/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9670 PASSED



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

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 for final passage.

Councilwoman Venecz- This simply establishes line items for the \$133,000 grant that we received.

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. 9671 PASSED

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 for final passage.

Mayor McDermott- Just to clear up, I just want to make sure everybody is on the same page about what we're voting for or voting against. If you vote against this, you're saying you don't want any road work to be done this year on the roads with this money. Basically, what you're saying is, we're not going to do 1.2 million this year extra, we're going to wait until next year and do 1.5. So this is going to give us the ability to do road work within weeks if we pass this. If we don't, we'll wait until next year and we'll do 1.5 with this money. So that's what's at stake. Are we doing 1.2 this year, next year, and the year after? Or are we doing nothing this year, and 1.5 next year? Ok? Just wanted to make sure everyone understood what they're voting for or against.

Councilman Emerson- As I said in Caucus, things aren't getting any cheaper, so I support this ordinance, and we'll see what happens.

Councilman Tyler- Just wanted to clarify something that we discussed in Caucus, just I think we heard that this doesn't cost us anything extra, but it does cost us, and I'm not trying to sway any opinions, I'm just trying to get correct on the facts, but it does cost us \$255,000 in fees associated with the bond issuance, that would detract from the total amount that we were able to use for street overlays.

Mayor McDermott- I'm sure that's about right. It's like if you take an interest loan, it's like interest on the loan. So over the next 4 or 5 years when we're paying back this bond, we will pay interest, true. Of course, whenever you do this, you have to pay lawyers and stuff like that. I imagine a loan of this magnitude, 1.2 million dollars will cost approximately what you're saying. I'm not denying that. So if we want to do, that's true, so modifying what I said earlier, if we do road work this year, there is a cost, Councilman Tyler is pointing out correctly. Concede, I concede that.

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

Councilman Tyler- Also, just based off the math that we were doing in caucus, I see that on the sheet that we have, the average is about 45k per block. So, what're we talking? We said 4 before, but I think that's about 6 blocks? Am I making that up? 5 blocks. So, not a big difference, but I just wanted to clarify that too, just based off our earlier conversation.

Council President Woerpel- I'm not speaking for, except for the streets in my district, a couple of streets listed here, these aren't even full blocks. Like, Cherry Street, is 8 houses. 1200 Cherry, and it's listed for \$25,000. 173<sup>rd</sup> Place, from Walnut, to White Oak, is not a full block, and it's listed for 42. The one I see that's a full street, 172<sup>nd</sup> and Columbia, \$61,621.00. I'm just going by the streets in my district.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: Alexander, Kalwinski, Tyler

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

6/0/3

ORDINANCE NO. 9672 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

25R-08            A Resolution of the City of Hammond Common Council Relating to the Selection of a Lake County Convention Center

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moves for adoption

Councilman Rakos read the resolution in its entirety.

Councilman Rakos- I just wanted to say, its all said in here, but what's been going on at the state level, it's discussed in here, they're planning to take, even though there's a surplus at the state level, they're pulling another fast one on the citizens of the state, they're going to give them a property tax reduction, and they're taking it out on local cities and counties. Lake County recently had a resolution condemning that, which I applaud them that they did that. Needless to say, at the national level with the ineptitude and corruption coming out of 1600 Pennsylvania, you never know what's coming next. The thought that we could go ahead with something like this, not knowing what the future will bring, I find it reason enough to support this resolution. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Hard Rock Casino, is the most profitable casino in the state of Indiana. They're on the cusp of getting a couple hundred million dollars in tax incentives to build an addition to their casino. It's outrageous. Let that sink in. The most profitable casino in Indiana is asking for a couple hundred million dollars of Lake County taxpayer money. That's what we're talking about here. This is insane in my opinion. Why can't the casino fund their own expansion? Why do the citizens of Lake County have to fund Hard Rock's expansion? I think this is a clear issue for where we sit. Let me tell you some facts. We've already lost \$13 million a year to Hard Rock, already, and it's not stopping. It's going down, and they want to murder us. They want to murder

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- Horseshoe Casino. They want to murder Ameristar Casino, and we're contemplating whether or not we should do this? This is a no brainer, guys. I'm not saying, I think there's easily enough votes to pass this resolution on

Mayor McDermott cont.- the council, but there's debate, which is, I'm the Mayor of Hammond, I understand I have other things going in Lake County, but this is my job, being the Mayor of Hammond. This is an important revenue stream to the citizens of Hammond. This is an important revenue stream to programs like College Bound, Hammond Police Department, Hammond Fire Department, and we've lost \$13 million already to Hard Rock. Now they want to build a massive \$200 million tax payer funded expansion. This is a resolution saying, you know, vote your conscious, guys, because I would sign this in a hot second. I think this convention center is a boondoggle. I think it's going to be an utter failure wherever it's located, personally. If it's built in Hobart, I think it fails in Hobart, because it already failed out there. It failed at 65 and 30. Now in all of our wisdom, we're gonna build it off 80/94, like that's going to be better than 65 and 30, and we're going to spend \$200 million to do it. In the meantime, our main competitor in the casino industry is going to get bigger and more powerful. There's no doubt where we all need to lie on this issue. This should be a 9-0 in my opinion. I know we have disagreements, 7-2, 6-3, 5-4, but this should be 9-0 guys, 9-0. You're a Hammond Council person, I'm the Hammond Mayor, this is a no brainer. I'm done talking about it. Good Luck. If you guys have any questions, I'll answer them. I think this is a no brainer.

Councilman Tyler- There's a lot that's being said, that I don't necessarily disagree with. I do understand, like our role, as to, especially fiscally protect our city and look out after our city. I don't feel like in my capacity as a Councilman tonight, I have all the information I need necessary to make a decision. There are a couple other conversations that I would like to have before I vote yay or nay on this proposed resolution. Just like, from my understanding, Mayor, you can correct me if I'm wrong, I'm just trying to check my understanding in terms of the conversation that we're having. As of right now, the money that would be allocated for this project is coming from the state, not any additional taxes, 1, that's just to check for understanding.

Mayor McDermott- That's not true.

Councilman Tyler- Ok, can you?

Mayor McDermott- They want to raise the innkeeper's tax in Lake County from 5 to 10 percent. Now whether that happens is a whole separate issue. They have their eyes on the Innkeeper's tax that's controlled by the County and they expect that to help them bond the hundreds of millions of dollars they're going to need to float to build that convention center.

Councilman Tyler- For the?

Mayor McDermott- Off the innkeeper's tax, Lake County Innkeeper's Tax.

Councilman Tyler- Yeah, correct me if I'm wrong, Hobart came out and said that they would look into that if they won the proposal, but Gary said that they would not, correct? I'm not saying that's not beholding, right, because they could change their mind.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott- I'm not sure.

Councilman Tyler- Ok. Well thank you for that explanation.

Mayor McDermott- I do know how much we lost to the Hard Rock. Hammond. Hammond lost to Gary. I do know how much that is, I can give it to you. It's \$13 million, currently. It could be 15 or 16 next year. Maybe if they build this it will be 20-25 million, Councilman. Maybe it will go to 0, and then Gary can take all the god dang money we used to have here in Hammond. We can analyze it, let's keep analyzing it, and watch us just keep losing money.

Councilman Tyler- So my other point was that, we have an opportunity as a Council, as a Mayor, as your administration, to sit down with representatives from Gary to have a conversation, because I think there are other partnership opportunities. This could be an opportunity to provide additional revenue to our city with some type of partnership agreement, collaborative agreement that I know the City of Gary is interested in having that conversation. I don't know if Hobart would be, but potentially we could try to schedule time to have that conversation with them too since we don't know which municipality will be awarded the convention center. The last thing I'll say is that I know the County Commissioner's have a consultant conducting financial analysis of the financial impact that this could have on the region as a whole. I think that if we are given enough time, we could wait until that report comes out, so we can better understand what this could financially mean for the City of Hammond before we make a decision whether we would back either one of these options or not. Once again, I'm actually, I'm going to make a motion that we table this until a meeting in May, so that we can have those meetings, conduct further information, and we would still be able to pass this resolution in advance of any vote that takes place by the County Commissioners and still go on record opposing this. I don't necessarily feel like us taking any more time to get more information will hurt anything.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved to table the resolution until the May 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

ROLL CALL VOTE (table)

AYES: Alexander, Kalwinski, Tyler

NAYS: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ABSENT: None

Motion failed

3/6/0

MOTION FAILED

Council President Woerpel- Is there any further discussion? (X2)

Mayor McDermott- About this Issue?

