

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on January 26, 2026 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Janet Venecz presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- Good evening President Venecz, Clerk Golec, Council, I'll be presenting on behalf of the Mayor tonight. First off, the meeting log, we met with Wes Lukoshus and Marie Herring about the future of the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame and this year's program. They should have some exciting announcements coming up that I can't spoil tonight. We had a meeting with Purdue and internally about Gavit. I know frequently people ask me about the status of the old school buildings in Hammond. We're working on a strategy that Purdue can turn that into an athletic complex that really would be nice for the city. We had a meeting on Veteran's Park. That's up where the data center's at. I also had an individual meeting with a Purdue student who's Senior Project is to actually help design better accessibility in green spaces up at Veteran's Park. Councilman Kalwinski, I sent her your contact information because she wanted to talk to you specifically. That's her senior project, and we're excited to support and see what she comes up with. The data center folks are willing to help sponsor improvements, so we'll see where that goes. I am President of the Hammond Development Corporation. We had a meeting over the past 2 weeks, and one exciting announcement we have is we will have a farmer's market going every single week this spring. We contracted with a company that does it through Chesterton, a couple other municipalities, if you've ever been to their farmer's market. It's really gonna be done well. It will be at the Dan Rabin Plaza. We're working on improvements with that, but this spring, we haven't picked a day of the week yet, but that will be coming soon. Another opportunity to drive people to downtown. Another cool thing about it too, for any of our residents that are struggling, with this particular farmer's market, they're going to have opportunities to have 2:1 or 3:1 match for their dollars if they have public assistance. So if they have \$100 on their card, they could be able to purchase \$200 worth of produce from our farmer's market, potentially even \$300. We had a planning meeting for Mayor's State of the City Address presented by the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, a reminder, that's this Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a ticketed event. The event starts at 11 with lunch served at 11:30. Mayor's going to come on at noon. We have sold over 400 tickets for this event. We moved it to the Sportsplex this year and part of that is for increased capacity because last year we had to turn people away. We have a larger capacity. It's going to be in the new soccer field section. It's our first try hosting an event there, but we want to kinda show off our facilities and it's gonna allow for more people to attend. If you're interested in an update on a certain professional sports team coming to our

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller cont.- city, you will definitely want to be there Thursday, so there's a little tease for everybody on coming to the event. We had a meeting about implementing some downtown Hammond parking rules. You know, having a lot of residents downtown, also sometimes brings challenges with it, so if you hear feedback from residents about that, we're working on it. We're working on getting better signage so when we need to plow like over the next couple of days, people aren't blocking up the areas that we need to plow. All of that's in process, we're working on it. We had a meeting with Pastor Polk about the Senior Living Center at Memorial Park. I'm not sure we've updated the Council on this, but essentially the group that was trying to get funding from the state, did not score high enough to secure funding for the Senior Living Center, so Pastor Polk is exploring H.U.D. and some alternative ways to acquire funding for that. That still is the plan. That is separate from the 28 or so residential lots. We do anticipate those will go up for auction this spring. Those 2 time lines are independent of each other. We held our quarterly inspections meeting. We pack about 40 people into Mayor's conference room, every single district supervisor in Code Enforcement comes in and reports back on what's going on in their district. No major news to report, just wanted to let you know that, that is a reoccurring meeting that we do to make sure things are moving the right direction. I met with Bev Hermovich about our AARP age friendly city designation. You might recall the Council about 6 months ago approved an application for us to be an age friendly city, so we are moving forward with that process. We have a separate intern who's working 20 hours a week for us in City Hall who is going to help us get this off the ground. That's her project this spring semester. I'll just say we've had several different meetings on potential developments across the city. Interest is at an all time high in our city. All of that continues to progress. I look forward to sharing that with you in the future. We have our first Mayor's Night of the year in the 1<sup>st</sup> this Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 at Lost Marsh. This Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> we have our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Commission on Disabilities Retreat from 9-noon at the Sportsplex. We're expecting twice as many people as last year, so have a lot of support for that. Next week we have our annual Black History Month Celebration from 10-11:30. This year it's at the Civic Center, not the Sportsplex, It's at the Civic Center. We will be honoring African American's who have been serving the community in the non profit organization space. That concludes all of my updates, I'm open to any questions.

Councilman Kalwinski- Access to the Vet Park, how will they handle that? It's gated now.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- It is gated but part of what we're trying to work through is, is that the best solution long term or not? The Illinois border is obviously not gated on the Illinois side. There's a little gate right now, that even if you call in, because anybody can call in, I don't know if everyone knows this, but if you pull up to the gate, you can call it in and they will open it for you.

