The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 13, 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- Thanks, Councilman Woerpel. It's good to see you all. It's been a couple weeks since we've been here, a few weeks. This is my address for October 14, 2025. Started off a few weeks ago with the Realtor's breakfast at The Lost Marsh in our 1st District, had over 100 Realtors from across Northwest Indiana having breakfast, listening to presentations from all my department heads and myself and then they got to golf compliments. We do this every year and I think it helps us a lot to teach the Realtors about what we're doing so that they can help sell their community when they're trying to sell houses. I think it's worthwhile effort. Hosted former Indiana Governor and our Former U.S. Senator Evan Bayh and his son Beau in Hammond a couple weeks ago. I took them to the famous El Taco Real. I thought it was going to be like a new thing to teach them at El Taco Real, but Senator Bayh was very familiar with it. He was happy we took him there. It was nice to catch up. It was good to see him. I met with the Hammond Police Department and Captains and above for our normal meeting, and then we had a separate meeting just on ICE. It turned out to be fortuitous timing. We literally had the meeting and then the next day we were tested and I know that Councilman Barry has a resolution that we're going to talk about later so I'll just save my comments for that time, but it was a good meeting I had with the Police Department Captains and above and it was very good timing. I met with a Hammond Resident who's married to a Chinese woman. I don't want to mention his name, obviously in the environment we're in, this gentleman is in great fear that his wife is going to be deported. I'm not sure why she's not a citizen, but they're both very nervous right here in our city. I wanted to point that out, and I'm not going to give any details because I'm not going to provide any ammunition to ICE to go after them, but it's going on. We know it's going on, obviously in the Hispanic community, but it's not just the Hispanic community that's being terrorized by this organization. I participated in NICTD strategic planning session. I was interviewed over the phone because I couldn't make their first meeting. They had a lot of questions in regards to the gateway station and how I felt about it as Mayor, the south Hammond station, and the problems that we may run into down there, and also in the downtown Hammond station. Last I heard, the train is getting delayed again. I heard the first of the year is getting pushed back. I'm not from the South Shore, but that's what I heard. It's important to us because we can not begin work on the downtown Hammond train station until that train rolls down a track under it's own power. So we're waiting for this to begin so that we can begin work on the

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-downtown Hammond South Shore station. I participated in the Northern Indiana Professional Sports Development Commission meeting with the owner of the South Bend Cubs. Very cool. We had a Q and A in regards to the process involved with the purchase of the Cubs by this gentleman and their transition from where they were to where they currently stand as one of the most successful, I think it's single a franchises in the country. It's real good attendance every single night. It's interesting to see how they took, really a dilapidated part of South Bend and transformed it around a baseball stadium. I thought it was really neat. I want to thank Representative Earl Harris for developing this commission. I'm not sure I'm always going to be Hammond's appointee. I started off as it but it may be too busy for me and I might try to find somebody else, but it's pretty cool what they're talking about. They're really trying to get some type of franchise to locate in Northwest Indiana, be it Rugby, be it Women's basketball, be it baseball, whatever. It's just pretty interesting. Earl Harris, his father, this was his idea back in the day, it was about the Bears and Earl Jr. got it passed and we're moving forward so it's pretty cool to see. I met with Shift 3 Firefighters in the Central Firehouse, all the B.C's, A.C.'s, and the Chiefs. I met with Dr. Amy McCormack of Calumet College of St. Joseph regarding an update on their Lilly Grant campus project as well as an update on their enrollment numbers. They're doing very well. It's really nice to see CCSJ and PNW both are doing really well population wise and a lot of people are afraid of what the enrollment cliff is going to do to higher education and our 2 universities are doing well so far. I think that's great. Last but not least, I met with Mr. Don Andres, the owner of the downtown Hammond Mexican restaurant who wanted to meet about all the construction downtown and all the effects it's having on his business. He's a great man. He's been in the business for a long time in our city and they're being devastated right now, so it was a good meeting. We're trying to come up with some issues. Obviously we don't want to see that business go out of business. We do have a couple of other issues I wanted to bring up, and one of them we're going to talk about later. The Renaissance remodel, I'm just going to hold my comments on that until we bring that up, but there's one thing I wanted, I know Councilman Woerpel and I have been talking about it. Councilman Barry, I didn't get a chance to talk to you about it yet, and it's the old Wal-Mart and the issues we've been having in the parking lot over there. It slowly but surely turned into a semi trailer parking lot and then you're getting people that are moving their RV's there and they're cooking out and they're living in the parking lot. I drove through and I felt like I was in California and that's not a compliment. I saw some things that you shouldn't have to see and we immediately cleaned it up. We are ticketing, towing, I made contact with the owner of the property. He said that should not be happening in my parking lot, and Hammond Police Department has been kicking butt and taking names over there. We cannot let that part of our city, we have a couple hundred million dollars going in, in new economic development over there and they're trying to turn it into a truck stop. It's not going to happen. We're on it and I just wanted you all to know, and I'm sure you've noticed the increased enforcement over there. I have other comments about the situations we're going to talk about and I'll just save my comments for that if you don't have any other questions.

Council President Woerpel- I know Mayor when we talked about that, I've been by there a few times and there's a squad car out there everyday, and it's really cleared up the problem over there.

Mayor McDermott- We had to, it was bad. There was probably10 semis, a couple RV's that hadn't moved in weeks if not months, parked permanently. We gave them one day to get it towed and they had to work on it for most of the day just to get it so they could tow it out. They had been there for awhile. Anyway, if you don't have anymore questions, I'll save my comments.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Tyler- Thanks for that Mayor, just one question. Do we think the fines and penalties are high enough for that?