Council President Woerpel- About this issue, yes.

Mayor McDermott- I have more to say. I'm having trouble comprehending what I just heard, being honest with you, having trouble comprehending it. How much more do we need to lose? Gary doesn't want to be our partner, Councilman Barry. They don't want to be our partner. Hard Rock doesn't want to be our partner. They want to kill our casino, Councilman. I hate to break it to you. I don't know who you're talking to or why you

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- think Gary loves us so much, but they don't. They took \$13 million out of our budget, so far, Councilman. You want to go ask them to be a partner? No. I don't want to be partners on this project. They're trying to kill our casino. They are trying to kill Hammond Horseshoe and Ameristar, and you want to reach out and be partners? I think that shows the ultimate weakness.

Councilman Tyler- In terms of who I was speaking to, I spoke with Mayor Eddie Melton.

Mayor McDermott- I'm sure he appreciates what you're doing for him, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler- Well I'm not doing anything for him. I'm trying to do my due diligence to learn how this would impact our city.

Mayor McDermott- We can talk about a convention center for years, Councilman Barry, for years.

Councilman Tyler- Yeah, and I understand that, but this resolution;

Mayor McDermott- When are you going to be done with this due diligence?

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, this resolution was put in front of me on Thursday, so I didn't know it was coming.

Mayor McDermott- You didn't anticipate this would come up?

Councilman Tyler- I could have anticipated it, but the information that is included in the resolution, I'm trying to do my due diligence around and learn more information, that's all. I advocated that we postpone the vote, not for a year or 2 years until after the vote is taken, and the convention center is built. Still, we can take a vote on this before, I just wanted have more time to get some more information. I know you've been in this position for 22 years now, and you have a lot more knowledge and information than I do, so I think we're just coming from this from 2 different perspectives. I'm just trying to spend a little bit more time, and gain a little bit of more information. I do have the word of Mayor Eddie Melton, that he would like to work with us on this, and I don't necessarily understand the rush to get this passed if we have the chance to have a conversation just to see how that plays out. We can still take a vote in May. If we pass it, we pass it, we go on the record opposing this. I was just trying to advocate that we spend a little more time and get some more information before we make a final decision. That's all, but I respect your opinion. I'm not disagreeing with you, I just wanted more information to inform the decision I was trying to make. That's all. Thank you.

Council President Woerpel- Here's what I don't get, I try to read the paper every now and then, and I see where there's a bill to cut property taxes throughout the state. The answer downstate is, well, we're going to let every city and town enact an income tax. Yet we have \$200 million dollars or whatever it is to build a convention center? I'm not all that smart, and I was just a mailman, but I think one failed here already.

Mayor McDermott- 2

Council President Woerpel- 2.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott- Already, but soon to be 3.

Council President Woerpel- Yeah.

Mayor McDermott- But at least, hey Councilman, at least if this one fails, Hard Rock can just move their casino

Mayor McDermott cont.- operation right into it, right?

Council President Woerpel- Yeah.

Mayor McDermott- It's gonna be connected. They could just move their gaming equipment right into the broke down convention center that doesn't have enough business. They can just move their slot machines right in there, and just wipe us out once and for all. Then we can fight over pennies over here over which streets we're gonna do. You know what, that's the thing that strikes me. You guys are constantly giving me crap about the state of the budget and how little money we have to do streets, and the real culprit is Hard Rock Casino. I hate to break it to you guys, and you wanna study. Let's study this. Hard Rock is cleaning our clocks. We gave them \$13 million so far. They want more. That's what we're talking about. You give me crap about the amount of money we have left to do roads. This is what's taking our money, and we're about to give them \$200 million more. You want to study that? I've been studying it, Councilman. This is why I'm asking you guys to do this.

Councilwoman Alexander- I'm just trying to just get some more understanding. I hear you, Mayor.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you. I appreciate it.

Councilwoman Alexander- I hear Barry as well. I hear both standpoints. I think it's just from my colleague and our standpoint is that we continue to want to learn on this job, right? We're still learning as we go. Yes, we've always talked about what's going to happen with those casino dollars. We do see the drops, and he didn't say yay or nay, only thing he was actually saying is, he just wants some more research, he just wants some more information. You're providing information, and I thank you for that. I really do. I don't want you to think that.

