

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on August 25, 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.

Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- Hi, nice to see you all. Before I get into my activity log, and I know we're going to talk about an ordinance that's being proposed today, I want to start off and talk about an eventful moment that happened a week ago, actually, a rain event, a flood event that we had on August 17th, August 18th, so I want to start off with that, if you don't mind, and address that. They called it a historic rainfall event, and it's a rare monsoon like event, that's what it says about it, but I don't really think that's accurate anymore, it seems like, every year or 2 we're always talking about storms that are storms of the century. Between last week, late Sunday night, and Tuesday, between that period of time, Hammond saw between 6 & 8 inches of rain. Robertsdale took the heaviest hit without a doubt. Also complicating the matters, as you all know, the Hammond Sanitary District for decades has been accepting water from multiple customers that surround Hammond. This storm blanketed our entire service territory, like every single customer we have, as well as the City of Hammond, and Robertsdale were taking a major hit from the storm at the same time. At the peak, our waste water treatment plant was moving 160 million gallons per day. That's almost 3 times the design limit of 68 million gallons. The Columbia Avenue retention basin, filled completely and discharged over 100 million gallons of partially treated water into the Grand Calumet River. 100 million gallons into the tank, and then into the Grand Calumet River which is a CSO and we have to report that to the state. Had we not had that tank, you know that was built probably 8 years ago at this point, 6-8 years ago, had we not had that, that's another 100 million gallons that would've ended up in the streets or in our basements, so thankfully we had that. It's still a CSO event that we have to report to the US EPA and we have to report to IDEM. That's water that would've been in our basements before we built that basin. Even after the storm, flows stayed high, over 70 million gallons per day until yesterday. It's now down to 55 million. So, until yesterday, a week later, 6 days later, we finally got flows less than our plant capacity. Our plant is rated for about 70 million gallons, and we finally got down below 70 million gallons yesterday, catching up from this rain event. For comparison, a normal August day, we would treat around 30 million, so we're still twice as high as we were from that rain event. We received around 200 reports of basement backups across the city. About half of them in Robertsdale. They were spread out, other than the Robertsdale cluster, they were spread out equally across the city. Every pump station we have was running at maximum capacity during the storm. We were fully manned at all times during the storm as well.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-This was a high volume event that pushed our system beyond its normal limits. I want to thank our Hammond Sanitary District crews who kept operations running around the clock. I want to say how truly sorry I am to the hundreds of families who's homes suffered damage from this terrible storm. My apology is not because the Hammond Sanitary District failed. Our team worked tirelessly and did everything possible to prevent damage, to attempt to prevent damage. We did nothing wrong. I'm saying sorry because I feel personally for the people who have lost so much. I personally know the heartbreak. Years ago, I lost my own basement to flooding as well, and at that time, I made the decision not to invest in furnishing my basement nicely anymore. I know that every home and every family situation is unique and not everybody has that luxury, but this is the reality, these storms aren't going away. In fact, it seems like every year, between mid August, and early October, we face more of these monsoon like rains. It's so important for all of us as Hammond home owners to do what we can to prepare our homes for the possibility of flooding. I promise you this, the City of Hammond will continue doing everything in its power to protect our neighborhoods, but I also encourage each resident to take steps to safeguard your own property because these storms are becoming part of our new normal. We're in this together. You have my word that I'll keep fighting for solutions to protect Hammond families. I don't know if you have any questions. I didn't get into the rest of my report. It would be not right to start off a council meeting and not address last weeks storm.

Councilman Kalwinski- Mayor, I want to thank you for those words.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- I know that Robertsdale suffered, other parts of the city did. I know that in North Hammond, my neighborhood, when back porch lights turn on around 10 p.m in the rain, people are failing, and there was a lot of that around me. A lot of losses, thank you for the picks ups on Saturday and Sunday in the alleys. That was helpful.

Mayor McDermott- It's also sobering to see everybody's personal belongings sitting out in front of their house.

Councilman Kalwinski- We will see what happens, families are the way to go, right? I was thinking that you know if the data center does happen, that 4 million in a pilot program per year, what a thing that could be if it went towards check valves for all the houses that still need one in Hammond because that's a lot cheaper to handle it that way than anything the Sanitary District has to do, as in build more basins or another plant, just a thought. Thank you for your empathy, appreciate it.

Mayor McDermott- Appreciate it.