Councilman Kalwinski- If they answer.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- True, if they answer, but then if you try to drive all the way to the flag pole, there's just a little gate, and sometimes it's padlocked, sometimes it's not, but we want to make sure that there's access, and we've done some of that ground work already that when the lots were divided up. There are pathways even closer to the lake, that are Redevelopment owned that are not part of any data center property. That's part of what her project is and being sensitive to the community, this was raised by some of our community members that they wanted to ensure that we maintained access and that property could be greened up some, look better. I've seen a concept that she can email you of what she's looked at but I'd love your feedback on whether you think it's practical or not or any other ideas, but we've talked about having appropriate plant life and species out

there MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller cont.-that would be somewhat indigenous to that area.

Councilman Kalwinski- Are the roads that go in there now, are they our city roads or do they belong to the data center?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- That's a great question, I don't want to mis speak. Do you know, Anne?

Anne Taylor- I believe the access roads, most of them are on HRC.

Councilman Kalwinski- Are what?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- On HRC.

Anne Taylor- Yeah, Redevelopment Commission

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- They've been receptive to few things. I went up there with my family to see the flag and I noticed, on the HRC property, they put up some no admittance signs and I let them know very quickly and they took them all down. Some of it may be some due diligence on our part to make sure that those things don't happen again, but they've all been removed. Any other questions?

Councilman Kalwinski- This has been a rough week for the Pulaski neighborhood. We had outages like 3 times. Has that been the case across the city? What can you tell us about any of that?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- I can tell you that it has not been across the city, that it has been primarily in the North Hammond area and that my understanding of 2 of the situations were transformers blowing up at the NIPSCO substation just south of Wolf Lake Pavilion. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one, I'm not aware of but 2 of them I understand were transformers. That's what I know about it. NIPSCO's not everybody's favorite right now and there's people pointing out, that hey we made complaints, and now all of a sudden our power goes out. I don't think anything like that happened. I certainly saw the postings online.

Councilman Kalwinski- Since we're talking NIPSCO and data centers, anything new about powering up and getting construction started on the data center?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller-We're holding firm to our 60 day deadline. We have noticed some good movement on it, but no signed deal to announce with the power agreement.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026 and place on file.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from January 7, 2026 through January 21, 2026. Claim #199 through claim #788, inclusive. In the amount of \$20,512,960.89.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Kalwinski- I've been notified that due to extreme weather and power outages, that the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association is canceling their meeting for tomorrow at the Mohawk Club, so if you know anybody going, please let them know it won't happen tomorrow. The reschedule is probably in March. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- The Capital Improvement Board met on January 21<sup>st</sup> and there were a total of 5 funding allocations. I will go through them now:

Funding Allocation #298- Little Calumet River Pedestrian Bridge Retainage- Gariup Construction- in the amount of \$2,027.99

Funding Allocation #299- Robertsdale Emergency Siren Supplemental Electrical Work- Hasse Construction- in the amount of \$5,494.50

Funding Allocation #300- Summer Street Construction- Supplemental Engineering- in the amount of \$50,000.00

Funding Allocation #301- Sheffield Storm Sewer Modeling- Donohue & Associates- in the amount of \$49,890.00

Funding Allocation #302- General Electric Services- Midwestern Electric- in the amount of \$50,000

COMMUNITY AND CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza will not meet until March

Edison Community Watch; Wed. Feb. 4; 6:30 p.m; Edison School

Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues. Feb. 3; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont.

COMMUNITY AND CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE Cont.

Jefferson Crime Watch; Wed. Feb 11; 6 p.m.; Jefferson School  
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. Feb 19; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center  
Irving Community Watch; Tues. Feb 10; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School  
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur. Feb 12; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Council President Venecz-As usual, I urge everyone to go to a Crime Watch meeting, find out what's going on in your neighborhood, meet some of your neighbors because neighborhood safety and community safety is what we're all about, so please come out, listen to some tips and learn something new, because community is not just about me, it's about us.

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

City Clerk Golec- The Clerk will read the introductions for item A and B, and item C on the agenda will be moved down to the new listing under 13, which comes under New and Unfinished Business.

Council President Venecz- Thank you Clerk.

26-02            An Ordinance of the City of Hammond Establishing Fees for Non-Emergency Lift Assist Services Provided by the Hammond Fire Department

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, and be referred to the Council as a Whole Committee for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

Councilman Rakos- We had a lively discussion before the meeting today, but this is something that I was approached by a Captain on Truck #4 last May, they're running across situations where residential care facilities and private ambulance services are abusing or over using the fire department vehicles for lift assists, or non emergency lift assists as it's called here in this ordinance. A non emergency lift assist is described as no reported observed medical emergency or immediate threat to life, limb, or property and no medical treatment, transport, or emergency intervention is required or provided. This specifically like I said is about the residential care facilities and private ambulance service. Regular residents who need that kind of assistance will still be taken care of without any kind of pricing like they always have.

Councilwoman Alexander- I know we asked a lot of questions during caucus time, and I'm glad Councilman Rakos is now putting this into committee, and I see Kevin is not out there, but just to put that on the record, just for point of clarification, that this is for facilities that call, not the residents that call them, in terms of the resident maybe in the facility, maybe they may make that call, so just trying to get some clarification on that if the resident calls versus the facility that calls.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Cont.

Council President Venecz- I think that is something that we will discuss in committee and get clarification on that. My thought is that if it's residential then that is certainly a point of need. For instance, we have a couple of senior buildings, that are independent living, and they don't supply or have medical service at one of those buildings, and I think that may be where, but we will discuss that in committee, thank you for bringing that up.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- Just to clarify your question, you're saying that perhaps if a resident themselves initiated the call, would they be responsible for the financial burden? Is that what we're passing? That is absolutely not the intention of what we're asking the council to consider. It's situations where there are for profit organizations that rather than use their own staff or pay their own staff, are calling HFD to their place of business and asking us to transport patients. That's what's happening, and we will get you that data of how many times that occurred.

Councilman Kalwinski- If somebody's wearing their alert around their neck, and then they fall and it goes off, and they're in the facility, that little nuance, what happens there?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- That would not be an issue, because Councilman Rakos, it's only situations where there's no life and limb, no risk to the patient, those are the situations we're talking about, so if someone actually has a medical emergency, even if they have staff, yes we want them to call 911 if that's the kind of thing that helps save their life, so that is not a situation that would be of concern to us.

Councilman Woerpel- I want to thank the Council person for putting this in committee first of all, because I had a lot of reservations on just 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and then voting on it the next meeting, number one. Number two, I know several people that work in assisted living facilities and/or nursing homes whatever you want to call them, and part of the problem is, these midnight shifts at these places, and I'm not talking about the ones in Hammond, I'm talking the ones that I specifically know about, they staff them with one or two people and my question is, do we have the option of having some requirements, I mean, I know we can't tell a private business what to do, but I do know some CNA's and some RNA's that are in charge of 30-35 people on midnights, and it's, I don't know what else to say, but we can talk about it in committee.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- I can just mention this, that I do have a little bit of experience with this, is all of those institutions have to have a license from the state, and if we feel that they're not staffing appropriately, there is a process where we can notify the state about those institutions and the staffing levels is absolutely one of the things they look at.

Councilman Woerpel- I'm not specifically talking about any in Hammond, I just other places I know, that's a common complaint.

Councilman Tyler- Just for clarification, Scott mentioned this but, we're going to work to get the list of how many times in 24 and 25, can we also get a list of all the facilities in Hammond that this would correlate to? Is that possible?

Council President Venecz- We discussed that in caucus and Kevin is going to get that list together. Any other discussion? (X3) All those in Favor? AYES: ALL

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Cont.

26-03 An Ordinance of the City of Hammond Authorizing and Establishing a Municipal Riverfront District Project Area Pursuant to Indiana Code

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, and be referred to the Council as a Whole Committee for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

Councilman Salinas- As Clerk Golec announced, there's been a higher demand than supply for restaurant liquor license, especially in the downtown area, since more new residents are moving downtown, commercial activity has increased. The state has a quota system for each city and liquor licenses. There are currently no 3 way liquor license available in the City of Hammond for retail from the state. That leaves restaurants to search for licenses and having to purchase them on the open market for tens of thousands of dollars. The Riverfront ordinance takes advantage of a state statute that allows cities and towns across Indiana to create a district and to manage liquor license in that area for restaurants, not bars. The ordinance allows Redevelopment Commission to create an application procedure to review the application to ensure compliance with desired hours, days open, and other items that may be important. It also allows them to control the number of licenses downtown. All of this is within the boundaries of the district only. The boundaries would be Willow Court to the North, Douglas and Ogden on the South, Stateline on the West, and Oakley on the East. This district allows other license that come available to be used in other parts of the city eliminating the need for competition downtown for a limited supply. Already, we know of 3 establishments that are waiting for this ordinance to pass so that they can apply. Other cities around the state and area including Crown Point have successfully established a district.

Councilman Kalwinski- I'm not sure if this is directed at you or somebody out there, but is the City right now, or Redevelopment holding on to any liquor licenses?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- No, not at this time. We just an RFP, you may have seen it in like November/December, we awarded that one, we haven't actually transferred it yet, but it's been awarded. There were multiple people who applied for that, that's part of the reason the genesis for this idea is to move this forward. It really doesn't have to be a very substantial body of water. Crown Point did like a creek out there that, it's really where your commerce is. There will be an application fee, but it will be significantly cheaper than the amount of a license for these organizations. At the end of the day, we can control it all, just because there is a capacity of 20, we have full control on what we can say yes or no to.

Councilman Kalwinski- So the City would have to approve it or the liquor board?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- The Redevelopment board would have to approve it.

Councilman Kalwinski- Just Redevelopment? It doesn't have to go to County or State?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- Yes. They would still have to go, we don't issue the license, we just approve that it's a valid application in the Riverfront District, they take that approval from us and go to ATC and then they make the actual application, and then they will issue them one if they qualify through their process.

Councilman Kalwinski- Got it, ok.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Cont.

Council President Venecz- Any other Discussion? (X3) All those in Favor?

AYES: ALL

RESOLUTIONS

26R-02 A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana Approving Plan Commission Resolution 2026-01 as a written Order and Finding of Fact Approving Redevelopment Commission Resolution No. 2025-18 as a Declaratory Resolution that Expanded the Boundaries of the North Hammond Development Area and Approved the 2025 Amendment to the North Hammond Development Area (2025 Expansion Area), Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14 and the Administrative Code 50 IAC 8

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moves for adoption.

Councilman Salinas- The Westpoint Allocation Area is being expanded West toward the commercial area of Calumet Avenue for future economic development. The Planning and Development Department are just doing their job here by planning and looking for future development in this area.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION R02 ADOPTED

26R-03 A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana Approving Plan Commission Resolution 2026-02 as a Written Order and Finding of Fact Approving Redevelopment Commission Resolution No. 2025-19 as a Declaratory Resolution that Approved the Jacob’s Square Residential Housing Development Program, Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14 and the Administrative Code 50 IAC 8

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

Councilman Salinas- This is the Jacob’s Square Residential Housing Development Program, some refer to it as a residential TIF. This is the first one in Hammond. It will capture new assessed value within the boundaries of Jacob’s Square. These funds can then be used within the Jacob’s Square boundaries only for capital improvement such as sidewalks, lighting, parks, and improvements and even future land acquisitions.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION R03 ADOPTED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SPECIAL ZONING ACTION ADOPTED UNDER I.C. 36-7

26-04 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 the City, All in Accordance with the Comprehensive/Land Use Plan, as Amended) for Property Commonly Known as 1175 State Street, 1146-11 Willow Court, and 1149-11 State Street, Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for passage.

Councilman Salinas- This is a long vacant property that has functioned as an illegal dumping site that will be transformed into a beautiful modern facility with professional landscaping and long term maintenance eliminating blite and improving the surrounding area. This site was sub divided for residential use nearly 100 years ago but never developed due to it's proximity to active rail yards. This zoning change enables a realistic productive use of land that has been unusable for decades. The project will bring a new thermoplastic manufacturing facility to Hammond, creating 40 plus quality local jobs with meaningful long term economic impact. A modern pre cast building is intentionally designed to serve as a buffer to rail noise, lighting, and sight lines while remaining an asset the community can be proud of. Significant onsite parking and coordinated storm water management will reduce runoff and lower future flooding risk in the surrounding neighborhood. Truck circulation has been redesigned to avoid residential streets and the plan was developed in coordination with the City Engineers and myself. This project delivers job creation, new tax revenue, and lastly community value, for the City of Hammond. I do know that the developer Jack Ferrino is here as well with I think an illustration of the planned building, maybe he can share that with us.

Jack Ferrino, 219 Development- Good Evening, my name is Jack Ferrino, with 219 Development. I am the Developer Consultant for Davies Imperial Coating and their new thermoplastics plant. What's pictured here is, it's a roughly 50,000 square foot pre cast building. You can't really see it, it's kind of hidden behind the building which is the intent. The rail yard that is currently an eyesore for the neighbors across the street, on the South side of the State Street, so this will act as nice beautiful buffer.

Councilman Woerpel- Point of order, point of order.

Jack Ferrino, 219 Development- I'm sorry?

Councilman Woerpel- Point of order, um, we can't take further testimony on this.

Councilman Salinas- I'm sorry, my apologies.

Council President Venecz-Councilman, I disagree. It's my understanding that we can listen to what the gentleman has to say, we can not make any amendments.

Councilman Woerpel- But his comments are going to be on the public record, and the public record on this issue

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

SPECIAL ZONING ACTION ADOPTED UNDER I.C. 36-7 Cont.

Councilman Woerpel cont.- has already been established.

Council President Venecz- Alrighty. Attorney Berger?

Council Attorney Berger- I would think that we're pretty liberal on letting people talk and I think that the Council has the authority to hear anybody it wants to.

Council President Venecz- Ok.

Jack Ferrino, 219 Development- Well I do appreciate the opportunity to share the image and we're very excited about the project, so thank you.

Council President Venecz- I'm sorry but this procedure is a little but different than what we're accustomed to, so I apologize, come back to the next meeting if you would, very nice image though. Thank you.

Jack Ferrino, 219 Development- Thank you.

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- The concern is that we had to provide legal notice at the lower board when they evaluated this. Nobody else got provided legal notice that this was going to be reopened for discussion with the public, so only you guys can talk about it, none of us can talk about it.

Councilman Salinas- Thank you for the clarification, my apologies.

Council President Venecz- Ok, I stand corrected.

Councilman Kalwinski- Is it allowable for somebody from that group to talk at a committee meeting?

Councilman Woerpel- Madam President

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- I'll have to get back to you on that.

Council President Venecz- Councilman, this is for final passage, so there...

Councilman Kalwinski- I know, but if people wanted more information, he could come back, is that legal?

Council President Venecz- It's my understanding that this went through the BZA and residents had an opportunity at that time to ask whatever questions they needed to answer. That is my understanding.

Brian Poland- Planning Commission

Councilman Woerpel- This went in front of the Planning Commission and a record was established. We just had this discussion at the last meeting, so, I guess the question is, do we move forward on passage on it, I mean, yes or no vote, do we...

SPECIAL ZONING ACTION ADOPTED UNDER I.C. 36-7 Cont.

Councilman Salinas- Yes.

Councilman Woerpel- On this tonight?

Councilman Salinas- Why wouldn't we? Why wouldn't we?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- The City's recommendation would be to move forward with it. We have had zero people protest against this. This is a safe one to learn through the process so to speak. My recommendation would be to still pass it.

Council President Venecz- Thank you. I appreciate you raising the question, Councilman Woerpel, given the discussion we had at the last meeting. Is there any other discussion amongst us regarding 26-04? Any other discussion?

Councilman Woerpel- Yes, I do want to add something because I don't want no misunderstanding on this. We're not hiding anything from anybody. This was discussed at a Planning Commission meeting where we as well as the public can come and say whatever we want to as far as establishing a record. Once it comes from them to us, we are just taking a yes or no vote on whether we agree with their recommendation or not. That's it. Nothings being hidden. Those discussions were at the Planning Commission meeting.

Council President Venecz- I understand what you're saying Councilman Woerpel, and we had this discussion at the last Council meeting, and I had a conversation prior to this meeting and it was my understanding, as long as we did not amend anything that we were ok. If we amended something in this ordinance then we would have to refer it back to the plan commission, so it's very confusing. It's very confusing and we've never encountered it this way before, so I apologize for the confusion. Is there any other discussion on this? (X3)

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9697 PASSED

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Mary Schoons- Expressed opinions against pedestrian bridge location and reminded the Council that the Mayor is not their boss.

Ken Rosek- Says the Mayor would not discuss Briar East Woods and wouldn't let residents ask questions at the last Mayor's Night Out, and that free speech is not allowed.

Jack Ferrino, 219 Development- Gave a brief description of the new thermoplastics business.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to adjourn

AYES: ALL

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

2026 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	26											
Katrina Alexander	P	P											
Dan Spitale	P	P											
Mark Kalwinski	P	P											
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P											
Barry Tyler	P	P											
Bill Emerson	P	P											
Scott Rakos	P	P											
Dave Woerpel	P	P											
Janet Venecz	P	P											
Initials	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.

  
Janet Venecz, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

  
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:57 p.m.  
mg

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