Mayor McDermott- I'm not, Councilwoman.

Councilwoman Alexander- I don't want you to think it's bash Mayor day or anything like that.

Mayor McDermott- I know that.

Councilwoman Alexander- It's just that a lot of times, we do get information and yes, we could read papers, and yes there's a lot of bills that are coming out. We get the brunt of it up here in Northwest Indiana a lot of times, from downstate because they don't see it. Do I feel a convention center is good for us over there or not? No I don't, but getting more information to have a concise and understanding of why you're saying yes to something versus just getting something, just reading through just a couple pieces of paper that we can have more information on. I don't think it's too hard for that. A lot of times, you say just reach out, but a lot of times, that's a little bit hard. I'm not saying we can't text you, we do, because I have lately. It's just getting a little bit more background on what's happening downstate because a lot of times you are going down there, and then we're

## RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilwoman Alexander cont.-seeing it, we're talking to the representatives. I didn't feel that it was too hard to agree until the next meeting to say we're gonna vote yes or no just to get some more information. Now the partnership thing, I don't know anything about that, that's just his conversation. As for wanting more information, I wanted more information as well. I'm just going to put that on the record.

Council President Woerpel- But

Councilwoman Alexander- It's not because I'm saying no, I'm not for saying yes. I just wanted to have a little bit more because just 3 papers of how this validates why we're doing what we're doing. Yes we lost a lot of casino revenue since we've been on board, especially when covid hit, and it does effect us. I think I've always asked you, and I've asked Megan, how are we going to continue to sustain the things that we're doing when we're bringing things out, like the raises and what are we going to do with water and all those things? This is just another one of those instances where, where do we go from here? What does our future look like? Yes, Hard Rock is not this only thing taking money from us. Wincreek is too, because that brand new boat is, it's in Illinois, but you have people that are traveling from here to over there. I think that we have a lot of other casinos that have been tapping into Horseshoe's funds that I can be honest about. That's the new Wincreek. That is Hard Rock absolutely because they're closer. Then you have the one that is like North Chicago, Bally's or something as well. People are choosing, when we did get a lot of Illinois people to come to the Horseshoe. I just wanted to put that on the record and for more perspective on why you're upset and you're adamant why we need to vote this. I do agree that, but I also would like some more information if that's ok.

Councilwoman Venecz- You know, to say that you haven't been on the job that long, and you're still learning, well, you know, it's our job to learn as we go along with these issues. It doesn't take a rocket scientist as Councilwoman Alexander said, there's casinos in Illinois. There's casinos in Indiana. There's casinos in Michigan. They're popping up all over. If the White family could not make a go on the corner of 65 and 80/94, then that should be the writing on the wall. If somebody wants to have a convention, they're going to come to the Hard Rock? What about Chicago? Chicago has a whole lot more to offer than what Hard Rock does. I just don't understand not wanting to protect our interest, not standing up for our community. I just, I don't understand that.

Council President- Just to buttress with what you're saying, you're saying, well we need more information. Ok, if that's what you guys feel, but I don't know what more information we need. If they decide the convention center is going there, do you think they're going to come to us and say, hey, hang on, we never heard what Hammond thinks. I'd like to be on the record before the fact. It ain't where it's going, it's the fact that there's a convention center coming to lake county when it's failed twice. I read in the paper again, and this means a lot, because we hear every complaint there is, from chickens, to taxes, and how do you explain that in 3 or 4 years from now, the state, we're gonna be 8 million dollars short to our city budget, and the state says, oh yeah, you guys can impose a city income tax. Can I get more information then? I'm sorry. I totally agree, it's not where it's going. I don't think we need a convention center period. I'm just one voice, but I'd rather go on the record before the fact, than after the fact.

Councilman Tyler- Once again to clarify, my postponing of the vote, would still take place before the vote for the convention center would take place, so we would still be able to get ahead of this, it would just mean another way for us to get more information. I would just like to go once again on record, and say that I get that

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler cont.- there's like a lack of relationships with other municipalities. There's a lack of relationships between like city officials, and so, I get that we approach this conversation with some hesitation, but at the same time, I don't think a conversation could hurt us, especially if people are saying that they would be willing to collaborate with Hammond in some shared revenue format on this convention center.

Mayor McDermott- Can we stop? Can we stop talking about that?

Councilman Salinas- Can we get a call for the vote? Can we vote please?

Mayor McDermott- Can we stop talking about that? Seriously, that is hogwash.

Council President- There's been a call for the vote.

Mayor McDermott- Listen, I talked to Mayor Melton a few days ago. Mayor Melton asked me to do this, ok? He said Mayor.

Councilman Tyler- Mr. President I think there was a call for a vote.

Mayor McDermott- Oh really? You don't want to hear some context here? It's bunk what you're talking about here. Mayor Melton and I talked a few days ago, you can check the record on this. He called me and said, Mayor I need help from you. I said, what do you need Mayor? He said can you do a letter in support of Nippon Steel buying US Steel? I said no problem Mr. Mayor and I did it. By the way, pissing off the steelworkers in the process. Ask Mayor Melton. He didn't bring up anything about sharing money with the City of Hammond. He had plenty of opportunities. He didn't say anything about that. He asked me for one thing, I did him the favor. I took some heat for it, I feel good about myself because I think it was the right thing to do on Nippon Steel. He knows he wouldn't ask me about that Councilman Barry because there's no way they wanna share money with us because they've taken it from us already.

Council President Woerpel- There's been a call for the vote.

Councilman Salinas- Call for the vote please

Councilwoman Alexander- Mr. President

Councilwoman Venecz- Call for the vote

Council President Woerpel- The call for the vote

Councilwoman Alexander- Really quick Mr. President.

Council President Woerpel- There's been a call for the vote

Councilwoman Venecz- No, we called for the vote



RESOLUTIONS cont.

Council President Woerpel- The Mayor got the last word

Councilwoman Alexander- Ok, so here's the issue though, we called;

Councilwoman Venecz- We called for the vote

Council President Woerpel- There's been a call for the vote that ends discussion

Councilwoman Alexander- Listen, this is nothing against

Council President- That ends discussion.

Councilwoman Alexander- That's funny that it's call for the vote for us, but I'm not knocking Mayor, when we're calling for the vote, that should be for all of us and that's just so we don't get frustrated.

Councilwoman Venecz- Ok, call for the vote.

Councilwoman Alexander- If we're gonna call for the vote, let's call it for all of us, nothing against you Mayor.

Mayor McDermott- I know.

Councilwoman Alexander- I'm just saying, if we're gonna call it, let's call it for everybody to be fair.

Councilwoman Venecz- Call it.

Mayor McDermott- I shouldn't have spoke over it, I apologize.

Councilwoman Alexander- That's all I'm saying, I'm not knocking you and I just want us to be, if we're gonna be point of order, let's be point of order for everybody in the room. Now let's call for the vote.

Council President Woerpel- The Mayor can speak at anytime, on any issue.

Councilwoman Alexander- It has to be for everybody.

Council President Woerpel- There's been a call for the vote, Clerk Golec, roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitalc, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: Tyler

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

8/1/0

RESOLUTION NO. R08 ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS cont.

25R-09            A Resolution of the Hammond City Council Approving the Re-designation of the Hammond Urban Enterprise Zone for a Period of Five Years for a Renewal Sunset Date of December 31, 2029

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moves for adoption

Councilman Salinas- I'm going to go ahead and defer this discussion to our HDC Executive Director Jennifer Bussey, please.

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- Good Evening, Council. Are there any questions about what the

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey cont.- resolution is? This was passed previously in 2018. This helps benefit the downtown area. This helps benefit enterprise zones. It is a 35 percent participation fee for new businesses or businesses expanding in the enterprise zone. I'm sorry. With the funding that we get for that, the HUEA then gives out grants, sponsorships, and partnerships, which benefit all of Hammond. It also allows us to bring in some new businesses, which is, for example, meats by Linz, was brought in with this participation fee. Hutamaki just did a huge renovation and added on, so it's not only for new businesses, but it's for existing businesses to build on and renovate their spaces, add new equipment, whatever it may be. They get this 10 year 35 percent on a de-escalating scale to participate in this program which benefits the city. We also work very closely with the cities Economic Development team to help bring in the new businesses and to help promote. Does anybody have any questions?

Councilwoman Venecz- This goes through 2029?

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- Yes, it will go through December of 2029. It's a 5 year.

Councilwoman Venecz- Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Hi, can you just clarify exactly where the zone is? What area constitutes the zone?

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- It's spread out through Hammond. It's mostly in the industrial areas. Then it does go across into Hessville, so it does cover a wide variety of area. I do have a map if anybody would like to see it.

Councilman Tyler- I'm guessing it will be, what? 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts?

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- Yes. It doesn't really, there's not much in the 1<sup>st</sup> District, there's a little bit, and then it goes into the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There's nothing in the 4<sup>th</sup>, not much, just a little bit and then into the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, yes.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- They're the areas which mostly had hard economic times or industry and this was decided years ago. It is something that we're looking at in being able to possibly move some of

RESOLUTIONS cont.

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey cont.- those zones around. They do have to touch each other, that's the key to it. It can't just be spot here, spot here, spot here. It has to go in a continuous form. We are going to be looking at that in the future if we are approved and to be able to develop some new areas.

Councilwoman Venecz- Thanks, Jen.

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- Yes.

Councilwoman Alexander- Appreciate what you're doing. I was with Urban Enterprise back in my college years, so totally understand how all that goes and what they've allowed, and what the program was able to do even for the community, so definitely support this one.

HDC Executive Director, Jennifer Bussey- Thank you

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R09 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Venecz- I would like to schedule a scholarship committee meeting on Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Caucus Chambers.

Council President Woerpel- Thank you

Councilwoman Alexander- I just really want to go on the record with what I'm going to say just to make sure as we continue to move forward as a Council, because it really is disheartening when a lot of times we say call for the vote, we're calling for the vote to silence our colleagues. Let's be honest about that, but if we're gonna call for the vote, let's please do it for everyone in the room. You say Mayor can say whatever he wants, I feel because this is our meeting, we need to be able to talk. We need to be able to express ourselves and have communication even if we don't agree or disagree with each other. It has to be right, because we're causing tension that did not have to be there when we're listening to everybody. I teach my students, it's ok to disagree with something that I'm not giving you. It's also ok for them to ask questions when they're unsure of something, so yes, I want to go on the record, if we're gonna do this, for everyone in the room. If we're gonna call for the vote, let's be honest on calling for the vote and hear our colleagues out, even when we don't agree with them. A lot of times, I don't agree with some things you guys say, and I say nothing, but when you don't agree with some of the things we say, you hurry up to silence us and that's not fair, so let's be honest, and continue to do what we need to do as a Council for everyone in the room, that we don't just silence people, just because we have the right to.

Councilwoman Venecz- I do believe in our ordinance book, there is a line, I can't remember what it is, I don't have the book with me, but the Mayor is entitled to speak at anytime during the meeting.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Council President Woerpel- On any issue, number 1. Number 2, if we want to get technical about it, I believe each Council member, can speak 3 times on an issue. Or is it twice?

Councilwoman Venecz- 3.

Council President Woerpel- It's 3. I hear discussions where we call on the same person 4-5 times, yet, you wanna say, what? I'm being lenient here. When there's a call for the vote it ends discussion. The Mayor has the right to speak at any time on any issue.

Councilwoman Alexander- But I'm saying, if we're gonna call for this discussion, and it's not for us to just have this moment, it's, I'm asking that we continue to be open with each other. We're calling for a vote. If we're Councilwoman Alexander cont.- going to call for a vote, let's call it for everyone in the room so we don't cause unnecessary tension that doesn't need to be here. We're colleagues. We can get along. We can agree to disagree and it's ok. That's the way the world works.

Councilwoman Venecz- The Mayor is the Mayor. He can speak whenever he wants. If you want to have a class on Robert's Rules of Order, I'd be more than happy to participate in that. If you want to have a class to go through the ordinance book, and outline all the ordinances that are in there, I'd be more than happy to do that too as long as all of us participate, but, I mean, Robert's Rules of Order, is Robert's Rules of Order. Our ordinance book, is the ordinance book and we follow those accordingly. We don't just make it up as we go.

Council President Woerpel- Before this gets carried away, all you're asking is let everybody speak, correct? You're asking the colleagues to hold off on the call for the vote?

Councilwoman Alexander- I'm not saying, when there's tension that flies, it seems that we always.

Council President Woerpel- I'm just saying that when somebody calls for the vote, I have to acknowledge it.

Councilwoman Alexander- But I'm asking that if we're calling for the vote, then everybody just stop, and that's including just everybody in the room. That's all I'm asking

Councilman Tyler- I think for me, it's just a matter of respect. We were having a conversation or discussion. Something was said that I was responding to, a point that I had not made. It was only my second time speaking and then because people didn't want to hear what I had to say, there was a request for a call to vote, which is your right to do so. Mr President, you also have an opportunity to let me finish my thought if you want to and then go back to that call for the vote. I think for me, I've never on this Council, disrespected anyone. Like Councilwoman Alexander said, any time somebody else is speaking, something I don't agree with, we still continue, never interrupt, and I would just ask that we do the same thing for everybody in that matter.

Council President Woerpel- I understand what you're saying Councilman, both of you. It's my understanding when someone calls for the vote, it ends all discussion. No? They can finish their point?

Councilman Tyler- Yes, you have the discretion.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Council President Woerpel- Dave, go ahead.

Dave Hamm- If you want me to say it.

Council President Woerpel- If I've been wrong once in my life, I'll admit it.

Dave Hamm- I'm out of order here, but I'm gonna tell you, call for the vote is a motion. If it's seconded, then the chairman takes a roll call to stop debate and one of the best parliamentary people I've ever worked with in my life is the gentleman sitting in front of you and I think if you ask him, he will help you, but he won't interfere, but Mr. Golec knows his stuff. You can call for the vote, if it's seconded, you have a roll call.

Council President Woerpel- That's to end the discussion, correct? I did it wrong.

Dave Hamm- That's my understanding, and I don't know if Mr. Golec agrees with me or not, but that's my understanding.

Council President Woerpel- Ok, I did it wrong.

Councilman Tyler- The only other thing, I just want to go on record. I know it's too late to change my vote, but for, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final for ordinance 25-06, I voted no, but I meant to vote yes. I know I can't change my vote, but just wanted to go on the record to say that. Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- I've got a big thank you to give out to the Public Works Department. Specifically the Supervisor, Juan Serrano. Juan and his crew came to Downtown Hammond, Willow Court, behind Strack & Van Tils and they did a major clean up of a highly littered area and did a fantastic job, so I want to say thank you to Juan Serrano and the Public Works Department. I also want to acknowledge the passing of a 30 plus year volunteer at Irving Little League, Jerry McKimmy passed away, and I want to send out condolences to the McKimmy family on behalf of the Council. Jerry was a very kind spoken volunteer that did a lot for the neighborhood kids in the community.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Cindy Bean- My neighbor has cars and trucks that he rents out on his property that are stacked up and not registered. There's garbage. He's changing oil out front. He tore down the flags on the new sidewalk, and drove right over the brand new sidewalk on 170<sup>th</sup>. I took pictures and sent them to Emerson. Your lovely secretary helped me. I think he owns a construction company. I've had people sleeping in vans next to my house. What do I do about this?

Erin Tyler- I was watching at home, and felt compelled to come. I am not here to defend Barry. The discourse up here is disappointing. The vibe is off. If someone has a question, it's as if they're being annoying and why are you continuing to ask questions. I would like to live in a city where the public officials can ask questions. It's as if we don't like discussion. This is outrageous.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

George Stoya- The discussion about the funding for the extension to the Hard Rock, if it's done with public funds, there may be an unfair competition claim for the Horseshoe that can be raised that can maybe be a negotiation position. I know it was case law in the 90's, I wrote on it for the newspaper. Switching subjects, The Data center, Nipsco is saying they will meet demands, and I'm wondering on who's back? The Mayor said a few minutes ago that there's no way NIPSCO can meet the electricity demand that the Data Center will require. I guess they're gonna have to build, and if they do, someone is gonna have to pay for it, and you know it ain't gonna be NIPSCO. It's probably gonna be us. Who's paying for this thing? The taxpayers are.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Salinas, 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	P	P	P	P																	
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P																	
Al Salinas	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P																	
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG																	

E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY

PRESENT

A=ABSENT

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

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:37 p.m.  
mg/cb

Dave Woerpel, President  
Hammond Common Council

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk