

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on April 13, 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

Mayor McDermott- Hi, nice to see you. It's nice to see all the young people. Welcome to Hammond City Council, guys. Usually when they come here, they're all doing a paper for their high school, so it's good to see them all. This is my address for April 13, 2026, my schedule, and then I'll talk a little bit about some of the ordinances you guys are introducing just to give some introductory remarks, if you don't mind, and I'm available for questions if you have any. I spoke in Michigan City about Hammond's Economic Development strategy. I was a keynote speaker with their Mayor. There was 2 Mayor's. They actually, it's something to, I talked to my Economic Development team about, they do an annual dinner with their Economic Development agency and they invite leaders from all across Northern Indiana basically. Michigan City is a really cool city. It reminds so much of Hammond every time I go there. I've always had a good relationship with their Mayor's and Mayor Angie is doing great work, actually, she's amazing. They just opened a new T.O.D that we're using as a model for our gateway. It's an eleven story building they just opened., hundreds of millions of dollars it's worth. Anyway, I keep pointing to my old speech with success doesn't start when projects arrive, it starts years earlier. Like, for all of us, we invested early in our downtown. We showed developers that we were serious, and now we're seeing results with new housing, and major projects with the West Lake Corridor coming online. If you prepare early and invest first, it pays off. I made welcoming remarks at the Hammond's Commission on Disabilities annual breakfast. I appreciate the numerous Council members that were there. It's always a nice event. We recognized individuals who support and advocate for residents with disabilities. My speech highlighted the importance of these volunteers work. Especially the commission expanding their efforts to help children with autism which is reaching more families than ever. This annual tradition in Hammond always gives us a chance to thank those making a real difference and reaffirm our commitment to a more inclusive Hammond. I was also pleased to provide welcoming remarks to our Governor, our Congressmen, and other dignitaries including almost every single one of you at the Monon Corridor Grand Opening. It's a major expansion of the Southshore Line in Hammond, Indiana and a significant win for Northwest Indiana. My speech emphasized a strong partnership that made that billion dollar investment possible and the real impact we're already seeing, millions in new investment, job creation, and increased interest in our region. I'm a strong believer that this Monon expansion project, positions Hammond for long term growth, and we're already seeing

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- the momentum build. I want to thank the Council's role in making that happen. We've been talking about this for a long time. It was easily a decade we were working on that and I know there's old and new members that were working on it, some of them who have gone away, but we made difficult decisions and it was a really great moment to watch that train line role. Yes, Councilman?

Councilman Woerpel- I was gonna say it under Communications, but as long as you brought it up, we have our ribbon cutting coming up too, don't we?

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, for the Downtown Hammond Train Station.

Councilman Woerpel- On the 16th?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir.

Councilman Woerpel- What time is that?

Mayor McDermott- I think it's 10 o'clock. I don't know.

Council President Venecz- 1 o'clock.

Mayor McDermott- 1 o'clock? 1 o'clock. Thank you. Another announcement, I was pleased to announce the promotion of Captain Christopher Gootee to become Hammond's Assistant Chief of Police. Chris has been with the Hammond Police Department since 2005. He has extensive experience across multiple units and has earned numerous awards and leadership recognition along the way. I have full confidence in Chris's ability and instincts and he'll be a strong addition to Chief Long's leadership team at the Hammond Police Department, so congratulations to Chris. Today also, I would be remiss if I did not announce that today was Former Chief Andy Short's last day on the job. He's been with the City of Hammond for decades, easily over 30 years, I think it's actually closer to 40 years, his last day on the job was today. He did his last staff meeting today. I talked to him right before I came up here and told him what an excellent job he did and how much he'll be missed. I want to thank Andy Short for being a great Police Chief and a great person and a role model for lots of people in the City of Hammond. I met with Joe Murzyn, the Executive Director of the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. Joe introduced himself to my team and I. We had a very nice meeting and I'm looking forward to working with him over the coming months and years. I met with a consultant we hired to conduct a study of the spaces of Hammond City Hall. This is a great building, we all love it very much but we have space issues in this building and we decided to look around like, what are we going to do with the old City Court? Which office staff has too little space, which office staff has too much space and they gave us a lot of ideas about what we could do with Hammond City Hall. I will be approaching you all with ideas, by the way it does not affect the Council or the Clerk's office at all. We left them independent. It could include them if they want, but you know, I didn't feel comfortable making decisions on behalf of the Council or on behalf of the Clerk's office. I met with Councilwoman Janet Venecz, concerning a multitude of issues she wanted to knock out with me and my staff. I thank her for setting that up. I spoke before the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association, I want to thank Councilman Mark for lining that up, in regards to questions that any of their members had regarding new TIF boundaries we are drawing in their neighborhood and how it effects the Hammond Mohawks. I think that was a

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- good meeting where we answered a lot of those questions. I appreciate Councilman Mark for lining that up instead of letting these questions linger. I went myself, and I thought it was a great event. I met with a student from Purdue Northwest that wanted to interview me regarding a paper he was writing for one of his courses at PNW. I conducted multiple interviews with potential candidates for an open Battalion Chief position in the Hammond Fire Department. We haven't made a decision on who is going to be promoted. We've now finished all the interviews and are pondering basically. I met with Leadership of the Board of Directors for the Challenger Learning Center to update me on the latest developments with their search for a new location. It's not good news. I don't know if you guys are interested, but they're looking outside the city and they have a pretty strong offer outside of the city and they're definitely thinking. This current situation with Challenger is they're at Purdue Northwest on the campus where they've always been, but their lease there is running out. They had an agreement with the School City of Hammond for Kenwood School that fell apart, for a number of reasons, and now they have a solid offer outside of the city and they're pretty sure they're going to take that offer. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but just wanted to let you know what I heard. I met with a leadership team from First Group Engineering at El Taco Real in Hammond. It's nice to meet the leadership team of one of the engineering companies who's been working in the City of Hammond for a couple of decades. I attended the picket of the United Steel Workers Local 71 on the corner of 129th and Indianapolis Blvd. I brought them donuts, Munster donuts by the way, tried to lighten their load for a bit. These men and women were locked out of their jobs, now pushing a month. It's repulsive what's going on with these steelworkers across the region right now, locked out at NIPSCO, locked out at BP. I think we need to do all that we can to try to support. I've had numerous conversations with employees of the City of Hammond making sure that we know where our breads buttered, and we are with the strikers and we want this to be over and we want these guys to get back to the bargaining table so that they can put these people back to work. It's not right what's going on right now. I met with the Hammond City Engineer, Hammond Police Department, and the Hammond Fire Department regarding the Town of Highland's threat to close 177th Street in Highland. 177th Street is off Cline Avenue. It's the back entrance to Oxbow basically. Highland sent us a letter that says they intend to close that permanently and they're asking the City of Hammond to just assume it ourselves and to pay all the money for the upkeep of their street. That was interesting. It is closed right now because the county's working on the bridge, but Highland says they have no intention on reopening. I'm not sure if the resident's of the Town of Highland know that and their detour, because they still need to use that area where they dump their mulch and all that stuff, and I don't know if the Town of Highland, the residents are going to like very much what their detour plans call for once they shut this road down. That'll be interesting how that develops, but I want you all to know what's going on. I know we have a number of items coming before you today, I wanted to talk first about the public safety bond that's being introduced today. This is a 5 year bond. This should not exceed \$6 million, we think it's gonna be closer to \$5.2 million. We think it's gonna be about 6 % interest with annual payments of about \$1.2 million which is less than the amount of debt that was freed from the repayment of Station #2 which is where we're pulling this money from. This money is going to be used to by new radios for all of Hammond Police Firefighters, all Hammond Police Officers, and we're also going to replace Engine #8 which is Hessville's engine. It's the oldest in the fleet right now. It badly needs replacement. We have the ability to do this. We're tapping into water revenue. This won't go in the general fund. I know you guys are bringing this out of committee for 1st and 2nd Reading today, I just wanted to through it out there, we could afford this, we definitely need this. I hope you guys give it some serious consideration. Last but not least, oh no, 2 more things, ordinance vacating a 125 foot portion of the east west alley south of 175th St., I know Councilman Emerson is bringing this out, this is the old alley for the gas station and some of the homes that were fronting 175th,

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- this is the area that we plan to build the new Fire House Station #7. We need to start cleaning up this land and getting it ready for the future fire station that's built there. That's why that's pending before you and I know Megan put before you a change in the travel ordinance. I think that's also being introduced today. It's changing the per diem rate, moving it to a meal stipend rather than reimbursement, and just some other needed changes, we were really old fashioned on how we do the travel ordinance and we set the stipend right in the middle of what all the cities around the area are doing so I think we were real conservative. It's more modern what we're doing. Our old ordinance had separate rates for elected officials and we got rid of that. Everyone that travels on behalf of the city gets paid the same for a stipend. I know that's coming out for 1st and 2nd and I believe the reason Megan is pushing that is because it was pushed by State Board of Accounts. Thank you Megan. I know there is a couple of other things on the agenda, I don't know if you have any questions for me. I appreciate it and I'm sorry about the long report, but it's been 3 weeks since we've been here. Hi Councilman, how are you doing?

Councilman Kalwinski- I'm good. How are you?

Mayor McDermott- Good sir, thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski- I want to say thank you, and to everybody that had a part in getting the council agenda and ordinances online.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski- I think it appeared on Thursday for the first time, so that's great news. I suppose we might have some hiccups down the road, but I appreciate all the effort of the team that put that together so that we can have the public look at things too.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, thank you. By the way, we've always been on the cutting edge. We were one of the first cities to go digital. We've always been really aggressive, so going online should have happened awhile ago. I think we were probably a little too slow on that one. I know I was talking with Councilwoman Venecz earlier of a goal of trying to go paperless and I think that's a great goal to have. I think that's something we should challenge IT to figure out real quick so that we can stop sending reams of paper back and forth to each other and just do it electronically. Thanks for bringing that up, Councilman. Any other questions?

Councilman Woerpel- I know a couple meetings ago, we discussed Clark and Gavit and what's going to happen with them buildings and I get that question nonstop about Gavit, and I think we gave them until March 31st to come up with a plan. Do you have any update on that?

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Councilman. I know Councilman Mark asked me on the other end of town because I'm sure he gets questions about what's going on with Clark, like you get questions about what's going on with Gavit, like I get questions about all the different schools including Clark and Gavit. Scott Miller, myself, and my team met with the School City of Hammond, I want to say it was mid February, and in mid February, we said to the School City, what's going on with Clark and Gavit, that's all we brought up is the high schools. What's going on with Clark and Gavit is unacceptable. Their power is turned off to both buildings. The water is turned

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- off to both buildings. Both buildings are completely abandoned and that's illegal to have an abandoned building and not go through the state mandated process of putting it up for sale. They refuse to put it up for sale. We met with them in February and said if you don't come up with some type of solution, we're going to solve this problem for you through a public process and that was in mid February. The superintendent and the school board leader told me in mid February, Councilman Woerpel, this will be done. I said, can you have it done by the end of March, and they said absolutely, Mayor, end of March is fine. I haven't heard anything, Councilman Woerpel. It's unacceptable. This is their plan. Their plan is to let it sit there and rot. I have a meeting with my team, I want to say it's Wednesday this week, and we're going to discuss next steps, Councilman, which is I'm not sure what we're going to do, but I want to move forward with this and we're not going to sit here and watch these buildings dilapidate away.

Councilman Woerpel- The residents over there are very concerned that before you know it, there's going to be busted windows and neglect and I know the football and baseball field out there, really aren't that well taken care of, and I've heard complaints about that, and the last person that asked me a question, I said we're working on it, they said we heard that 3 years ago.

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Woerpel, I know for a fact that Purdue Northwest is very interested in acquiring a large portion of that area. They want it, and when Purdue acquires things, they put millions of dollars into the projects. I'm sure that we can find just as great of a use of Clark High School as well. What's going on right now is completely unacceptable and I'm not going to tolerate it as Mayor. We were playing nice with the School City. We gave them a month and a half to figure it out and they just blew us off. It's been 2 months. I haven't heard anything. We're going to move forward, Councilman Woerpel. I promise, do me a favor, keep asking me this question when I come before you. I promise I'll keep applying the pressure on my end, ok?

Council President Venecz- Mayor, you said earlier, that the Challenger Learning Center was looking at Kenwood School, how is it that, that fell apart?

Mayor McDermott- Part of it, I don't want to blame the School City only for that, because part of it was funding. They need to come up with millions of dollars and I think for a building down south, they're making it too good to say no. I don't want to identify what they're talking about, but they have interest from a not for profit with millions of dollars, but they want it at a certain location. It's not in the City of Hammond.

Council President Venecz- Was there a result from, what is he, our Attorney General, Todd Rokita, the letter that you had written him about this very issue?

Mayor McDermott- No result.

Council President Venecz- Nothing?

Mayor McDermott- No, Ma'am. Anybody else?

Councilman Kalwinski- I wanted to bring up the 37 lots across from Wolf Lake. There's 11 houses that are in

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Councilman Kalwinski cont.- some process of being built, but the others are not.

Mayor McDermott- The frontage you're talking?

Councilman Kalwinski- I'm sorry?

Mayor McDermott- The houses on the frontage are not being built?

Councilman Kalwinski- Well everywhere, and in the covenants it said that you had to start building 18 months or before from the time of the auction, so I assume a lot of people are beyond that.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, good point.

Councilman Kalwinski- I remember you saying that at the auction, that before your term ended all of the houses would be built.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, and my term is getting close to ending.

Councilman Kalwinski- It seems like we need a little help with that.

Inaudible

Mayor McDermott- I'll follow this up, I promise. There's some, it's interesting, Councilman, because if the Bears choose Hammond, it does not affect those homes, but it's interesting because some of those proposed homes that we may not be interested in putting homes in anymore and it's mostly the frontage lots. So like, if I saw somebody that wanted to start their frontage lot right now, we may not want them to move forward and build a house where I can have a Ruth's Chris if we play our game right you know?

Councilman Kalwinski- Yeah, I get it.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, but the houses in the back.

Councilman Kalwinski- Davis and Stanton

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir.

Councilman Kalwinski- Yeah, ok, thanks.

Mayor McDermott- Any other questions?

Councilman Tyler- Do we have an updated time line of when the lots at Memorial Park will be going up for bid?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott- I wish Kevin was here. Scott, do you know? Memorial Park, the public process for that?

Chief of Staff, Scott Miller- We're still planning, and it's probably going to be the first of June now.

Mayor McDermott- Did you hear that? For the record, for them, it said June, it sounds like. Kevin would probably know exactly. He's not here unfortunately. Thanks, Councilman, but obviously that's an important project. I do know that the senior and I'm sure you're aware of this, but I'm saying it for the record, the senior complex is delayed because of a loss of state funding and we're trying to rebound on that. That's not going to move forward, but the lots that you're talking about will. Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- Thanks.

Council President Venecz- Mayor, before you leave, I understand that we have some students from Munster High School. Their Government Class in our audience.

Mayor McDermott- It's great to see them.

Council President Venecz- I'd like to welcome them. Thank you for joining us.

Mayor McDermott- I usually embarrass them when they come here, and take a picture in front of Abraham Lincoln, so yeah, I think they get extra credit for that. Anyway, thank you guys, nice talking to you. I'll be back next council meeting to watch these ordinances move through the process, so thank you all.

Council President Venecz- Thank you, Mayor. Thank you.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from March 8, 2026 through April 8, 2026. Claim #2482 through claim #2927, inclusive. In the amount of \$27,111,623.04.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

26-09 An Ordinance Appropriating the Proceeds of the Annual Action Plan and Dealing with other matters pertaining to the Expenditure of Plan Proceeds for Program Year 2026

Council President Venecz- Anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 26-09, please approach the podium. Anybody wishing to speak on 26-09? Anyone wishing to speak on 26-09? Is there someone on?

Inaudible

Council President Venecz- Clerk Golec just read it. Alrighty, anyone wishing to speak on 26-09? Public Hearing is now closed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- I would like to announce that I'm hosting a community meeting next Thursday, April 23rd, at the Ophelia Steen Center from 5:30-7 p.m. just an opportunity for residents to come and get updates about different projects and status of things within the district. There will be refreshments served and once again that's next Thursday, April 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. at the Ophelia Steen Center. Thank you.

Council President Venecz- I would like to announce that we have a Prayer Breakfast coming up on Thursday, May 7th, it will be at the Hammond Sportsplex, beginning at 8 a.m. and tickets are available in Community Development or you can ask any of us. This is a free breakfast. I would also like to announce that coming up on May 20th at 1 p.m. the Hammond F.O.P. and the Police Department will be hosting their Fallen Officer Memorial Service. It's always a very moving ceremony and we pay respect to those who have given their lives in the line of duty, so that is May 20th at 1 p.m. at the Hammond Police Department. Also, I did pass out to all of the Council people a letter stating that we had passed, the Council had passed, an ordinance regarding AARP's network of age friendly states and communities, and we're urging any resident 45 years of age and over to take this survey to give us an idea of what you would like to see from our community for those of us, well we're all aging, it doesn't matter if you're 18 or blah blah blah. Ok, so please Councilmen, Council Lady, please pass that information along to your constituents and I will continue to pass them out at the Crime Watch meetings. Any other communications? (X3)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Rakos- The Capital Improvement Board met on April 6th and we passed 4 funding allocations.

Funding Allocation #315- Summer Street Sewer Improvements- Grimmer Construction- in the amount of \$138,884.00

Funding Allocation #316- 2026 Annual Resurfacing Program- Milestone Contractors LP- in the amount of \$1,000,000.00

Funding Allocation #317- Marina Screen Wall Design- Butler Fairman Seufert- in the amount of \$352,415.00

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD- Councilman Rakos cont. -

Funding Allocation #318-2026 CCMG Project- 165th Street- Kennedy Ave to Grand Ave- in the amount of \$1,744,896.40

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Councilman Woerpel- We will be meeting on April 27th. I misspoke in caucus. We will be considering Ordinances 26-10 and 26-12 at that time, at 5 p.m. in the caucus room. That's my committee report for Finance Committee.

Council President Venecz- Ok, but we're also bringing out 26-09, correct?

Councilman Woerpel- Correct.

Council President- Alrighty, thank you, Councilman.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Councilman Tyler-Economic Development does not have a report for tonight.

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

East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues. April 21; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Edison Community Watch; Wed. May 6; 6:30 p.m.; Edison School
Jefferson Crime Watch; Wed. May 27; 6 p.m.; Jefferson School
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. May 21; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center
Irving Community Watch; Tues. April 14 ; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School
South Hohman Avenue Neighborhood Watch; Thur. April 30; 6:30 p.m.; Trinity Lutheran Church
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur. May 14; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Council President Venecz- Please take an interest in your neighborhood. Find out what's going on, not just on your block, but in the blocks surrounding your home. You always get some helpful information and you get to meet some of your neighbors, and our police officers who patrol our streets and keep us safe because community is not just about me, it's about us.

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

26-09 An Ordinance Appropriating the Proceeds of the Annual Action Plan and Dealing with other matters pertaining to the Expenditure of Plan Proceeds for Program Year 2026

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

Councilman Woerpel- Point of order. Point of order.

Council President Venecz- Yes, sir?

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE Cont.

Councilman Woerpel- We're introducing this aren't we? Or no? Is this being?

Council President Venecz- Pardon Me?

Councilman Woerpel- Never mind. I'm not. He's right. I'm wrong.

Council President Venecz- Ok, thank you.

Councilman Spitale- This ordinance appropriates the funds outlined in the budget for the CDBG, Home, and ESG Programs.

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. 9704 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

26-10 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Bonds of the City of Hammond, Indiana to Finance the Costs of Certain Public Safety Equipment and Related Costs, and the Issuance and Sale of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation fo the Issuance and Sale of Such Bonds, Appropriating the Proceeds Derived from the Sale of Such Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes, and other Matters Related Thereto.

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to Finance Committee on April 27th at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Council President Venecz- Clerk Golec, we did discuss in caucus that, that committee meeting on April 27th at 5:15 will be in the caucus room.

City Clerk Golec- So noted.

26-11 An Ordinance Vacating a 125 foot Portion of an East-West Alley South of 175th Street in the 7500 Block of Linden Avenue, City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved for 1st and 2nd Reading by title.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Cont.

Councilman Emerson- There will be a closing of an alley in order to build a station and it's enclosed in the ordinance. I am very proud to sponsor this ordinance for the new fire station.

Council President Venecz- Councilman, would you like to schedule a public hearing on April 27th?

Councilman Emerson- Yes, I would at 5 o'clock, the streets and allies will meet at 5 o'clock p.m. on October 27th, or I'm sorry, April 27th.

Council President Venecz- In the caucus room?

Councilman Emerson- In the caucus room.

Councilman Woerpel- There also is a public hearing on April 27, 2026, correct?

Council President Venecz- Yes, he did say that.

Councilman Woerpel- I'm going deaf tonight.

Council President Venecz- Any discussion? (X3)

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

26-12 An Ordinance of the City of Hammond to Amend and Adopt Certain Sections within Title III, Chapter 37, of the Hammond Municipal Code as it Pertains to Travel Rules and Regulations

Councilman Woerpel, Supported by Councilman Rakos moved for 1st and 2nd Reading by title, and be referred to the Finance Committee on April 27th at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

26R-06 A Resolution of the City of Hammond Common Council Designating the Funds into which Distributions of the Financial Institutions Tax (FIT) and Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax (CVET) shall be Received for the 2025 Fall Distribution

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS Cont.

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved for adoption.

Councilman Woerpel-This is a new requirement set by the state in order to receipt Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax and Financial Institution Tax in a fund other than the general fund. It is the wish of the Controller to deposit these funds to the various levy funds based on the percentage of property taxes they received. The Financial Institution Tax totals \$99,105 and the distribution goes to the general fund, motor vehicle, and highway fund, park bond 1, park bar 2, debt service, and ccd. The Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax is distributed to the general fund, motor vehicle fund, park fund, the park bond 1, park bond 2, debt service, and ccd, and that amount is \$284,393.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R06 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel- I noticed as part of the packet, the Council has 4 board appointments due April 25th, and that is before our next meeting. One of them is to the building Contractors Board, and it's Rich Spitale. Two of them are to the Electrical Board, one is a 2 year term and that is Ron Lubas. One is a 1 year term and that one is Jorge Bautista. The HVAC Contractors has a 2 year staggered term that Ronnie Kotso are the sitting members. If there's no objection, I make this motion that we reappoint all four unless we hear otherwise and they can resign and we can make the changes then. I make a motion that we reappoint all 4 to their respected boards, I so move.

Councilwoman Alexander seconds the motion.

Council President Venecz- Now we had a discussion earlier with Councilman Kalwinski and Councilman Spitale, do you have any objections to moving forward in this fashion?

Councilman Kalwinski- As long as our Clerk or Council Attorney doesn't object, I don't mind.

Council President Venecz- Attorney Berger, any objections?

Council Attorney Berger- No.

Council President Venecz- Wonderful. So motion by Councilman Woerpel, second by Councilwoman Alexander to move forward with the appointments. Any discussion? (X3)

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS Cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (reappointments)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Woerpel- It slipped my mind during communications, but we received a press release, I guess, from Anne Taylor, the Executive Director of Planning and Development about the Downtown Hammond Historic Property to transform into housing and vibrant retail, which is Lasalle Hotel and it was dated 4/2/26. I'd just like at this time to put it in with the communications.

Council President Venecz- And what is your request? Speak into the microphone.

Councilman Woerpel- Just to add this to the communications we received and put on file. That's it.

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

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Sophia Ramirez- A Munster High School Senior, here for an AP Government assignment, to compare Hammond and Munster Council Meetings.

Isabella Maldonado- Took Government last year, and was her friends ride to the meeting. She liked the fact that she could use her previous knowledge to understand what is going on during the meeting.

Amelia- Shocked that the Mayor showed up to the Council meeting.

Mary Schoons- Says the Mayor and the Council are giving conflicting reasons regarding the pedestrian bridge.

George Stoya- Thanked the Council for posting the proposed legislation online. Wondered why 26-09 wasn't posted also.

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

AYES: ALL

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	9	23	9	23	13								
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	E	P	E	P								
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	E	P	P	P	P								
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Initials	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.


Janet Venecz, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:56 p.m.
mg

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk