

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 27, 2025 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Dave Woerpel presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Moment of Silence was observed.

#### ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

#### MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Nice to see you, Mr. President. Good to see the rest of the Council. This is my report for October 27<sup>th</sup>. I'm gonna keep it tight because I know we have a busy meeting. Along with Chief of Staff, Corporate Council and the Deputy and City Controller traveled to Indianapolis to meet with Bose, McKinney and Evans and our lobbying team, in preparation for the 2026 legislative session in Indianapolis. As you all know, Andy Miller has been representing our City for at least fifteen years. He's going to continue as the lobbyist for the City, which is good news for us. Andy has actually become the boss of that entire firm down there so we have clout in the hallways of Indianapolis with the lobbyist that we've had for a long time. So it's great to have him back. He's got a great team around him and they give us good briefings about what we can expect in the next legislative session. I held an internal meeting with my staff over a business in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District that wants to reclassify zoning. I talked to Councilman a little bit about this issue. I think we are going to follow that up. Attended the annual AIM Conference in French Lick. AIM is Accelerate Indiana Municipalities. I want to thank Councilman Salinas and Councilman Woerpel for attending also. While I was there and attended the conference, I also attended the Indiana Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting. Numerous Mayors from all around the State attended this session. We talked about SB-1, pretty much continuously. If anything made me feel any better is, I know that our Governor and our legislature is run by a supermajority of Republicans and I could tell you that the Republican Mayors are probably more upset than we are and I think ultimately that's gonna help us. There is a lot of consternation across the State of Indiana in both parties about the massive cuts that are gonna be experienced by our government in one year, by the School City in one year, by the County in one year, the massive overhaul that the Governor is proposing is not being met well by Municipal Elected Officials like ourselves. So, we talked a lot about that. I've heard about some possible fixes that are coming and I just understand that the Governor called the General Assembly back into Special Session today to redistrict so maybe while they're there playing with the lines, maybe they'll actually get some stuff done for the Hoosiers, you know, because we need answers on what we're gonna do in one year and to this point they still can not tell the City of Hammond or any other city across Indiana how much we are going to lose under SB-1, nor could

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - they tell us how much we would gain if we passed a Municipal Income Tax. We're flying blind and we have less than a year to make massive decisions, so it's not just us in this boat, you know, cities and towns across Indiana are dealing with these big time issues and questions. Also attended the Annual Volunteers Day Breakfast at the Dynasty Banquet Hall. It was well attended. It's a great event. I love that event. Just to see all the people that work so hard for our City, to give back to them is a nice thing. Also attended Hammond F.O.P.'s Back the Blue Event in Highland's Downtown Park. It was actually not just the Hammond F.O.P., it was Hammond, Highland and Whiting's F.O.P.'s. It was really cold out, it was a little bit rainy so it wasn't as well attended as they hoped but it was nice to go there and pay my respects to the people that keep our cities safe. So, that's my report unless you have any questions, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes from October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and place them on file.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to approve the claims from October 8, 2025 through October 22, 2025. Claim No. 9295 through Claim No. 9758, inclusive. In the amount of \$7,801,651.27.

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

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Salinas - Capital Improvement Board did not meet on October 20<sup>th</sup> so there is no report. Also, I will be bringing out Ordinance 25-28 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz :

Wed., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m. - Edison Community Watch - Edison School

Tues., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - Harrison Crime Watch - 6 p.m. - VFW on Hohman

Hessville Crime Watch - Thur., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> - 6 p.m. - HC3 Community Center

Irving Community Watch - Tues., Nov. 11 - 9:30 a.m. - Irving School

Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch - Thur., Nov. 13 - 6: p.m. - Calumet College

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz cont. - I'd also like to announce that starting Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> the Hammond Community Watch, the Hammond Urban Enterprise Association and Mayor McDermott will be offering a free Ring Doorbell Program. The ad will be in CR Publications, effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications will be taken through November 14<sup>th</sup> and there will be a drawing on November 25<sup>th</sup> to determine the lucky winners of the free Ring Doorbell. If anybody has any questions on that feel free to call me and please attend a Community or Crime Watch meeting.

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Will be bringing out 25-23 through 25-29.

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

25-23 City of Hammond 2026 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

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

Council President Woerpel requested that the Clerk add the following to the minutes before we take this vote. The City Council has received an objection to the budget pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-17.5. If the budget is adopted by the vote this evening I am requesting that a finding be made with the budget noting this objection and that any testimony made at public comment tonight regarding this budget be made part of the record.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: Kalwinski

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9683 PASSED

25-24 2026 Budget Proposal Hammond Redevelopment

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

Council President Woerpel requested that the Clerk add the following to the minutes before we take this vote. The City Council has received an objection to the budget pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-17-5. If the budget is adopted by the vote this evening I am requesting that a finding be made with the budget noting this objection and that any testimony made at public comment tonight regarding this budget be made part of the record.

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. 9684 PASSED

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

25-25            2026 Budget Proposal, Sanitary District of Hammond, Sewer Maintenance Fund 6208 (8201),  
Special Sanitary Debt Service Fund 3301 (8280)

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

Council President Woerpel requested that the Clerk add the following to the minutes before we take this vote. The City Council has received an objection to the budget pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-17-5. If the budget is adopted by the vote this evening I am requesting that a finding be made with the budget noting this objection and that any testimony made at public comment tonight regarding this budget be made part of the record.

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. 9685 PASSED

25-26            An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries and Wages of all City Officials and Employees of the City of  
Hammond, Indiana other than those fixed by statute or by Ordinance heretofore enacted, and  
fixing the effective date thereof

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

Mayor McDermott - For the record, it's 2% raises for all employees unless they are covered by a Union Contract that says otherwise. Quite frankly, I think that most of the Union Contracts agree with the 2%. One of them that's not is Police. The Police negotiated 3.5%, but that was negotiated by contract. But everybody else is pretty much at 2% anyways. So, I just wanted to point that out for the record.

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. 9686 PASSED

25-27            An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries and Wages of all Police Officers and Firefighters of the City  
of Hammond, Indiana other than those fixed by statute or by Ordinance heretofore enacted, and  
fixing the effective date thereof

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

Mayor McDermott - For clarification, the Police Union negotiated to 2026 a 3.5% pay raise and we all signed that contract and the Fire Department had other priorities during negotiations and they accepted to take 2% for



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

Mayor McDermott cont. - this year and we all signed that. It was different negotiating strategies by Police and Fire, that's why the numbers are different. Not that we love one more than the other. They just had different priorities, okay? For clarification I just wanted to put that on the record.

Councilman Kalwinski - Has that created any upset?

Mayor McDermott - No, sir. They literally had different priorities, Councilman. The Fire Department negotiated for things that were more important to them and the Police Department negotiated more for pay. That was the first time in my career that I've seen them brake off like that. But they both got what they wanted.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, can you remind me the annual residency bonus that they're getting. Is that in addition to, like initial hiring bonus too if they live in the city?

Mayor McDermott - It's in addition to this, Councilman. I'm trying to remember what that amount is. \$4,800 a year.

Councilman Tyler - They're both \$4,800. Okay, got it.

Councilman Kalwinski - And that's annually?

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir. That's what we do to keep our Police and Fire . Then you have the State law, right, to live anywhere they want. We give them that bonus as an incentive. We've been doing it since we took over twenty years ago, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski - And how much do we forgive on a home loan if they buy in Hammond?

Mayor McDermott - I think it's up to \$10 thousand now.

City Controller Megan Moore - It's \$10 thousand that's up front to their down payment.

Mayor McDermott - \$10 thousand to encourage Police Officers and Firemen to make their home in Hammond. So there's a lot of incentives and, by the way, we also do take home cars for Hammond residents, so we really try to take care of our Police and Firemen that live in the City.

Councilman Kalwinski - Does that apply to a rent subsidy if they rent in Hammond?

Mayor McDermott - No, you have to buy. I think we're doing pretty well, by the way. I know a lot of Police Officers that live in the City and it makes me feel better and, you know, I realize there's more that live out than live in but we have a pretty significant number that live in the City and I think if you compared us to the South Bend's of the worlds and like departments, I think we're doing well in the percentage that live here.

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

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. 9687 PASSED

25-28            An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana  
                    Authorizing Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for final passage.

Councilman Salinas - This is the payment in lieu of taxes agreement between the City and the Renaissance Towers Apartments. This is an agreement that will begin in 2027 for the amount of \$95 thousand. It will increase annually at 3% for a term of 30 years. This \$27 million investment will include all 450 units as well as both senior living facilities, both towers. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott - I appreciate Councilman Al for bringing that up. It seems like we get a lot of action in Downtown Hammond. This is .... there's another one that's following shortly, we're gonna be announcing soon. We did the bank and it's filled, you know, the Renaissance is right off Downtown. This is the largest affordable housing project, redevelopment project going in the State of Indiana right now and we'll be coming to you with another announcement shortly. It's, to me, the train line is what's giving the investors the confidence to invest in our Downtown. So, I think Councilman Al is going to be busy during this term. It's right on the border between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> District for Councilman Mark as well. So, I know that it was a long time ago we decided to give money to that rail expansion, but I'm telling you, we noticed a difference, especially, in Downtown Hammond with people that want to invest there. Raymundo Garcia of El Taco Real recently opened his EAT Restaurant for the weekends in Downtown Hammond. So we have another dining option. So, I think that we're heading in the right direction.

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. 9688 PASSED

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 final passage.

Mayor McDermott - If the Council chooses to enact this storm water fee, even after the full implementation of the fee, we'll still be the lowest, when you consider the combined water, sewer, and storm water, we'll still be

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

Mayor McDermott cont. - the cheapest municipality in the State of Indiana by a long stretch. You know, I think there's one thing that you could say with positivity is, Hammond, our water, sewer and storm water fees are the lowest in the State. Bar none. So, this is adding a little bit, it's a dollar and a quarter we're adding. So I think it's what, \$15 a year that we're adding right now and that \$15 a year with our residents will add up to be over a million dollars and Milan has already pledged that \$million from the Hammond Sanitary District to the Capital Improvement Board, which will help us with storm water repairs. And I know that there's a number of Council people who sit on the Capital Improvement Board and I know that an extra million dollars to help you out with all the needs that we have in the City, it will help us. So, I hope you consider this. Thank you, Mr. President.

Councilman Kalwinski - What might ... you're saying about a million will go to Sanitary. How much total are we anticipating getting from this fee?

Milan Kruszynski, Sanitary District Manager - The first year it will be a million dollars.

Councilman Kalwinski - So, pretty much all of it will be going to the CIB.

Milan Kruszynski - The majority of it will be going towards the CIB, yes.

Councilman Kalwinski - And after that, when it's more than a million?

Milan Kruszynski - Then it will still be a million each year to CIB, the Storm Water Department will then be able to use those funds to do other improvements in the storm water system throughout the City.

Councilman Kalwinski - Okay, thanks.

Councilman Tyler - Just one more question, Sorry Milan. But how much would you anticipate you guys are spending per year in repairs now?

Milan Kruszynski - Best guess, the storm water budget's right around \$4.5 to \$5 million dollars. So, a lot of that goes to the Sewer Department to help them out and then the rest goes to fix whatever sewers we need done throughout the City that end up breaking. Probably within the next week to ten days, when the permit comes back from the State, you're gonna see a bit of a closure at 150<sup>th</sup> and Calumet because another sewer has broken there.

Councilman Tyler - How much would you say you could be spending on repairs per year?

Milan Kruszynski - We don't have enough money. Really, in all honesty we have about 200 miles of storm sewers throughout the City. Which is along the curb line, basically, and it would be hundreds of millions of dollars to try to replace all that. So this is a fix in place, Councilman, as needed.

Councilman Tyler - What does this mean to residents?

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

Milan Kruszynski - Well, what we're hoping to get out of this is a lot of being able to attack and take care of the flash floods that we had this past summer. We have to, again, maintain those sewers, but we also have to repair them so the sewers have more capacity and then we could be able to accept all those flash floods and the hundred year rains every two or three years.

Mayor McDermott - You know, every month I get a report from Jack Smith, you all know Jack, Jack's in charge of the Sewer Department and he tells me, "Mayor, we got 25 miles done this month", and literally that's the purpose of the Sewer Department is to go out and vacuum out our sewers so that when we do have that big rainfall there's nothing there impeding the storm water going around. And I have to tell you, Jack's crew, they do a great job. They're regularly making progress. I forgot how long they told me it takes for them to get entirely across the City. Every five years. They start from one end and they work their way methodically through the City and then after five years they go back and they start all over again. But they literally ... that's one of the reasons when we have horrible rain storms that we're able to accept it and you go to other cities and you'll see a lot of the water is in the street. It's because their sewers are clogged and collapsed and, you know, if we do have a problem with the sewers, Jack's team will find it, tell Milan, and then Milan's got to have money in the budget to be able to repair it. You know, I remember one we had on Kennedy that was super expensive, right? That was a horrible one. You know, so sometimes you have those come along. That was the one where we had Kennedy shut down for two months. So, this is like he said. You know, I don't have to tell the Council this, for the last twenty five years that we've had gaming, you know, Councilman Mark would do a street back in the day and we had a lot more gaming money and Councilman Mark would come up with \$3 million and he'd do a whole block or he's do a couple blocks and part of that money that Councilman Mark spent his gaming money on back there covered water infrastructure because the Hammond Water Department didn't have enough money to do that. So we would just pay for it. And it would also cover storm water and other fees that the Sanitary District should have been covering but they didn't have any money either. So we're sort of estimating how much money we've spent over the years. Right now, we're sort of ... I know Dean in the Engineering Department is coming up with a number. We did this much since gaming came, we did this much work for the Water Department, we did this much work for the Sanitary District. But I think what we are doing now, I think Milan's million dollars is definitely help cover the cost that we incur covering for them. So, I think it's good. And Barry, it's a buck and a quarter first year. It's no fun, but it's a buck and a quarter.

Councilman Tyler - Yeah, and I wasn't questioning the need. I just wanted, you know, residents a lot of times ask, "We're raising this, where does the money go?"

Mayor McDermott - Any time we're raising rates, I have no problem being transparent, Councilman.

Council President Woerpel - I know when two projects, Schneider Street that we had to add sewers down the middle of it because of the flooding problem down the hill off 169<sup>th</sup>, and I know when we did Mahoney Drive just to attach the sewer there by, I think it's at 174th Street, it was about a quarter million that was added to those two projects.

Mayor McDermott - Right. And they have money in the Sanitary Budget that covers those emergencies that come up but that money runs out pretty quick too. Especially if it's a \$3 million hit.

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

Mayor McDermott - I can tell you guys with certainty, the Hammond Sanitary District doesn't have a lot of money. They don't. If you're asking me about the Water Department, the Water Department's in a different fiscal position, and they were broke for a long time. But the Water Department's definitely a lot ... and they don't use property taxes, which is why they're not here, but the Hammond Sanitary District, they're operating on a hair string budget right now. As you all know, we have big expectations from the Federal Government approaching us at the end of the next decade or so.

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. 9689 PASSED

Mayor McDermott - I want to thank the Council for working with Megan's Office and working with the administration to get that done. It's always a relief to get the budget done. So thank you very much. I appreciate it.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

25-30            An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the City of Hammond for Zoning Purposes and Amending Ordinance No. 8514 (An Ordinance Establishing a Zoning Plan for the City of Hammond including the regulations and maps to Administer the Zoning Plan in order to Provide for Orderly Growth and Development within this City, all in Accordance with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as Amended) for Property Commonly Known as 3518 Sheffield Avenue and 345 136<sup>th</sup> Street

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title, be referred to the Council as a Whole Committee for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. and Intent to Consider for November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Kalwinski - This is a new development in the 1<sup>st</sup> District on land that has been primarily under utilized and this development is an opportunity to put something there that makes sense given that it's right next to a lake and Lake Michigan is two miles away, for boats and RV's and I'm excited to see how this goes. The developer is eager to work with us. It's about twenty one acres. Seven of which is wetlands in two different locations on the property that will remain undisturbed. We're looking at a couple of buildings, one with a roof for the RV's and boats and another one that's enclosed, as well as a three story self storage facility. Both of those the developer hopes to break ground on in June of 2026.

Mayor McDermott - I echo what Councilman Mark's saying. I think this is a great project and a great location. It's land that's been underutilized for a long time. It's like a \$20 million investment. It's gonna be sightly. It's gonna have solar power. RV parking, I've learned recently, RV storage, is a problem in the region. Boat storage

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - makes total sense being close to the marina. I think this is a great project. So, I hope you guys strongly consider this.

Council President Woerpel - Any further discussion? All those in favor say Aye, all those opposed?

AYES: ALL

25-31            An Ordinance Vacating a 446.06 Portion of 125<sup>th</sup> Street lying East of the East Right-of-way Line of Gaspar Avenue and West of the West Right-of-way Line of New York Avenue in the 1400 Block of New York Avenue in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title and be referred to the Council as a Whole Committee with a 5:15 p.m. committee meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Kalwinski - This property is, while it says it's a street, it really is not a street. It never became a street, and so the college needs this vacated for their future development for a community park and a practice field and a trail. So, vacating this property will make all those things possible on property adjacent to the college, which is currently owned by Redevelopment and will be leased to the college by Redevelopment on a long term basis, I do believe.

Council President Woerpel - Any further discussion? All those in favor say Aye, all those opposed?

AYES: ALL

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council President Woerpel - Looking at the calendar here, our next couple of meeting don't really conflict with the holidays except Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Do we want to just go ahead and have that meeting on that day? Rather than moving around? We're all good? Sometimes we move it when it's real close to the holiday, but this is still three days away.

Councilwoman Alexander - I say we leave it.

Council President Woerpel - Leave it? Okay. We have one on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November but the 27<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving, so leave that one too?

Various Council Members - Yes.

Councilman Salinas - I'd like to make an announcement that there'll be a tree planting event at Irving Park this Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, sponsored by the Delta Institute and the Davey Resource Group. The event will take

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



## NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Salinas cont. - place at 9:30 a.m. The group will be meeting at the South Parking lot on Municipal Drive near the playground at Irving Park.

Councilman Tyler - I didn't see Mr. Salinas, Councilman Salinas, at my tree planning event this weekend but I'll be at yours, hopefully. But no, I just wanted to thank the Delta Group for coming out to Harrison Park this past weekend. I think we planted, maybe close to 40 to 50 trees. It was a great turnout, between 25 and 30 volunteers. It was perfect weather. We were done in less than two hours. So, I want to thank the Hammond Park Department and I'm looking forward to the tree planting event at Irving Park as well. So if you are free, please join us. It is a great time. Spend some time out in nature, plant some trees that hopefully we'll see within the next five to ten years, start to really grow and, of course, beyond that. But also wanted to announce that this weekend I was able to attend an event hosted by the Hope Angels Fund of Northwest Indiana at Hammond Central where Roland Parrish came back to Hammond and discussed his journey with battling cancer. So I wanted to just thank that organization for all the support they provide for people. Fighting cancer in our area and for Roland Parrish for sharing his story and for all he does for our School City and for our Civil City. I also wanted to announce that the Hammond Public Library is hosting a Halloween party Thursday, I believe, from 5 to 7 p.m., of course, here in Hammond. So if you all have little children that you want to bring they'll be some fun activities there as well. Then I just wanted to take a quick second and acknowledge a you man from the City of Hammond and give prayers and condolence to his family. One of my fraternity brothers, Dwayne Washington, who was the long time Director of the Hammond Boys and Girls Club, unexpectedly this weekend. He was someone who was a mentor to a lot of youth in our City and across Northwest Indiana. He was a great fraternity brother, he was a great young man. So I just wanted to send condolences to his family. Arrangements are still being made. Once we have more information I will share them, but really want to send heartfelt condolences to his family as his presence will be missed across our City.

Councilwoman Venecz - I neglected to mention the Jefferson Crime Watch. A newly formed group is going to meet at Jefferson School, Wed., November 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. So please come out, support the efforts of this new group and learn what's going on in your neighborhood.

Councilman Emerson - The Annual Vet's Appreciation Day will be held November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Parade in Hammond. It will go from Olcott Avenue down 173<sup>rd</sup> and Kennedy Avenue and there is a short ... Lima Lima will be there, a flight team, a flyover and American Legion and VFW's. There is a short Hammond Parks and Recreation number, you can call them, 219-853-6378 for information on Lima Lima Veteran's Appreciation Day Parade.

Councilwoman Venecz - I just wanted to remind everybody that the Hammond Police Department is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hammond Police Station on Douglas Street. This is a great opportunity, not only for the kids to dress up, but to come out and meet our police officers. Meet the people who serve and protect us and allow us to sleep at night knowing that they're there to protect us. So please come out. Bring your children. I know they will appreciate it and it'll be fun. The kids will get candy.



NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - I wish to express my regrets to our residents for moving forward with the public hearing on the City budget before the budget was readily available to the public at the last Council meeting. It may have been legal but it showed a lack of transparency on our part and the optics were dreadful. I would like to see, to be more transparent. I would like to see the Council put our agenda, ordinances and resolutions online before each meeting so the public can participate fully in the process.

Councilwoman Venecz - Councilman Kalwinski, have you checked with our I.T. Department. It seems to me that that would be rather labor intensive, particularly with a budget as thick as this is, or any other ordinance for that matter.

Councilman Kalwinski - I believe those discussions are worth having.

Councilman Tyler - Councilman Kalwinski, thanks for bringing it up. I meant to address that earlier. So I did reach out to our I.T. Department about getting those ordinances on the website at least as we get them. So just for the public to know, we get our packets usually Thursday morning, the Thursday before our Monday meetings and I was talking to our I.T. Department about the possibility of when we get our packets, them getting a copy and uploading it to the website. As of right now they feel like they can adhere to that request, but we're still in conversation to make sure that 1-If it's uploaded to the website it's done so in a place that is easily accessible for residents to find, as well as in the right format. So, I am hopeful that, like, we'll be able to figure this out, hopefully, within the next few weeks. So, for example. The ordinances that were up for consideration were added to the website. Like I said, I think we are still trying to figure out ... and Ray, thank you for your support in that. We're still trying to figure out exactly where they should list. The agenda was not listed so I think that's something ... that was a miss on my part. But I do think that we can figure out a way to get our packet out there earlier so that residents can see that in advance of our meeting. The other thing I wanted to discuss was it would be possible for us to list ordinances that we are considering for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final on the agenda as well. Clerk Golec, I'm not sure exactly what that would look like, because there could be instances where they aren't brought out for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final, but just wondering if that's a possibility for us to list the ordinances potentially available for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final on our agenda.

Council President Woerpel - I can address that part of it. That would be kind of tough because they have to clear Committee before they come out. I mean, I don't know.

Clerk Golec - The Clerk has no knowledge of when the Council will be bring them out for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Passage.

Council President Woerpel - As far as what you brought up. We have had some discussions with the Mayor's Office and I.T. and we need to work out the logistics of it. I know sometimes, you know, ordinances and resolutions are due by Wednesday but they're running a little late and then exception has to be made and we got to work out like, ok, what day will they be up, maybe Friday morning or whatever and it's just my understanding that I don't feel like anybody has a problem with it that I'm aware of, but we just got to talk with I.T. and Scott and the Mayor's Office to work out the details of it. But I don't see it being an issue.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Tyler - I appreciate that Mr. President. I didn't think that anybody had a issue with it. I just wanted to start the conversation so we could figure out, to your point, the logistics of getting it done. So, thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski - I appreciate Councilwoman Venecz's comments and I appreciate Councilman Barry Tyler for pursuing that with the I.T. Department and with Ray, and for your input as well with the Mayor. I think this is one of those things that will have to be sort of tossed around and see how it lands and it may take several different looks as we get to what is the best way to present this online. Thank you to everybody for wanting to pursue this and make it work. I appreciate that.

Councilman Tyler - Sorry, one more thing. The agenda are listed. Sorry about that. They are already listed on the website. So, I think to your point though, it is maybe just figuring about how we can list the ordinances under that agenda so people don't have to search in two different areas and they can find all the information in one place.

Councilwoman Alexander - I can also just share they are ways and could talk with I.T. about it, because there are certain ways that we do things even on our side in education with links. Because if you're posting a PDF version of it. You can actually post a legible link that could link to a file that's held in a drive somewhere. It can be accessed. So, that's something that they can take a look into as well.

Council President Woerpel - Before we move to Public Expression, while you guys were talking about trees being planted. I want to that the SCA and the Hammond Park Department because I took that tour of Oak Hill Cemetery about a month back and there's a story of Rimbach, from Rimbach Street, and his son, who was a Hammond Police Chief, on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the son, went to plant a pine tree out on his grave and when he was digging the hole he dropped over dead. When I heard this story I contacted the SCA and see if they could donate one more pine tree. So, almost 80 years later that tree was planted, a couple of weeks ago. So, we do plant trees.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Tom Kazmierczak - Councilwoman Venecz, thank you for remembering the Jefferson Crime Watch. Thanked the city for taking care of the truck parking problem at the old Walmart.

Robert Benoit - Representing the Hammond Alumni Association, which give scholarships to the graduating students at Hammond Central and Morton. There is plenty of funding but hardly any of the students are applying for the scholarships. The School City needs to do more to inform the students of available scholarships. If the numbers do not increase it will be opened up to the County level and Hammond will miss out on the opportunity.

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

AYES: ALL

2024 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	13	27	10	24	10	24	14	28	12	27	9	23	14	28	11	25	8	22	14	27				
Katrina Alexander	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	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	P				
Janet Venecz	P	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	P				
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	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	P				
Bill Emerson	P	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	P				
Dave Woerpel	P	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	RJG	RJG				

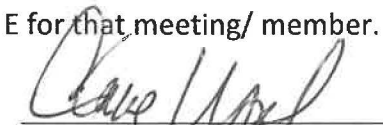
E=ELECTRONIC

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: 6:56

cb

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