Council President Woerpel- Mayor, mine's more of a comment than a question, but 2020 I remember you and I were over by Dowling Park. Water was pouring into your truck. My jeep had it knee deep in mine, but every time one of these events come up, I start getting calls, why don't Hammond open the gates? Why don't Hammond open the gates? It's real simple, there are no gates. Whoever started that rumor that there's these gates that City employees have to magically open, they don't exist. It's a gravity flow system and the pumps that they turn on, help pump that water to the plant quicker, and as many times as we say it, every time there's a storm, we hear the same things over and over again, open them gates, and I'll say it one more time, there are no

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Council President Woerpel cont.-gates to open.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman. It's a fully automated system. We did everything, like I said, we did everything we could. You know, that doesn't make me feel any better, because as the Councilman indicated, I drove around and looked at people's front yards, that's no fun. Being the Mayor and seeing that is no fun. I appreciate everybody's thoughts, any more questions on that?

Councilman Emerson- I have a question. I have an observation that I'd like to agree with you on, Mayor, and that's the wave of the future, that we're gonna get more and more of these storms and it's just the fact of our life.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. Going back to Councilman Mark's idea, if the data center happens and we have that kind of flexibility, I think it's a great option to talk about, Councilman, ok. Let's be honest while we're talking about it. We don't go to homes with the check valves in the basement very often. We don't. The check valve allows water to flow into the system, it doesn't allow it to back up. If every home in Hammond had that check valve in their basement, presumably, we'd have no basement back ups. It's hard to get the homeowners to invest because it's a few thousand dollars up front. I'll be honest, my home doesn't even have one, and I flooded. I'm a perfect example. I'm really sorry. I don't think these storms are gonna get any less intense, especially during this time of year. I think it's incumbent upon all of us when you see that, when it's hitting us hard all at once like that, that's when we're in trouble. If we get breaks, we can catch up. We got no break over 36 hours. We got it all at once. That's the worst kind of storm you can get. To the Hammond residents that suffered damage, I'm terribly sorry. All of us are. I know the Hammond Sanitary District worked 2 days straight and we still flooded 200 basements so anyway, I'm gonna go ahead and cover real quickly my activity log and I know we have a busy council meeting. I attended the Inaugural meeting of the Northwest Indiana Professional Sports Development Committee on behalf of the City of Hammond. I want to congratulate State Rep Earl Harris for a legislative accomplishment that you don't see Democrats do very often. He put this committee together, it's basically all the cities and towns from Northwest Indiana as far out as South Bend, actually no it's only out as far as Laporte County. Our next meeting is actually in South Bend talking to the South Bend Cubs about what they're doing. It's pretty interesting. Hopefully something develops from it. That was just the first meeting, so I imagine it's going to be awhile. I attended a press conference to recognize 6 of the Hammond Marina's lifeguards for their heroic actions, literally saved a woman from drowning. We recognized the following lifeguards. I'm going to mention their names because we're at the council meeting: Georgiana Manojlovic, Gabriella Gomez, Trevor Bembry, Julissa Gomez, Matthew Maciel, and Grace Macron, the lifeguard supervisor. Thank you very much to those 6 lifeguards for being on scene and preventing the tragic loss of a swimmer. I attended a town hall with Indiana Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith in Griffith, just staying in the loop with what's occurring down state, and as you all know, there's a lot occurring down state that affects us. I heard the Lt. Governor was in town so I made sure to get over there. I attended a dinner with the Lake County Indiana Mayor's, One Region, and the LCEA about regional growth and economic activities. I attended a promotion ceremony for 5 officers in the Hammond Police Department. The following 5 officers were promoted: Rob Taylor was promoted from Sgt. to Master Sgt., Evan Holland was promoted from Sgt. to Master Sgt., Ron Rogers was promoted from Sgt. to Master Sgt., Mike Ciccotelli was promoted from Sgt. to Master Sgt., and Rob Trost was promoted from Sgt. to Lt. I met with potential developers on property in Hammond's Hessville neighborhood. I met with Councilwoman Janet Venecz. I had breakfast with Councilman Scott Rakos. I had a

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-meeting with a Hessville business owner who wants to create a mural outside of her business on Kennedy Avenue. I had a phone interview with Northwest Indiana Business Magazine and appeared on WJOB morning show with Jed to discuss recent flood events. If you don't have any questions, I know we're going to be talking about the ordinance proposed, I'll save my comments for that.

Councilman Kalwinski- I just wanted to react to some follow up that you initiated after the last meeting. I appreciate the follow up you did on the west point industrial complex.

Mayor McDermott- I have a great Chief of Staff. He's literally taking notes right now, firing off questions, so thank you, Scott. I would love to take credit myself but that would be not accurate.

Councilman Kalwinski- I'm grateful that the administration did follow up. The other follow up was on the hotel at the carwash on the Boulevard by the Wal-mart in Robertsedale.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, I drove by it the other day. It's not looking great.

Councilman Kalwinski- And thank you for the response from them.

Mayor McDermott- They're behind on their financing. You know I remember when Nash, he did a couple hotels for us on the South side of our city, he was slow on those, but you can't argue once he gets them built, they're beautiful, so I apologize, I know it's frustrating, and it looks crummy, I acknowledge.

Councilman Kalwinski- I appreciate the follow up

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you all, good to see you.

Councilman Tyler- Hi Mayor, I just had a quick question. I know your office has been trying to coordinate with NIPSCO about some of the street light outages that we have across the city. Is there any update or any information you could provide us about that?

Mayor McDermott- We actually, Councilman, thank you for the question, WE found it easier to approach NIPSCO with a bulk of lights that were out. We approached them with literally over 100 lights across the City of Hammond, and it took a couple, but NIPSCO did all of the lights, eventually, over the course of like 2 or 3 weeks over the summer. I imagine, we're probably, if we have more of the wooden poles, that's for the residents that are listening, NIPSCO lights are the wooden poles, if you have wooden pole lights that are out, the best thing you could do is either go through your council person, or call them in to the Mayor's office. We keep a list. Instead of approaching NIPSCO with 1 pole at a time, we approach them with dozens and dozens of poles at a time and it seems to work better that way. If that works for you, Councilman, you can just call Alex in my office, and we can get them on a list for you.

Councilman Tyler- Ok, yeah I think, yeah, that's who I talked to before, so I know you guys are working on it, I just didn't know if there was an update or any information on what's causing it, because it did seem like there were dozens of blocks that had street lights out.

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

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- Recently, Councilman?

Councilman Tyler- Yeah, I think, the last time I talked to Alex was maybe a week and a half ago.

Mayor McDermott- Ok, that's a problem then, Councilman, because the lights I was talking about were knocked off well over a month ago, so we need to probably start a new list.

Councilman Tyler- Got it, ok. I can follow up with her and see if there's a (response unclear)

Mayor McDermott- Yes sir, thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski- I'm happy to add to that list. There are about 8 poles in Pulaski Park that the lights are out.

Mayor McDermott- Could you call them into my office?

Councilman Kalwinski- I'll have to take a walk there.

Mayor McDermott- Either that or maybe Scott, we could follow it up also and we can send Alex out there, but if you see in your district, or At Larges, Alex in my office is Constituent Services, she coordinated the first batch of lights with NIPSCO and it worked well, so if you can get them to Alex in my office, that's directly to the source.

Council President Woerpel- I'd just like to add that when you said about the wooden poles, that when people call me, I always ask them to take a picture of the number on the pole that's on that football looking badge. That's the easiest way I can get them to the Engineering Department.

Mayor McDermott- You can do it in the Hammond 311 app too, Councilman. Even NIPSCO poles. Yeah, so if it's wooden or metal in Hammond 311. Thank you guys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes from August 11, 2025 and place on file.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to approve the claims from August 6, 2025 through August 20, 2025. Claim #7295 through claims #7741, inclusive. In the amount of \$7,848,870.39.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS cont.

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

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Woerpel- I noticed today that the Citizens Police Academy which I attended and flunked out of, baseball got in the way from my grandson, but it begins Monday, September 15th and I think runs through November 8th. Am I correct on that Mr. Thomas? I made it through all but 2 classes because baseball got in the way and they were the 2 best classes because we were supposed to go on a road trip and then to a shooting range, so

Councilwoman Venecz- You missed the road trip?

Council President Woerpel- Yes.

Councilwoman Venecz- Oh boy.

Council President Woerpel- But I've been told I can take it again, which I probably will, but I recommend anybody that's interested in what the Hammond Police Department does, take that class. It's very informative, and the people in my class seemed to like my jokes, so I'll go back.

Anybody else got anything under communications (x2) Communications are closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIB-Did not meet

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Brought out 25-16

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

Wed., Sept. 3; Edison Community Watch; Edison School 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Sept 18; Hessville Crime Watch; HC3 Community Center; 6:00 p.m.

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

Thurs., Sept. 18; South Hohman Avenue Neighborhood Watch; Trinity Lutheran Church; 6:30 p.m.

Thur., Sept. 11; Whiting/Robertsdale; Calumet College; 6:30 p.m.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

25-16 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #3394, #3395, #3396 and #4682)for Series 2025
YMCA Bond Monies for the City of Hammond

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

Councilwoman Venecz- At the request of our Controller, this ordinance is to establish 3 line items for the YMCA bond funding. Thank you.

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. 9679 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-17 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana to Regulate the use of
Golf Carts on Public Property in a Specific Area in the City of Hammond

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for September 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Kalwinski- I'd like to acknowledge all the first responders that have come here today to make it clear what their stand and position is on this ordinance. I also appreciate the residents who are in support of this ordinance being here today and taking a stand on that issue as well. That's what good government is, being able to go back and forth about something and try to find the best resolution to that issue, so thank you for being here. I'll step back and let the Mayor go now, and I'll come back.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate Councilman Mark's remarks, and I agree that it's good to have good debate. Councilman Mark, in his defense, told me this may come up a couple months ago. I gave Mark at the time, my honest feelings on this issue. It was, hey I was thinking about floating this ordinance for golf carts in Robertsdale, Mayor what do you about it, and I honestly said, Mark, I don't think it's safe. That was even without giving it much thought, I was just like I don't think that's safe. I get it, Whiting's got golf carts, and there's other communities around the region that are doing this type of thing, but I also know that in Whiting, you can operate a golf cart, and stay away from Indianapolis Blvd. and literally not have to cross that major highway with semis and fast moving cars. I'm afraid, if this passes, I'm afraid that someone is gonna get killed in a golf cart, and we're all going to be looking at each other and wondering why we did this. I don't even think saying it might happen, it's inaccurate, it will happen. People are going to get hit by a semi or a high moving car and they're going to get killed, in a golf cart, and it's going to be on us to feel good about it. I won't feel good about this. I'm telling you straight up, this is dangerous in my opinion, flat out. I hear the argument, well we're Robertsdale, we're just like Whiting. No you're not. This is the City of Hammond. You're part of the City of Hammond. There's not a Mayor worth his salt that would sit here and says oh part of my city gets little special rules that the other people don't get. If this passes, it's gotta pass citywide and that's a disaster. I'm not going to

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-sign anything that says Robertsdale is special, they get special rules, I'm not going to sign that. I would get laughed out of this place if I came in here and told you Knickerbocker Parkway is a special place and I think we should have golf carts. I would get laughed out of this freakin' City Hall if I did that. This is insane. I will not sign this. I will veto it if you pass it, and if you pass it over my veto, I don't know what the heck I'm gonna do. The people in the back are the ones that are going to have to do the job, let's be honest. This ordinance says Code Enforcement could do it. What are we going to do the first time someone in Code Enforcement gets punched in the face for pulling over a golf cart? Are they going to have to start wearing body cams also? So let's be honest, Code Enforcement is not going to do this job, it's gonna be on these guys back there. You guys get to chase the bad guys, protect our homes, and chase a couple golf carts now and then. No no no. This is not going to be supported by me. This is unwise and it's dangerous. I stand fully, firmly opposed to it. I appreciate the Councilman for bringing it up. He's being a gentleman about it, I acknowledge. He went to the police department last Friday and talked to the Police Chiefs, I appreciate that. I'm just going to stop there unless anyone has any questions.

Councilman Kalwinski- I appreciate your passion. A couple things, one is that Whiting residents with their golf carts, can cross the Boulevard at 120th, and at 121st because 1 side of 121st is Whiting.

Mayor McDermott- Gotcha.

Councilman Kalwinski- So that's done. A couple other things from caucus that I want to address is 1, golf carts aren't considered off road vehicles, they are considered slow moving vehicles. I inquired with some of the golf cart owners and operators before the meeting and they do have insurance. They have homeowners and auto insurance on their golf cart, and they have liability. Those are just issues I wanted to clear up. Let me just say this, when I singled out Robertsdale, it's because I was asked to bring it forward because there's a connection between Whiting and Robertsdale. Secondly, I can appreciate the concern over safety. My hope was that by taking a small bite of the apple, we could maybe pilot something that Hammond designs regarding safety and the use of golf carts in a larger city and if that went well, then move it along to other districts. There was nothing special about that. There was just the rise of the quest for having golf carts being used. A bite of the apple, a bite of the elephant, however you want to see it, what seemed to make sense, if that was a problem for people, I apologize, It wasn't meant to be. It was meant to make manageable and doable, and figure out the problems, problem solve it, and move forward, and that's all that was.

Mayor McDermott- I understand, I get it. I understand that there's a connection between Whiting and Robertsdale, I do, but those are 2 different cities. I mean, we all know that right? Sometimes, I live closer to Highland and Munster, that doesn't mean that the laws of Munster and Highland apply to me because I'm close to the border, right? I mean, we still live in Hammond. I don't think there's a Mayor worth a salt that would feel good about that situation, because to me, I'm city wide, just like the 3 At-Large Councilmen, and I believe in uniformity, I do. I think this is something that if it's going to pass, it should apply to the whole city, and I don't think that's wise personally.

Councilman Kalwinski- I think we're seeing good government here right now and I appreciate the back and forth. I'm hoping that this can pass. I'm very optimistic and I know how this will go.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you. I appreciate you, Councilman. I'm glad that we're being civil about it too, because that's how you should do it, and sometimes it doesn't work out that way.

Councilman Kalwinski- I know that there are golf cart owners in the audience who have brought petitions, primarily from the 46394 zip code with oh 60+ signatures. I know that people who are buying these 6&7 hundred thousand dollar homes are hoping this ordinance can pass because it does appeal to them and yet I know that safety is first and that we all have to look at all sides.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you.

Councilwoman Venecz- I think we all need to be mindful that we as a unit represent the entire City of Hammond. Not just 1 neighborhood, the entire city. I don't believe that we should single out a single neighborhood to legislate on. It's for the city or not. There's no mention made in this ordinance that the vehicle must be factory manufactured. Something tells me that somebody is gonna rig something up and they're gonna get a vin number from somewhere and they're gonna take it to the police department. There's just no mention of that made in the ordinance. It's my opinion that the state required limits of liability on a vehicle of this nature are woefully insufficient. For Indiana if I'm not mistaken, it's \$2,550 for bodily injury and \$10,000 for property damage which certainly would not cover if there were an accident. Nowhere on the application does it require proof of liability insurance. It only asks for the name of the company. Where's the proof? I want to see the limits of liability. I also believe it's unfair to burden our Hammond Police Department with the inspection of these vehicles. They have more important things to do. We always talk at our crime watch meetings, that we are supposed to be the eyes and ears of our police department so they can do their job so we can sleep at night knowing that they're there to protect us, not checking out some golf cart. We are not a gated community. I know of people who live in gated communities and they have problems with the golf carts in their community. I don't know what makes us think that Hammond would be any different. Now lets talk about some of the drivers that go through our city, whether they be from Hammond, or whether they're driving through, stop signs and stop lights are considered optional. Yellow lights, that means floor it, and we all know that it happens. Our bike lanes that are there for recreational purposes, people consider those to be passing lanes. I've experienced that down Hohman Avenue, multiple times. As I stated before, we are not a gated community, however we do have some neighborhoods that I believe golf carts could work, and I'd be willing to consider golf carts in a neighborhood if the district council people would gate in their neighborhood. I don't think they're going to be spending money that could be better utilized on streets on gates for their community so people can utilize golf carts. Now you know, maybe 50 years ago, golf carts may have worked in Hammond because we had in a small radius of blocks, we had a grocery store, we had a pharmacy, we had a neighborhood tavern. Golf carts may have worked back then, but Hammond has changed dramatically and for the better. I just, I think this ordinance is very irresponsible for the safety of our residents as a whole, and I am a firm no on this.

Councilwoman Alexander- just playing the advocate for a moment for Councilman Kalwinski, in terms of if there were some other information, you know a lot of times, we bring these things to the table so we can have the discussions to be able to either fine tune or anything like that, from my understanding. If there was something that maybe PD thought could go in there that could possibly help the situation out in terms of I heard Mayor, about he wants to pass something if its going to pass for a whole city. I heard Councilwoman Venecz about gated communities and things like that. Just looking at from a different standpoint of if there was a way

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilwoman Alexander-for it to pass, what could that be that would allow it to pass from our PD's standpoint and things like that, so that's all I'm asking as we continue to dive deep into this

Councilman Kalwinski- I appreciate your thoughts on that. If this were to pass through 1st and 2nd reading and go to committee, I'm open to as many committee meetings as necessary to problem solve and here all sides, and I'm not looking to pass this in 2 weeks. It would be down the line after everybody was comfortable should that go to committee. Thank you.

Councilman Woerpel- I'll reiterate what I said in caucus, that I don't want to be misunderstood. My insurance agent that is on Indianapolis Blvd. is an independent insurance agent and when I called him and asked him about this ordinance, my particular company, traveler's considers it an off road vehicle, and they don't provide liability coverage for golf carts on city streets. That doesn't mean that there aren't other companies. He did tell me when he searched the 8 he deals with, he found 3 that do insure it for liability, but then that begs the next question, is that the same liability coverage that you have to have to drive a car? So with that, and with talking to the Hammond Police Department and listening to their concerns, and even the Fire Chief, and the fact that I'm not comfortable passing anything for 1 section of the city. I can't support this.

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Spitale, called for the vote

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)

AYES: Alexander, Kalwinski, Tyler

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

ABSENT: None

Motion failed

3/6/0

MOTION FAILED

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to approve a Proclamation to honor Bishop Joseph Alford Sr.

Councilman Salinas read the Proclamation in its entirety.

Councilwoman Alexander- I ask that a correction be made on this. Barry's name is spelt wrong, so before it's signed or anything like that, that it gets corrected, and then possibly putting everybody's, I'm putting my editing hat on, putting everybody's name in the same type of, is it gonna be all capitalized or is it gonna be capital letter then the regular, so just making sure those little things are changed.

Council President Woerpel- So are we signing this one?

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

Councilman Salinas- No, I'll get you a revised copy.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Council President Woerpel- So once it's revised, does anyone else have any further discussion? (X2)

ROLL CALL VOTE (proclamation)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

PROCLAMATION APPROVED

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Laurie Zulno- Thank you for voting against the golf cart ordinance. I want to express that I'm opposed to the Council pushing through an ordinance on the 1st and 2nd reading at one council meeting. I'm also opposed to you using the expression, 1st and 2nd reading. The ordinances are never read aloud. We don't know what they say. We don't see them until after they're passed and put online. I would urge you to only motion things on a 1st reading, and wait another meeting and then a 2nd meeting. That's designed so the citizens have time to look things over so you have time to discuss amongst yourself and make changes. I feel like a 1st and 2nd reading at 1 council meeting is forcing things through without letting us know what going on. Read them aloud, read the whole thing. A better suggestion would be that you publish them where you publish the agendas.

Tom Kazmierczak- I just wanted to let everybody know 9/9/25 at 6pm at Jefferson School we will be having our first crime watch meeting.

George Stoya- Golf carts are nothing more than indulgence. Who cares about the insurance. It's going to be us drivers that get the bulk of the expense. I don't know what you guys are thinking sometimes. I can see the actuary's crunching the numbers now. We go slow enough in this town as it is, so now we have to go slower so the new home owners can drive golf carts? The liability risks are off the charts.

Gary Dreischorf- I use my golf cart under ADA regulations and I'm allowed to use it. I try to use it on sidewalks, but I do drive it on the street. I think with stipulations, it would be ok. I use mine in Florida. I used mine today to go to Burger King. I crossed at 169th. It's my mobility device and that's ADA. Sylvester is my service dog and nobody can question that, not even a vet. The only thing you can ask is, is it a service dog and if yes, then you can ask what its task is. The streetlight still isn't fixed.

Mary Schoons- Please speak into the microphones. They wouldn't let us people from Save the Briar East Woods group wanted to attend the Lorax lunch and were greeted by Hammond Police officers for letting people know what is happening in their neighborhood. Catastrophic flooding is here and it's here to stay. If we cut down this old growth forest, it's going to make the flooding much worse. It's not too late to save the woods.

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

AYES: ALL

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

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	11	25		
Katrina Alexander	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P		
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG			

E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY

PRESENT

A=ABSENT

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

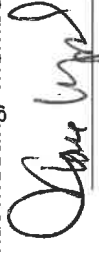
ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:00 p.m.
mg/cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk



Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council