Mayor McDermott- Honestly Councilman, I think anytime you ask me that question and I'm going to say no because, first off, it's ruining a part of our city if that's allowed to happen and that's probably something we should talk to the PD about, but I would be completely open minded on that. I don't think you'd find too many Hammond residents that would disagree that either, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler- I know that we increased the fine, right, for the truck routes too, right, so I don't know if that's been a deterrent or not.

Mayor McDermott- It does seem better than it was. We were getting killed for awhile. I mean, on the side streets when we did that. Semi trailers going through our city is discouraged, Councilman, if you wanted to deter it by raising the fine, I would totally support that.

Councilman Tyler- Great, thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you. I'll see you guys in a few.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes of September 22, 2025 minutes and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, move to approve the claims from September 23, 2025 through October 8, 2025. Claim #8572 through #9294, inclusive. In the amount of $15,554,802.07.

ROLL CALL VOTE
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

25-23 2026 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

25-24 2026 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

25-25 2026 Hammond Sanitary District Budget Proposal

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

George Stoya- I don't know how we can have public hearings on ordinances that have yet to be introduced. It's a bit premature, wouldn't you say? I mean it's, I don't know how it's properly before you if it hasn't been introduced. How is anybody going to discuss anything if we don't know what to discuss? You got me at a loss on this one. I don't know how you reconcile that. It's highly irregular and I believe it nullifies this deliberation. I don't know how you guys, I don't know how you can do it, anyway, it's crazy.

Lissette Montanez- In regards to the budget, I didn't prepare anything, I glanced over it, but I understand that there is a freeze that has been held for the police and hiring and one thing I just want to mention is that while there are budgets that need to be made, whether it's at state level cutting, and here, there are ways and there are funds that are available for our police department that have not been shared. While I believe it was 2023 that they changed the law that allows the TIF funding, the tax increment finance money that is supposed to be shared with schools, they did extend that to police officers within our state about 2 years ago. So when I hear things like, we're gonna freeze this or whatever form that would get you guys to make a motion on something that could hurt our community with food taxes and wheel taxes and data center agreements that also popped up the way George just described it, I would think you guys could weigh in on some of these things. The funding that is set aside from the municipal, for the tax, you know, a lot is going in redevelopment and there's a lot of sources going into redevelopment but we also have to stop and think, what else, what other entities can benefit from, you know when you redevelop, you're gonna need a strong police force. When you redevelop, usually people buy houses because they want schools, and so when there's TIF funding that can be extended to schools, and years when schools have been consolidated, not too long ago, and then we come to find that, there's funding made available in our state with that exact funding, that we actually don't have any transparency on. I don't know if you guys have it, because I don't see many questions on TIF funding and that's never discussed, but yeah, it's something that needs to be a little more transparent, the funding, a little bit more broken down and I think you guys have heard that before December 31st of 2022, you know, and so um, these funds, it seems like everything is going towards redevelopment and we need to make sure that all the other entities are strong enough because they are also entities that create revenue for our city, and a thriving school district is does create revenue for the city and police (?), it's needed when you're redeveloping at the speed that you are. I just want to say that when considering the budget, instead of all this fear mongering we have going on, not just in Indiana, why not, um, why not look it over, look over the numbers and when there's times that the state is redoing their budget, we should also be a little bit better with you know, these bonds, and things that are being approved, because you're going to tax my community, ours, out of their homes, and they voted on each and everyone of you to represent them, so please ask questions. I want to thank my Councilman for always asking for questions and don't be afraid to ask because we count and we vote for you to represent us and make the best decisions. There has to be a balance, you know, so that is all, thank you guys.

Mayor McDermott- Just to clear up a misconception from the last speaker, we enacted a hiring freeze, a month ago, a month and change, I was immediately approached by police and fire. Police and fire said Mayor, we made commitments to, we have a class, this is police, we have a class of 9 recruits in the academy right now, how do we approach them? Are they fired? I'm like no, we made our commitments to those 9. They're going to complete the academy, we're gonna hire them. They said, we also identified around 10 new officers that we've already extended offers too, to go to the academy are we going to rescind those offers and I said no, we made a commitment to those 10 officers as well. They're going to come in to the Hammond Police Department. We committed to close to 20 officers. 10 in the academy now, 10 in the future. We made our commitments to all of

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- them and they're all going to get hired so long as they finish the academy. We had the same kind of situation come up in the fire department and we made the same agreement. I don't know where this lady gets her information from but that's the facts. If you have any questions on that, I'm here. I have been in the Council meetings for the last 22 years and I have to say, I've been asked millions, well thousands of questions from you over the years, so the fact that you didn't have one today, doesn't mean that you're not doing your job in my opinion. Do you have any questions, because I'm here. We have the budget with raises. Obviously we're all afraid of SB-1 and what it's going to do to our budgets next year. There's no answers. This is a current fact, we already lost 15 million dollars in gaming to the Hard Rock Casino, already. We're probably going to lose more when they build their convention center, so let's just say another 5 million goes to Hard Rock, so that's money that's gone already, and it's probably never going to come back, hate to break it to you. SB-1 is going to take another 15 million from us, so we're going to suffer a 30 million dollar revenue blow in the course of about 5 years and we're still ticking right now. We're not doing as much road work as we used to because that's what the gaming money covered, right? So we have contractual commitments to our unions, and they had big raises in the first couple of years, and their raises are settling down now. So we are faced with this prospect, police, do you remember what the amount of police raises was Megan, this year?

Megan Moore, City Controller- 3.5 for police

Mayor McDermott- 3.5 for police, and then fire was 1 percent lower?

Megan Moore, City Controller- 2.

Mayor McDermott- So police 3.5 percent pay raises this year. The fire, 2 percent because they were negotiating other things that was important to them. And then the teamsters are getting 2 also. So these all were contractually written raises built in. The only people that didn't have a contract were the people who work in City Hall, like staff for the Council, staff for the Clerk's office, staff in the Mayor's office, people at Public Works that are not union, right? So, by the way, those are 100 percent Hammond Residents. All those other departments I'm talking about, a lot of out of towners getting big raises. The ones that actually live here that aren't union, I didn't hear it from you guys, I heard it from some people, that they need to get zero. Like what? I'm gonna give 10-15 percent of City Halls population zero to make you feel better, but we're going to pay out our contractual raises out in the unions? That makes no sense. So we decided to give everybody 2 percent. That was the rational behind it. I have contractual obligations for the unions, but that's the employees that aren't covered are the ones that work in this building and we decided to give them 2 percent pay raises. I don't think that's abusive. I don't think that's too much. The inflation rate this year is probably going to be 3 percent so they're losing money this year. Any other questions? Police and fire account for 2/3 of our spending. 65 million dollars. 38.8 million dollars on police, and 25.7 million on fire. That's 2/3 of our budget goes to police and fire. I don't want to hear this nonsense about us underfunding the police. That's nonsense. That is complete and utter freaking nonsense. Hammond spends 2/3 of it's money public safety. I don't know where she gets that information from but it's false and I'm not going to sit here and let somebody come up here and lie.

Lisette Montanez- Sir

Mayor McDermott- I'm not, you're done.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Council President Woerpel- Ma'am this isn't a debate.

Lisette Montanez-Don't insult me. He misunderstood.

Council President Woerpel- This isn't a debate. This isn't a debate.

Mayor McDermott- Go sit down, you're in the Council Chambers.

Lisette Montanez- if you want to address me, address me, I'm right here.

Mayor McDermott- I'm addressing Government. This is government.

Lisette Montanez- I mean, if you have a question, I'm here.

Mayor McDermott- Any other questions?

Councilwoman Alexander- I know we talk about this all the time, and we talk about it especially during budget time, how are we going to continue to sustain, coming up with those creative ways and hopefully as we get through this process, we'll look into other ways of being able to sustain, but at the same time, figuring out how we can get rid of those overheads that we already have because I do know that we have some kind of debts and how we can get rid of those, so just so we can continue to have those conversations.

Mayor McDermott- Yes ma'am, totally agree, appreciate that, and I know there was some talk about TIF, that's where most of our debt is, is in the TIF District, so we bring in a project like Munster Steel, and then we add the issue around 6 million dollars of debt at the time, and we put it in the TIF District, and it's paying itself off, it doesn't cost the residents money. It's a TIF District. The money that Munster Steel brought in, pays off the debt over time. That was a project a long time ago, and that's almost paid off, but when we bring in, since I've been Mayor, the City of Hammond's assessed value has doubled. Councilman Mark, you've been with me every step of the way. Since we've been in office together, we've added 100 percent of assessed value to the City. A lot of that occurred through TIF Districts. If we didn't have TIF Districts, we couldn't get these deals done, we couldn't bring in Lear seeding and relocate it without TIF money. Those are jobs. Hutamaki, those are jobs, people work there. Without TIF money that project is dead in the water and it goes off to some other place that's willing to use TIF. So you have somebody that doesn't know what they're talking about, talking to you about TIF. It's nonsense, so I'm not going to sit here and take it. I'm just not. This is too important. We've lost too much money for somebody to come up and utter nonsense. 30 million dollars, I can tell you that, that's what we're losing. 30 million, I know you guys know that. I'm talking to the audience that's watching us right now. We got tough decisions, and I know you know that, and I appreciate it. I think this is a good budget. It's not exorbitant. There's not huge raises built in. We're maintaining our staffing. We're maintaining our commitments to public safety. That's really where it's at right? So thank you guys.

Council President Woerpel- This is more of a comment than a question, and I've already told Megan this, I've skimmed through the budget, without going into a deep dive in it, and other than the contractual raises, which are already intact, when you look at it, there's a lot of areas where the budget has actually gone down, and I

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Council President Woerpel cont. - commended Megan for that, and I saw it here with the Sanitary budget too. Just looking at the page they gave us is about a million dollar savings.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir, and by the way, I'm sorry Councilman.

Council President Woerpel- No, it just, I get, I mean, we all signed up for this, and it's an understatement to say you get tired of getting lied about and told you're not doing your job, but from what I've seen, there's a lot of areas where the budget has gone down, and what's being allocated for 2026, so I commend you guys for the budget you turned in. We'll have more time to talk about this in our

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Woerpel, I also want to point out, that State Board of Accounts was just in a couple weeks ago, I know there was Councilmen that went to the audit with us, we got glowing audit results. We're doing everything the way you're supposed to be. We're spending the money exactly how you're supposed to be. Our problem is we're losing 30 million dollars. 1/5 of our total revenue. I mean, how many places can absorb a hit like that? That's what we're absorbing, and we're going to try to come out the other side and we're going to try to come up with answers, but right now, in my family, this $300 tax credit that I get under SB-1, is going to cost me $2000 plus a year as a family with Marissa and I. We save $300, thank you Governor Braun, but because cities like Hammond are going to have to turn around to fund governor operation and pass a 1 percent income tax, that $300 is history to me, and I'm gonna have to pay a couple thousand dollars to the City of Hammond. What's the alternative? What's the alternative if we don't do that next year? The alternative is massive layoffs to police and fire. That's not a scare tactic. 2/3 of our money goes there. If we don't bite the bullet like the Governor wants us too, next year, if we don't bite the bullet, you're going to be looking at

Mayor McDermott cont-your police officer and fire friends and wondering which ones are going to be here at the end of it. That's one year from now. We've been getting ready, but that's one year from now. There's no answers guys, and it's not your fault, it's not our fault, it's the Governors fault. The guy passed a law, he doesn't even know what it's about. That's his fault. He can't even tell us how much we're going to lose, he can't tell us how much we're going to gain if we pass a tax. All he wants is the, I did that $300 credit. Good job, Governor. Good job. You're ruining the finances of every city and town in Indiana for a $300 tax credit that's going to be eaten away by food and beverage tax, wheel tax, municipal income tax, because we have no alternative, unless we want to lay off police and fire. We worked hard on this. I know you guys know that. I'm frustrated because I know it's coming. Then there's people feeding misinformation out there. It's very maddening.

Councilman Tyler- I just wanted to share that, I've been in office for 6 years now, and there's still a lot about TIF's that I don't understand, so I know that there's probably a lot of people in the public who don't have as much information as us, that are probably trying to make sense of it, and I'm not saying that like that is the savior of what we're trying to do with our budget here, but I know I would benefit from more information, just about how our TIF's work, operate, and as well as like in general. I know I'm going to schedule some time with Megan to dive deeper into the budget like you guys suggested. I just want to thank the administration for being so open to having those conversations and to share that information with us.

Mayor McDermott- Sure, you're one of our bosses, Councilman.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Councilman Tyler- We just want to learn just like everybody else and there's a lot that's changing at the State, Federal, level, so.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate that, absolutely. I think that the more the Council members learn about TIF, the more you'll be horrified at the talk at the State House about how TIF is this evil thing. It's insane. If we didn't have TIF, we couldn't have brought in a billion dollars worth of new economic development. We couldn't. We would have lost a lot of those projects because we can't compete with Crown Point. They want to go to Crown Point or Hammond, let me tell you what the difference is. It's money. If you want to beat out Crown Point or a community like that for a project, you gotta have more money because Crown Point beats us in a lot of other categories. So if we're not willing to ante up, we're going to miss these big opportunities. That's just facts. I appreciate you guys, sorry I got emotional.

Councilwoman Alexander- Just one last thing, kudos to Megan and her team for working so hard on the budget. Like President Woerpel said, I did notice the cuts and things like that, that were changed in there, so kudos to that, so back to what I was saying before, continue to find those gray areas that we can save to help us is what we're always looking for, so thank you guys.

Mayor McDermott- Yes ma'am, thank you, Councilwoman.

Councilman Tyler- Just one more thing, I know you all, your administration, for whatever reason, catches flack when we go after grants, matching grants, or to do street repairs, or for park improvements, whatever it is, and I think to Councilwoman Alexander's point, I think those are ways that we're trying to save residents money and try to use the resources we have in a more responsible way. I know that Dean in Engineering, and Jim in Parks, they do a great job of trying to find the sources out there that we can utilize as a municipality, so, I just wanted to share an appreciation for that too. I know for anybody that's watching, just know that we've had this conversation several times too just in terms of the different innovative ways that we're trying to be able to improve the quality of life for our residents and the State and Federal government are making it extra harder on us and we still have to, so there are things that we have to do, that we might not want to do, and also things that we are looking in to do that for whatever reason the public, there is this misunderstanding or misconception about why we're doing that or how we're using those funds, and I don't know where Councilman Tyler cont.- the bridge is. I know as elected officials, we have a lot of responsibility in terms of how we get that information out. At the same time, it's a bit of a 2 way street and just trying to figure out ways to improve communication from our point of view across our districts, I think is something we might want to take a look at too.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman.

Council President Woerpel- Anybody else? Just to touch on what he said, I do know on 2 things, like, I think people forget, take the County for instance, they froze our tax levy's until we enacted a County income tax. We passed a wheel tax, and we had to have a wheel tax before we could apply for certain road grants. I don't think the public understands that. One of the road grants we get is Community Crossings, and it does a lot of work. It did 169th St, 173rd, Columbia Avenue this year, and that was all Community Crossings, and I believe we wouldn't have qualified for that had we not passed the wheel tax, correct? So I don't think that people understand that it ain's as simple as hey come here and get this money from us. You gotta qualify for it and I'm

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

Council President Woerpel cont. - not saying it's wrong, but the State a lot of time says, don't come to us for help if you're not willing to help yourself, and by that they mean, if you don't have a wheel tax or whatever then don't come crying to us that you're broke. That being said, does anybody else wish to speak on these 3 issues? Hearing none, Public Hearings are closed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- I just want to announce that Saturday, October 25th, from 4-7 pm, Hope Angels is hosting their annual Pink event. This one is titles Faith in Fire. It's a fireside chat with special guest Roland Parrish. This will take place in Hammond Central in the Dr. Walter J. Watkins Black Box Theater. Tickets are $25 and all the proceeds go to Hope Angels Fund which is supportive of those experiencing breast cancer or survivors of breast cancer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY AND CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:
Wed., Nov. 5; Edison Community Watch; Edison School; 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues., Nov. 4; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave,
Hessville Crime Watch; Thurs., Oct. 16; HC3 Community Center; 6 p.m.
Irving Community Watch; Tues., Nov. 11; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School
Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., Nov. 13; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Councilwoman Venecz- There has been a lot of really good information that has been given at these meetings as of late because this is fire prevention month and we've had firefighters there. Please come out, find out ways to protect you and your family because community is not just about me, it's about us. Thank you Mr. President.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas - I want to announce that the Capital Improvement Board met on October 6th, and during that meeting we had 9 Funding Allocations:

FUNDING ALLOCATION #284- Hohman Ave Reconstruction Phase 2- American Structurepoint Construction Engineering- in the amount of $493,685.37

FUNDING ALLOCATION #285- 165th Street and Stateline Improvements Change Order Nos. 1&2- Gariup Construction- in the amount of $20,284.65

FUNDING ALLOCATION #286-Road Safety Audit Hohman at Gostlin Street NIRPC- in the amount of $1,806.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #287- Stricken from the record, no action taken.

FUNDING ALLOCATION #288- Evaluate Electrical System at Dan Rabin Plaza- Hawk Enterprises- in the amount of $6,643.14

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD cont. -

FUNDING ALLOCATION #289-Pavement Patching- Site Services- in the amount $17,925

FUNDING ALLOCATION #290-Hohman Ave Reconstruction Phase 2 Change Order No 1- INDOT/Milestone Contractors LP- in the amount of $3,210.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #291- Fayette Street Curb Change Order No 1- Stamped Concrete Parkway H3- in the amount of $10,780.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #292- Columbia Avenue Resurfacing- Milestone Contractors LP- in the amount of $33,366.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #293- Little Calumet River Pedestrian Bridge Change Order No 2- Gariup Construction- in the amount of $36,833.58

Council as a Whole- Council President Woerpel Brought out- 25-18, 25-19, 25-20

ORDINANCE 3rd READING- FINAL PASSAGE

25-18 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #3397, Fund #3398, Fund #4683) for the Municipal Food and Beverage Tax Funds

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

Councilwoman Venecz- At the recommendation of our Controller, we are adding new line items to the municipal food and beverage tax to our budget. 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. 9680 PASSED

25-19 An Ordinance Designating New Funds (Fund #2249, Fund #2250) for the Municipal Excise Tax and Concurrent Wheel Tax Funds

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

Councilwoman Venecz- Once again at the urging of the Controller, we are establishing new line items for the municipal

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

ORDINANCE 3rd READING- FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Councilwoman Venecz cont.- excise tax, and the wheel tax.

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. 9681 PASSED

25-20 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #2493, Fund #2494, Fund #2495) for the FY2026 Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIIRP) Grant Funds

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

Councilwoman Venecz- Once again at the urging of the Controller, we are establishing new line items for a grant that we received in the amount of $51,750 to the Hammond Police Department. There are several programs that this money will go to. The goal is the prevention and reduction of traffic injuries and or fatal crashes through seatbelt enforcement, speed enforcement, and impaired driving enforcement. Another goal is to increase safety of pedestrians and bicyclists by reducing the injuries and or fatalities. Also, the goal is to aid in the safe transportation of school age pedestrians at school pick up and drop off locations by making sure drivers do not go around the stop arm.

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. 9682 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-23 2026 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

25-24 2026 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz- I believe we all received the Redevelopment changes. Caryn Janiga, thank you for spelling everything out so clearly. The main difference is the salary of the Economic Development Director and the TIF Program Coordinator, we had to change things around a little bit at the urging of the Controller. So that was the difference. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- For all of the budgets unless it was otherwise agreed upon in the union contract, everybody got 2 percent raises. It's consistent across government. Sanitary District, even though a small part of the Sanitary District uses property taxes, they still follow the City's lead in that. Water Department, which is completely profitable, still follows the City's lead. Good times, and bad times, we're one team. You're not going to see any raises outside of 2 percent or union authorized pay raises.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

25-25 2026 Hammond Sanitary District Budget Proposal

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz- Mr. President, I spoke with Rachel this morning, there was a slight reduction in the budget, it had to do with repairs and maintenance and that was the answer that I received, thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

25-26 2026 Hammond City Officials and Employees Salary Ordinance

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

25-27 2026 Hammond Police Officers and Firefighters Salary Ordinance

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

25-28 Authorizing Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Salinas- This is part of a 27 million dollar investment from LM Development partners, who are the owners of the Renaissance Towers and Apartments on Michigan and Sohl. This is an agreement that would authorize payments beginning in 2027. They would begin at 93,000 dollars over a period of 30 years and increase of a rate at 3 percent. This is an upgrade to 450 units including both senior living facility towers. As Councilman of the 2nd District and being there in that area with the residents, this is an area that needs upgrading. This gives us that opportunity. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate Councilman Salinas comments and I agree 100 percent. I appreciate the fact that there's a 23, probably closer to 25 million dollar investment in the Renaissance. There's 1,000 people that live in those units. They're old units and some of the residents that live in those buildings are financially challenged, so I appreciate the company stepping forward. This redevelopment project will be lead by Renaissance Preservation LLC and their Preservation Division, Cena Affordable Communities. I appreciate them stepping up with this project. I think it's important. PILOT agreements are made in lieu of taxes. Payment in lieu of taxes. It's one of my favorite words. You hear our President say his favorite word is tariffs, one of my favorite words is PILOT. PILOT's come with places like the Sanitary District that doesn't get taxed, but they give us money to help us with our budget because they don't pay property taxes, so the fact that this project includes 3 percent escalating PILOT payments to the City of Hammond and invests 23 million dollars into the building, upgrading the lives for 1,000 residents, I think that's a great project. I appreciate Councilman Salinas' comments.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

25-29 An Ordinance Enacting Proposed Amendments to the System of User Fees for the Operation and Maintenance of the City Storm Water Systems

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee for October 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor McDermott- For full transparency, this is asking to raise the storm water fee from $7.75 a month to $9.00. An extra $1.25 a month with all of our rate payers, adds up to about a million dollars a year in extra revenue that the Hammond Sanitary District has agreed to pledge to the Capital Improvement Boards so that we have an extra million dollars to the Capital Improvement Board which I know that there's a number of Council people that sit on to help us fund storm water projects. Almost every Councilman I'm looking at right now has been affected by storm water projects over the last couple of years in their district. These are the kinds of things that aren't going away, and this money is a small amount of money that could help us try to combat this problem. It's small, it's a million dollars a year, and I know that you guys took notice of the fact that Sanitary District budget dropped. I imagine that dropped in anticipation of this new revenue source going directly to CIB because that line item they got rid of was for repairs and maintenance which is what this is going to do. There's an escalator built in, where it goes up a little bit every year up until 2029. If this is passed, and it's escalated, if you look at Hammond's total utility billing, we'll still be the lowest in the state, even if this rate goes in, we have communities that are 3 times higher than us in total billing. This is the kind of thing communities do to help them battle floods. I think it's time for us to start getting more serious about this. I know I'm preaching to the choir because I know each of you has been affected by this and it's frustrating for all of us. If we want to battle it, we gotta put our money where our mouth is.

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, just a question, I know as a part of the ordinance it says that the fees were equitably spread across kinda residential, commercial, and industrial property owners. Can we talk? Can you just, maybe not you, maybe Milan can you just explain kind of like how it's equitable? What's the ratio, because I'm guessing the residents, the increase is not as much for resident's as it is commercial.

Milan Kruszynski- You're correct, Councilman. It's $1.75 as the Mayor said per month for the residential. It does increase more for the Commercial as well as the Industrial users as well. It's all depending on the size of your property. The size and the use.

Mayor McDermott- So a large Industrial complex is going to pay more because their property is larger.

Milan Kruszynski- Yes they will and we'll use Cargill as an example, they pay a lot more, yes.

Mayor McDermott- Makes sense.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Milan Kruszynski- It does.

Mayor McDermott- They're putting a lot more storm water into the system.

Milan Kruszynski- Right.

Councilman Tyler- And then just one more question, how did we get to the final rate of 15, how was that determined?

Milan Kruszynski- Over a 4 year period.

Councilman Tyler- Right

Milan Kruszynski- It'll raise incrementally.

Councilman Tyler- Just $1.25 increase over 4 years gets us all the way to the 15?

Milan Kruszynski- All the way through, right.

Councilman Tyler- Got it.

Milan Kruszynski- Yep.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- I got a question.

Council President Woerpel- And this is attached to the property tax bill?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir.

Councilman Salinas- So this is twice a year? Or is this monthly then?

Councilwoman Venecz- It's twice a year.

Mayor McDermott- It's twice a year. It's a monthly charge, but it gets paid twice a year when you pay your bill.

Councilman Kalwinski- Is there a way we measure how people are using that and putting out? I mean you don't have a measurement per se?

Milan Kruszynski- Again, it's based on the property size and use

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott- I thought we always heard it was the grates themselves and the more grates you have the more storm water fee, but that's sort of the same thing. If you have a larger parking lot, you would have more storm water grates.

Milan Kruszynski- You would have more storm water that we'd have to treat then, yes.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, good questions, thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Milan, just one more question, I know that during caucus you said that these rates haven't been raised in 10 years?

Milan Kruszynski- That's correct, yep. 2015 was the last time these were raised.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks for the great questions, I appreciate it.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion?

Mayor McDermott- I do want to point out one last thing, Mr. President, if that's alright. We gave you 2 graphs, one was the graph of just the storm water fees, and if you look at that graph, you'll see that Hammond, if we pass this by 2029, assuming all the rates stay the same, which is a horrible assumption, I think you're going to see a lot of these communities raising their rates as well. It has us not even, we're in the top 3rd in 2029 assuming nobody else raises their rates, but the important chart is the next chart which is the colorful chart, that's your total utility billing chart. I'm trying to find it real quick. That is studied across the State of Indiana. I want to thank Matt Muta of the Hammond Sanitary District for putting these numbers together and literally calling places like Lowell, Evansville, Fort Wayne, finding out what they pay in each of these 3 different categories in water, sewer, and storm water, putting it all on a graph and realizing that Hammond Residents have the lowest utility rates in the State of Indiana. Even if this is passed, we're still by far the lowest. Unfortunately, that's not going to hold once the Federal Government forces us to do the consent decree, then you'll see us join the ranks of everyone else at that point. That's a decade off hopefully. With President Trump in office, it could be 2 decades off, who knows.

Councilman Tyler- Mr. President, sorry, one more question, alright, just a comment, I know we had this conversation before too, because every time we I think go through like a rate increase, we talk about how we didn't necessarily need to increase rates back when we were bringing in

Mayor McDermott- 35 million dollars a year in Casino Gaming Revenue

Councilman Tyler- Right, but now that, that has changed, and I think with just the economy the way it is, and changes to your appoint federal and state government, like I'm the last person that wants to increase, you know, rates and taxes, and probably most of us feel that way here on residents. I don't want to pay an increase myself, but at the same time I know it's necessary to do the work that we need to do to protect our residents from, you

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Tyler cont. - know, everything that's taking place. We talked a lot about the rains, and the tropical storms that we get hit with and there's always flooding in my district and some of the other districts too, so I know that this will help address some of those issues.

Mayor McDermott- I know that, Councilman. When it floods our district and we're all looking at each other with that look on our face, like, I mean, this could help us battle that. That's all I'm saying, and I agree with you

Mayor McDermott cont.-Councilman. It's $1.25 a month, and I do try to keep that in mind. It seems like everything is going up, and it's going up for the Hammond Sanitary District and the City as well as your households, but I appreciate your comments.

Councilwoman Alexander- The copy of that chart wasn't in my box.

Mayor McDermott- I'm sorry, Councilwoman. We'll get it to you right away.

Councilwoman Alexander- Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Yep, I'm sorry. That was not intentional, obviously. We have 3 different graphs. I'll make sure you get all 3 of them.

Councilwoman Alexander- Thank you so much.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd Reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

25R-20 A Resolution Proclaiming October, 2025 as Polish American Heritage Month

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Tyler, moves for adoption.

Clerk Golec read the resolution in its entirety.

Councilman Kalwinski- The Polish American Heritage Month Committee of the Calumet Region celebrated it's 30th consecutive October celebration this past weekend here in Hammond at Pulaski Park with wreath laying, raising of flags, a dance group, a polish dance group that danced, sang, and recited poetry and also provided a bouquet of flowers for the Vice Consul General of the Republic of Poland Bernadetta Palka-Maciejewska who also presented a resolution at that time, and it was accompanied with a free polish, polka band at the park and

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski cont. - then the following day at Calumet City's Pulaski Park, there was wreath laying, a mass at St. Andrews, some speeches, flag raising, and then a banquet at the VFW in Calumet City where an older Polish dance group in costume performed as well as a banquet provided with food from the Cavalier Inn, so I want to thank the Polish American Heritage Committee for doing this again for the 30th year and I want to especially thank Thaddeus Jones and Treasurer Gerry Tarka, who's the committee head for providing generators to Hammond for power and we appreciate the brotherhood of the sister communities and congratulations to all Polish Americans as you celebrate Polish American Heritage month in October. Thank you.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

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. R20 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to introduce a new resolution.

25R-21 A Resolution of the City of Hammond Common Council Prohibiting the Uncoordinated use of City Property for Civil Immigration and Customs Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, or Operations Centers

Councilman Tyler- I just want to say that this resolution is in response to recent immigration law enforcement agencies coming into the city. Mayor, thank you for the work of you and your administration for holding them accountable. I know that we've had this conversation, once again, several months ago in terms of the uncoordinated efforts and putting a stop to that, so thank you for stepping up. In response, I thought it made sense for the City Council to pass a resolution in support of that. I will save us from reading it in its entirety, but I do want to highlight just 3 quick points, one that this is an attempt to protect the constitutional rights of every resident within the City of Hammond. We are trying to take proactive steps to maintain trust between our immigrant communities and local law enforcement and then lastly of course it confirms that our city won't stand aside and let immigration law enforcement use city property and resources in unapproved or unsanctioned efforts within our city. I know there's probably a few words that you want to share. I just want to say, thank you again.

Mayor McDermott- I want to say thank you, Councilman Barry, and to the Council Members, what happened last week, wasn't expected, and it was fortunate that we literally had a meeting the day before with the Hammond Police Department where we discussed in detail how we were going to approach I.C.E if they ever came to the City of Hammond. Then the next morning, it happened, and we were all on the same page. I want to thank the Chiefs of Police, the Hammond Police Officers that reported this quickly, and in their defense, they did leave the parking lot when confronted and asked to relocate to another part of the City. Councilman Barry, you hit the nail on the head, you know the Hammond Police Department has really gone out of their way in the

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - last 5 years to try to establish trust within our community and to build relationships within our community and I was afraid that if we, even just trying to protect these officers that are violating constitutional rights, of people who look of Hispanic origin, if our police officers are caught up in that viral video, all that trust that we've built up all these years, is gone in an instant. The Hammond Police Department, doesn't cover their faces. They make arrests and they respond, and they're responsible, and they respect your constitutional rights. I don't want anything to do with what I'm seeing right now. Pastors getting pepper balled, sprayed in the face, moms getting tackled because they're crying because their husbands are getting dragged off. This is unacceptable. The fact that they were on our property was uncalled for. There's a federal courthouse one block to the west, go to your

Mayor McDermott cont.- federal courthouse. Get out of our parking lot. Councilman, I couldn't agree more. I appreciate you bringing this up. I can't wait to sign it, and the Polish Heritage Month also, I'm looking forward to signing both of them. Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- I'd like to also say thank you to Councilman Tyler for bringing this out, and I'd like to be added on as a co-sponsor please. Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, can you just, there's been a lot of conversational line in terms of what rights

Council President Woerpel- Councilman Tyler, can I interrupt you for a second, because I actually have to take two motions on this. We have to take a vote on accepting a resolution under new and unfinished business, and you explained what it is, so Clerk Golec, can we get a roll call vote on accepting the resolution under new and unfinished business?

ROLL CALL VOTE (adding new resolution to agenda)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Council President Woerpel- In the case of 2/3's of the elected members of the Council people present, now we can vote on the motion after you finish your discussion.

Councilman Tyler- Thank you

Council President Woerpel- Under both motions of the resolution itself

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, what I was just, like I said, there's been a lot of conversation about what right we have as a municipality in terms of blocking the federal government from using our property, if city property, police department, city hall, is considered public property or private property, can you just kind of touch on that a little bit?

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- It's a good question, Councilman. First off, I think we all agree that if I.C.E pounds on our front door of our house, we have property rights at our house, we all know that, so the question is a good question, what rights do we have on City property? Can anybody use it, or do we have rights as the Council and the Mayor. I think we have rights, Councilman and especially with this resolution that you're proposing. I think it shows that the Council and the Mayor are on board on this issue and I think we have every right to say, not in this parking lot, but Councilman, you bring up an issue that's very timely because today there was a nasty rumor going around the City of Hammond that I.C.E. was staging in the Gavit High School parking lot. I happened to be home at the time I heard that, and I ran over there. I was there within 5 minutes, and there was 10 Federal Agents cars parked in the parking lot, and I'm like, oh my goodness, they're here, they're in Gavit parking lot, and we made sure there was nobody in the school, and then a car pulled up and 2 members of the ATF got out, and said, Mayor this is all our cars, we're ATF and we're executing a warrant in Hammond right now. I shook his hand, and I said thank you officer and I walked away. You know what I'm saying? The ATF, they're helping us. We have officers that help the ATF, the ATF helps us. The FBI, DEA, US Attorneys, State Police, County Sheriff, we support law enforcement. I think what we're saying today, Councilman, is I don't think what I.C.E is doing is law enforcement. I don't think law enforcement officers cover their face out of embarrassment so they can't be identified. I don't think law enforcement officers could just tackle people to the ground. If Hammond cops did that, I have

Mayor McDermott cont.- a feeling we would all have a problem with it. I appreciate that, and I think it's a great question. This may bring repercussions, I think we're all aware of that in this environment with this State Government, but I think it's well worth it Councilman. We have 40 percent of our population that's petrified right now.

Councilman Tyler- And we're not the first municipality to pass a resolution like this. I know there have been other ones that have been upheld so far.

Mayor McDermott- In Chicago.

Councilman Tyler- Yeah, in Chicago. I mean and I feel like there has been other places across the country that I think, California, as a state, there's been states who have passed things like this too.

Mayor McDermott- Yes sir, I agree with you, but in Indiana, we might be the first, but by the way Councilman, there's other communities that are already looking at this resolution as we speak, and I have a feeling, you're going to see other communities doing the same thing.

Councilman Salinas- One question, Mr. Mayor, so with these I.C.E agents concealing their identities, how does Hammond Police identify them?

Mayor McDermott- That's a great question, Councilman. I guess we have to trust the fact that they have police on their vest that nobody can go out and buy one.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Salinas- I've gotten calls of residents just scared that people walking the neighborhood, are they I.C.E. agents, are they not? How do you identify them? Do we just call the police? Do we have the police come out?

Mayor McDermott- We had a resident that did that to us, I'm glad you brought this up. The resident said, you know, called up the Hammond Police and said there's people parked out in front of my houses, they're sitting in a car and they've been there for like 2 hours. That's concerning anytime any of us see that out in front of our house, we're gonna call the cops. Cops show up, knock on the window, say what's going on in here, huh we're I.C.E agents, we're waiting for somebody. It's fact, and it's happening right now in Hammond. I don't know if he's a felon or not, and I don't even know if we can trust him anymore when it comes to that. That's why I think what you guys are doing is right on the mark. I really do.

Councilman Kalwinski- I received a text on the way here that I.C.E, and I didn't confirm it, but I.C.E was at Wal-mart in the Marina District.

Mayor McDermott- Ok.

Councilman Kalwinski- It would have been like 4 or 5 I guess.

Mayor McDermott- I didn't hear anything.

Councilman Kalwinski-Did you hear about it?

Mayor McDermott- No I didn't. I heard that they were on the Eastside today though, Councilman. So, if they were over on the Eastside and they're looking for somebody, you know how a lot of people are, people go from the Eastside to Robertsdale all day long. So if they're looking for somebody from the Eastside and they're in Hammond, or maybe they have a girlfriend that lives in Hammond or something, those officers are coming right over here. They don't respect state

Mayor McDermott cont.-boundaries like that. They'll be here. Hammond Police don't operate like this. I did ask him, I said, do you guys ever cover your face because that bugs me. I think it bugs all Americans to see cops that are embarrassed to show their face. The cop said there's one time we cover our face Mayor, and I said when? SWAT raids. Ok, you're going into a drug dealers house, I could live with that, right? These guys keep their face covered every day at work because they're embarrassed of what they're doing. It's embarrassing. It's not American.

Council President Woerpel- Any further discussion? (X2)

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman Barry.

Councilwoman Venecz- When is it appropriate for me to add my name to this resolution and if any others choose to do so as well? Do we have to wait until after it's passed or anytime?

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Council President Woerpel- No.

Councilwoman Venecz- Ok, I would like to add my name to the resolution.

Councilman Emerson- And I would like to add my name to the resolution.

Council President- Is that a yes, Dan?

Councilman Emerson- Yes.

Council President Woerpel- No I was looking at Dan. Dan's giving me the thumbs up.

Councilman Rakos- Yes, I will add my name as well.

Council President Woerpel- Me too, whatever, you know.

Councilman Kalwinski- Mayor, when you mentioned that we could face possible consequences, I suspect you were thinking what I was thinking, and that would be money from down state and projects and that kind of thing?

Mayor McDermott- Well, yeah. Yeah. I think we face the same kind of consequences because we exist though in this environment. So when this went down, Councilman Mark, first off, we were inundated as you can imagine, I'm sure the Council Chamber was, that was a busy day, and then I started hearing rumors from the Governor that he passed some executive order that forces us to comply with I.C.E. Yeah, executive order, eh, it's not law. Let's go, right? Executive order. I can live with that. You know, we're doing the right thing. If we're going to go to prison together, I'd feel a lot better with all you guys with me, I'll be honest with you, but if we're going to do something, let's do it for the right reasons. We're doing it for the right reasons right now. 40 percent of our population is being terrorized by these people. It's not right. Thank you, Councilman Barry. Thank you to the Council Members. I appreciate it. It's a good one. I appreciate you guys.

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Rakos, moves for adoption

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. R21 ADOPTED

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Gary Dreischorf- Foreign Local had a real nice event. It's gonna be great for Hessville.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Ryan Whitney- Speedway at 6845 Calumet Ave has a loud speaker that plays a message over and over 24/7. It's too loud and is causing a disruption in day to day lives.

George Stoya- I would like to restate my objections to the way these public hearings went. I don't think they were properly before this body for deliberation or otherwise. This is like budgeting by ambush. You guys do this every year that way nobody can contest anything. You don't release any information, but you tack on storm water user fees. This is authoritarian, not democratic.

Lissette Montanez- Thank you for asking questions about the TIF information. I know a lot of you care. Gaming is down, but we weren't going to live off that forever. We get a lot of good money from Water. Sportsplex was built with TIF funding, that's also profitable. Sometimes we cry broke, and other times we say hey, we're profiting. We need to find out where those funds are going. We can't just say every fund is going to the roads and sanitation or to college funding. It needs to be more transparent, that way when people cry broke, we need to re-evaluate budgets. I know the state isn't giving enough, but we need to do more to not put the pressure on our community. As far as the rate increase, he says it's $1.25, and then he goes off and says there is a yearly increase. She didn't even have the documents, she had to ask for them. That should not be happening. I'm familiar with union contracts. And thank you all for what you do and looking out for us.

Councilwoman Venecz, 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	12	27	9	23	14	28	11	25	8	22	13					
Katrina Alexander	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P					
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P					
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG						

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.

Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:35 p.m.
mg/cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk