

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on June 8, 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, Councilors. Good to see you. This is my address for June 8, 2026. Lots has been going on lately. I see TV cameras in the back of the City Council Chambers. That usually means something is going on so, I'm gonna start with the obvious right now. It's not news to anybody, but on Friday, I think we probably had one of the biggest days in history of our proud city when the Chicago Bears chose Hammond, Indiana as the location of their next home stadium, obviously, I know, obviously being a fan of the Bears, all of us being fans of the Bears, well most of us being fans of the Bears. Councilman Woerpel is a Packer fan unfortunately, but he's pulling for the Bears in this case, but it was an amazing day, and amazing process, months we've been working on this. It's been talked about for months and to actually be chosen is, like hitting the lotto for our city. It's transformational. It's going to completely, you know, people are going to be coming to Hammond, Indiana for Super Bowls, for football games, for concerts. It's pretty amazing. Councilman Mark, your district is amazing. It's a jewel and in this case, the Bears agreed with us. I'm so happy to be the Mayor, and I want to thank the Council very much, you know, not only for supporting us during the process while we were talking to the Bears, but helping us prepare for the Bears, even before we knew the Bears were interested over the last 20 years, acquiring properties, re-zoning properties, cleaning up properties, making the area around the Lost Marsh Gold Course what it is right now, and now along comes a multi billion dollar company that agrees with us that this is a great location for the Bears home stadium. I want to thank a lot of people that partnered with us. Bipartisanship is alive and well in Indiana. It's pretty amazing. Governor Mike Braun offering billions of dollars to the Bears to locate to Hammond, Indiana. I know a lot of people over the years, myself included, have said that Indianapolis doesn't pay attention to Hammond. Indianapolis doesn't pay attention to Northwest Indiana. Within the last year, we already cut the ribbon on a billion dollar train expansion that goes through the heart of our city. It benefits Hammond greatly. Now to have the Bears choose Hammond for a multi billion dollar project, I'm not going to be able to say that for a very long time. The State of Indiana took care of Hammond in this case. I'm really appreciative to Governor Mike Braun who put politics aside. If you guys remember, before all this started, I put out a tweet about Governor Braun that went viral. I never have stuff go viral, of course that one did and he put that aside, and that's a big person. The Speaker of the House, Todd Huston, key, Senator Ryan Mishler, key, Jim McGoff with the Indiana Finance Authority, never happens without Jim McGoff, all of

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- our local legislators. Basically, it was unanimous in the Senate, unanimous in the house, basically, a couple votes against it. Senator Todd Young, I ran against Todd Young, he called me and congratulated me, and pledged his support, Senator Jim Banks, these are republicans, big republicans. Senator Jim Banks reached out, Mayor if there's anything I can do to help, we're here for you. Congressman Frank Mrvan, he and I ran against each other, reached out, Mayor if there's anything I can do to help, just let me know. It's incredible to see all the people that had to work hard to make this happen. It's gratifying, it's incredible. In 2026, this is not the stuff you see, so I just want to thank everybody involved. Hammond City Council, Chief among them, like I said, I come to you guys and I talk about the vision we have but if you don't have the same vision we have, we don't move forward. It's just an amazing opportunity for us. It's an amazing sequence of events that happened. I don't know if you have any questions, but I am limited in some of the things I can talk about. I'm willing to talk, and there is a lot of people watching right now, I'm sure, so I don't know if you all have any questions you want answered.

Councilman Kalwinski- How many acres minimum do they require for this to go?

Mayor McDermott- All along, we've been talking 300 acres. We have more than that actually, including property we'll acquire. The stadium itself needs at least 60 just for the stadium itself and then the surrounding development will be in addition to that and you know, a lot of people in Chicago Media are criticizing what they thought was a vague wording from the Chicago Bears, I'm not criticizing it. I know why it was vague. I can't talk about that right now, but the Bears are coming to Hammond, Indiana. I want you to know that. It's vague for a lot of complex reasons why the Bears were, but the Bears are working on Hammond right now. I'm happy to see what the Bears are putting into our city right now. We're going to be the home stadium. 60 acres, Councilman, sorry to go on.

Councilman Woerpel- Just to clarify, I look forward to the day I can sit at that stadium and can watch the Packers beat the Bears.

Mayor McDermott- Yep. Thank you, Councilman Woerpel. By the way, Councilman Woerpel is a big Packer fan, and the moment we were talking about this happening, he was a total supporter. He put his Packer allegiance aside in this regard. Councilman Bill, did you have a question?

Councilman Emerson- I would say, go Indiana Bears.

Mayor McDermott- That makes people mad. I am very aware that the Bears are not going to call themselves the Indiana Bears. I'm very aware that the Bears aren't gonna call themselves the Hammond Bears, although I do think it has a nice ring. They're going to call themselves the Chicago Bears and I'm completely fine with that. I know the State of Indiana is completely fine with that because they'll be coming to you live from the Lost Marsh in Hammond, Indiana when they're doing the Bears games.

Councilman Woerpel- You'll never leave a game early either.

Mayor McDermott- I don't have to leave that one early, it's 10 minutes away from my house. I want to keep everybody, keep in mind too, there's hundreds of millions of dollars of infrastructure and it's going to be done

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- to improve the traffic patterns, improve the drainage, improve the parking. It's beyond your wildest dreams, especially for Councilman Mark who's gotten used to the way things have always been up there. It's beyond your wildest dreams. When we actually can have that press conference and show everybody what we're talking about, it's going to blow your mind. A lot of people are like, what about the traffic. The Bears are a multi billion dollar organization. They're doing study after study on the environmental, on the noise, on the smell, on the traffic. They're looking at every possible angle you can look at, and they're still committing to Hammond, Indiana, so I'm very proud of that. I know we have a lot going on, but if there's no other questions about this.

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, it's not a question, I know now that this announcement has come out that there is additional conversations that you guys are going to be involved in, in terms of what this will mean for additional economic development, and opportunities to partner with the Bears organization, especially what we might need for maybe additional investments in our city, in our infrastructure of course, potentially even in our schools, I would just like to offer myself up to be apart of those conversations. It crosses a lot of different passion projects of mine. I think you know that. I would love to be a part of those conversations if at all you need somebody from the Council to be a part of it.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate it, Councilman. I don't want to paint a picture like I'm the one negotiating on behalf of the State right now, because I'm not. Jim McGoff is the lead negotiator and the Speaker of the House is very involved. Jim McGoff represents the Governor and I check in with him almost daily. Once we have this firmly ironed out, Councilman, it's going to be the locals ourselves, we're going to be able to talk to them about opportunities like that. Right now, I'm monitoring through Jim. Jim is outstanding. I called this guy 3 dozen times at all hours of the day, every day of the week, and he picks up every time you call. The guy is amazing. He's one of the big reasons why this happened. I'm not sure if anybody has any other questions about the Bears. I can go through my normal report then. Mayor's schedule summary over the last 2 weeks; I met with Hammond businessman Proheet Patel about possibly opening up new hotels in the City of Hammond. It was a good meeting. I met with President of Hermits Baseball, along with Hammond Parks, and Councilman Mark Kalwinski, regarding possibly redesigning Hermits Baseball Field. I was interviewed by Inside Indiana Business about the possibility of the Chicago Bears relocating their home field to Hammond, Indiana. I attended a swearing in ceremony for new Hammond Firefighters and two promotions. The two promotions of Battalion Chief Thomas A. Markovich, promoted to South Battalion Chief and Brian Williams promoted to Battalion Chief Inspector. Congratulations to those two for their promotions. Probationary Firefighters were also sworn in. Timothy Jenkins, Noah Angel, Trey Cook, Ethan Lucas, Marcus Aguilar, Maxwell Smith, Justin Blair, and James Manfield, those are all our new Firefighters, congratulations to them, welcome aboard. I was also interviewed by ABC Channel 7 News Reporter, John Garcia, about the Illinois Legislative Session, ending without a deal in place to keep the Bears in Illinois. I was interviewed by NBC Channel 5 Anchor, Maryann Ahern, about the Illinois Legislative Session ending without a deal in place to keep the Bears in Illinois. I had a Zoom interview with WGN News about the Illinois Legislative Session ending without a deal in place to keep the Bears in Illinois. I had an interview with CBS New Reporter Charlie Delmar about the Illinois Legislative Session ending without a deal in place to keep the Bears in Illinois. I met with Decennial Data Developers regarding the four month extension signed earlier this year and the likelihood they will meet the 6/30 deadline. I imagine we're gonna probably talk about that. I had a meeting with Zeek Cameron, a 16 year old Hammond resident who wants to be Hammond's Mayor one day. His mom, dad, and Zeek met with me for 30 minutes and

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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- we had a great conversation. He is an impressive young man. I had lunch with Randy Palmeteer, head of the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trade Council regarding the multiple projects pending in Hammond, in particular, the Decennial Data Center as well as the Bears stadium proposal. I was interviewed by Mully & Haugh on the Score Sports Radio Show about the Illinois Legislative Session ending without a deal in place to keep the Bears in Illinois. I had lunch with David Fagen, a local 150 Operating Engineers Business Agent regarding the multiple projects pending in the City of Hammond. I had a Zoom interview with Indianapolis News Reporter and Talking Head, Abdul Shabazz about the Illinois Legislative Session ending without a deal in place to keep the Bears in Illinois. I attended a meeting regarding the development across the street from the Sportsplex that will take the place of Petro's Restaurant. I attended a meeting with Chris Campbell, President and Board of Directors member of Centier Bank and Jessica Watts, who's Centier's VP and Public Funds Officer regarding Hammond business happenings. I attended Mayor Pete Land's State of the City in Crown Point, Indiana on behalf of the City of Hammond. He held it outside at the Bulldog Pavilion, very cool, very neat set up in Crown Point. I attended the Hammond Police Department's Promotion Ceremony. We promoted the following officers; Jeffrey Long to become Chief of Police, promoted Asst. Chief Christopher Gootee to become the Asst. Chief, promoted Rich Ray to become Captain of Patrol. Congratulations Rich in the back of the room there. We promoted Jason Shafbuch to become Captain of the Detective Bureau, promoted Shawn Ford to become Lt. of Special Victims and Violent Crimes Unit NCID, promoted Scott Denny to become Patrol Shift Lt. in Patrol, promoted Eusebio Gonzalez to become Community Affairs Lt., promoted Jeffery Miller to become Criminal Investigations afternoon Lt. and Technology Lt., excuse me, promoted James Onohan to become the Criminal Investigations Technology Lt., promoted Walter Peterson to become Patrol Shift Lt., promoted Arthur Lattiker Sr. to become Master Sgt. of Patrol, promoted Timothy Kreisler to become Sgt. of Criminal Investigations, and last but not least promoted Simon Siba to becoming Sgt. of SDU. Congratulations to those officers. It's a lot. I'm not sure how many questions you hav. I know there's a lot of stuff coming up.

Councilman Kalwinski- Congratulations to all the officers and fire department staff that got promoted. I would have liked to be there, but I was at a ribbon cutting at Cal College that same time, so congratulations to all of them. Just going back to Decennial real quick, I'm excited to hear that it looks good for meeting that June 30th deadline and should all that happen and they go forward, have they offered to help create green space out in that area of the city on the lakefront for the Veteran Memorial Park or otherwise?

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman. I know right before I walked in here, my Chief of Staff, Scott told me that he talked with the ownership of that group and they committed to the green space that goes around the data center, right Scott? So it's separate from the incentive package we worked out with them, which is good news.

Councilman Kalwinski- Ok, so that is good news. In keeping with that, we're still going to have that Veteran Memorial Park, some form of that happen out there as well.

Mayor McDermott- I know that there was a study done by, who did that, by Purdue Northwest, and I know that the terms of that, they committed to. I don't think we've worked it out in detail, but they're aware of it, and they've committed to it. More because there's security concerns around data centers and we're letting people go around the lake side of the data center, I didn't know if they'd be alright with that and it seems like they are,

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MAYOR’S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- which is good news. Now, I know that we have a resolution coming up in regards to this, oh excuse me, is it a resolution?

Councilman Kalwinski- It is.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, where you guys are approving the changes to the incentive agreement we made. I just want you all to know and I’m sure you’re aware of this, but I’ll say it, for the record while I’m here, we had a verbal agreement over a 20 year period, where we were getting \$4 million a year and then we incentivised that, we memorialized it and then we came up with another verbal agreement with the \$25 million. The \$80 million over 20 years is memorialized. The \$25 million up front is not. It’s been approved by Decennial. It’s been approved by Redevelopment. If you approve it, it will be part of our Redevelopment agreement. Now this whole thing could fall apart at the end of the month if they don’t meet their deadline, but without you guys approving that \$25 million payment, it will not be apart of our agreement with them, so we need to put that in there, so I hope you’ll consider that today. If we get those community impact payments we’re talking about, I expect to sit down and work this out with the Council so that we can figure out a good plan for good projects to come up with, with that. We work together on everything and I don’t expect that to be any different. While we’re on that subject, Councilman Mark, they may not meet this deadline. They may not. They’re scrambling, and I know they’re scrambling right now, and I’ve been firm. I think they’ve had plenty of time. I’ve been strong, and I’ve talked to you all about it, and if they need an extension, it’s something we’re going to have to talk about, but I prefer not to. I think it’s time. I think it’s time to move on if they can’t get it done by the end of the month.

Councilman Kalwinski- I remember you saying that this was the last extension.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir, and when we said that it was like February and they had plenty of time to get it done and here we are in June and everyone’s scrambling, so I’m not sure they’re going to hit it and if they don’t hit it, I mean, we’ve said all along that we’re going to kill the deal, so that’s something I imagine that we’re going to have to contemplate. I think it’s important tonight that you amend the incentive agreement by including the \$25 million community impact payment. Thank you. Any other questions? It’s been a pleasure. See you all.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Councilwoman Alexander- Alrighty, I’m going to be calling you all up one by one, and what’s going to happen is, you’re going to state your name, and what college you plan on attending, and what you plan on majoring in for the record of everyone here.

DISTRICT 1	JOY KAKISH	HAMMOND CENTRAL	PRESENT
DISTRICT 1	JOSALIN ROSADO	HAMMOND CENTRAL	PRESENT
DISTRICT 2	JA’LISSA CABELLO	HAST	PRESENT
DISTRICT 2	JULIE ORTIZ	HAMMOND CENTRAL	PRESENT
DISTRICT 3	JORI LAWSON	HAMMOND CENTRAL	PRESENT
DISTRICT 3	FARRAH PICKETT	HAMMOND CENTRAL	PRESENT
DISTRICT 4	CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ	HAST	-----

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Hammond City Clerk*

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS Cont.

DISTRICT 4	JASMIN SANCHEZ CARRENO	HAMMOND CENTRAL	-----
DISTRICT 4	TRINITY WILLIAMS	HAST	PRESENT
DISTRICT 5	GABRIELA DE LEON VALDERAMOS	HAMMOND CENTRAL	PRESENT
DISTRICT 5	GERARDO MALDONADO	MORTON	PRESENT
DISTRICT 5	VALERIA PADILLA	MORTON	PRESENT
DISTRICT 5	ARYANNA WILLIAMS	MORTON	-----
DISTRICT 6	ALISON FLORES	MORTON	PRESENT
DISTRICT 6	CAMILA MARTINEZ GALLEGOS	MORTON	-----

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to take a brief recess for the Scholarship Recipients to take pictures. AYES: ALL

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to return to regular business. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of May 26, 2026 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to approve the claims from May 20, 2026 through June 3, 2026. Claim #4234 through claim #4489, inclusive. In the amount of \$4,336,504.55.

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

26-15 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for Economic Purposes in 2026

Council President Venecz- Anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 26-15, please approach the podium.

Anthony Higgs- My question in terms of the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers tax, how will that benefit those individuals that are applying for this particular one?

Council President Venecz- Anyone else wishing to speak on 26-15? Anyone else? (X2) Public Hearings is now closed.

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Woerpel- I move that letters received and emails be so noted and placed on the record. We received one from Terry Steagull.

Council President Venecz- Did we just receive it tonight?

Councilman Woerpel- I don't know, it was in my packet.

Council President Venecz- Ok.

Councilman Woerpel- Yeah, just put it on the file, whatever.

City Clerk Golec- So noted.

Councilman Kalwinski- Does he need a second on that?

Councilman Woerpel- No, I'm just asking the Clerk to place it in part of the record in a file.

Council President Venecz- Is there a second? All those in favor?

AYES: ALL

Councilman Tyler- I have a few, so bear with me. I just want to announce that the annual Juneteenth Festival, will take place on Friday, June 19th, at MLK Park at 12 p.m.- 2 p.m. There's a Car Show. There will be food, music, fun, and giveaways. So once again, that's Friday, June 19th. The Celebration begins at 10 a.m. and then the Car and Bike Show is at 12 p.m. My apologies. Registration for the Car and Bike Show is from 12-1 and judging is from 1-2. Once again, that's Friday, June 19th, at MLK Park. I also wanted to thank the Police Department for hosting their open house this past weekend. I was able to take my twin boys there, and they had a lot of fun learning more about our Police Department, of course, the Fire Department was well represented too, so thank you both for always being so open to engage with our community in opportunities like that. My last announcement is on, I believe it's on a Thursday, June 25th, at 5:30 p.m. right here in the Council Chambers, they'll be hosting the Memorial Park Lot Auction. Everybody has been asking when that auction will take place. I believe there is 26 lots that will be up for auction and that will take place at 5:30 p.m. on June 25th, right here in our chambers. Thank you.

Councilwoman Alexander- I do want to piggyback off of what Councilman Tyler said about the open house for the Police and Fire. My nephew attended with my parents. I was stuck with graduation but they had an amazing time. They raved about it, so I want to give kudos to that. He came back stoked about the event, and he's still talking about it. I also want to congratulate all of our graduates for the City of Hammond, for the Class of 2026.

Council Emerson- I attended the Police Open House, and especially enjoyed the K-9 presentation. It's amazing what these dogs can do.

Council President Venecz- I would also like to piggyback on that. I too attended, me and Roscoc, my dog, and he enjoyed seeing all the children and he tried to make friends with some of the K-9 Officers, but they weren't so much interested, but the Police Department always does an outstanding job. I saw some of the Facebook live feed and what they, up in the Community Affairs Office, all the things that they were telling the residents. One

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Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS Cont.

Council President Venecz cont.- thing that was a little bit disappointing to me from a resident stand point, was when they ask questions of the residents, have you gone to any other things in the city, and nobody did anything. Nobody raised their hand, no crime watch meetings, no other community meetings. We need to engage in our city in order to keep it safe, in order to keep it vibrant and that is my only request of our residents. Any other communications?

Councilman Spitale- The Police Officers are (inaudible) and that's all I can tell you and quite a few more this time than we had time ago, so you guys did a job. I'm telling you, we've got the best.

Councilman Rakos- This weekend, Friday and Saturday, June 5th and 6th, HC3's Live in the 'Ville, many things going on there, but also on Saturday June 13th from 12:30-2:30, and it also is at Hessville Park, 7200 Kennedy this year. Meet Hammond Police and Hammond Firefighters, and emergency vehicles from 12:30-2:30 that's on Saturday. Friday it begins at 5:00, all kinds if different things to do for the kids and the family. It's gonna start at noon on Saturday and go until 11 o'clock. Lots of different activities, that includes the Police Officers and Firefighters on 12:30 on Saturday.

Council President Venecz- Any other communications? (X3) Communications are now closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Councilman Kalwinski- The Economic Development Committee will be bringing out 26-15 and 26-16.

PLANNING COMMITTEE- Councilman Spitale- We did not meet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Councilman Woerpel- We did not meet.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- We did not meet.

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

East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues. June 16; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues. September 1; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave.
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. June 18; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur. June 11; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Council President Venecz- As I said earlier, I just would like to see more engagement from our community in some of the meetings that we offer with regard to our safety. Come out and meet your neighbors, because community is not just about me, it's about us. Committee reports is now closed.

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

26-15 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for Economic Development Purposes in 2026

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE Cont.

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

Councilman Spitale- I sponsor this ordinance annually to appropriate funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund and Economic Development. Innkeepers Tax Fund is also used for marketing purposes (inaudible)

Councilman Woerpel- A question was asked in the public hearing of how do you go about applying for this. This has nothing to do with applying for anything. This has to do with the City's portion of the Hotel/Motel Innkeeper's Tax and all we're doing is, we're taking it from the operating, we're appropriating it from the operating balance of the Innkeeper's Tax, and appropriating it to the Hotel/Motel Fund and it's in the amount of \$12,628.67.

Council President Venecz- Thank you, and Councilman Spitale, did you not say that, that was used for promotional purposes? That is correct, so asked and answered, former Councilman. Any other discussion? (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. 9711 APPROVED

26-16 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana upon recommendation of the Hammond Economic Development Commission Designating a Certain Area within the City as an Economic Development Target Area pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1

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

Councilman Kalwinski- This is for the property from 1719, I believe, to 1933 Indianapolis Boulevard. Where a laundry mat, a Dairy Belle, and another building will be put up on these properties, so this is designating that Economic Development area for this improvement. Thank you.

Council President Venecz- Any other discussion? (X3) Councilman, I would just like to say that the North side is going to be thrilled with Dairy Belle. They're a couple of blocks from my house, and I'm a regular customer there.

Councilman Kalwinski- I can't wait.

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. 9712 APPROVED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

26-18 An Ordinance of the City of Hammond to Amend Title VII, Chapter 72, Section 72.003 of the Hammond Municipal Code as it Pertains to Parking Prohibited in Certain Areas-Bicycle Lanes

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title.

Councilman Woerpel- What this has to do with is parking prohibited in certain areas and I'm not going to read all the where as's but we're looking to make it an ordinance that parking will be prohibited in certain areas.

Councilman Woerpel read the ordinance.

Councilman Woerpel- Those are places that the ordinance covers as far as where they can not park. Thank you.

Council President Venecz- Any discussion? (X2) I would just like to say thank you, Councilman Woerpel for reading through all of those. I think for the most part, all of it is common sense, and one of the things that precipitated us to revisit this ordinance was a complaint that we got at a crime watch meeting, about people parking in the bicycle lane down Hohman Avenue which seems kind of duh to me, but I guess some people need to have it spelled out for them and this gives the police the authority to ticket them for parking in those lanes. Thank you to everyone involved. Any other 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

RESOLUTIONS

26R-13 A Resolution of the Hammond Common Council Approving the Payment set Forth in the Community Impact Payment Agreement Made by and Between th City of Hammond, Indiana, the City of Hammond Redevelopment Commission and Decennial Group, LLC

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

Councilman Kalwinski- This resolution is an amendment to the agreement. Originally, Decennial, Redevelopment, and the City, made an agreement to have Decennial pay the City \$4 million a year for 20 years, which would equal \$80 million after that period of time lapsed and so this is an amendment to that adding another \$25 million to that, so the total package is \$105 million from Decennial to the City through Redevelopment and the Resolution also outlines the schedule of the payments as well.

Council President Venecz- Any other discussion? (X3)

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS Cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R13 APPROVED

26R-14 A Resolution of the Hammond City Council Approving Certain Form CF-1s for the January 1, 2026 Assessment Date as Timely Filed with the Common Council of the City of Hammond as the Designating Body by Applicants Previously Approved for Economic Revitalization Are Deductions of Assessed Valuation, Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1

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

Councilman Woerpel- I know there's been talk about tax abatements and whether or not we should grant them. two of them on this sheet, well actually four of them on this sheet are in the 5th District, and they're expiring this year. This is the last year of 10 year abatements. One that stands out to me in particular, was Korellis Roofing. When I first got on the Council, I was asked if I was in favor of a tax abatement, and I had to get a crash course on what they actually were. I utilized Councilman Hamm in the back there, and asked him to explain them to me. Without getting too deep in the weeds, he basically said, no matter what, if it's a 3, 5 or 10 year tax abatement, unless there's other things involved, that you collect exactly half of the normal taxes you would. I asked him, I said, what should I do and he goes, do you want half the taxes for Korellis Roofing over a 10 year period, or do you want them to move to Griffith where they bought that property and get no money on that property. I chose to go ahead and sponsor this, and they've been a great partner. They kept every word that they said about hiring practices and employment of Hammond residents, and I kind of find it ironic that a company came to us and said, we bought land in another area, can you help us out, and we did. I think there's a few towns on the other side of the border that are talking about that right now. Thank you. One last thing on that, in this last year of their tax abatement, they are actually paying 95% of what they normally would have, had we not given them an abatement all together.

Council President Venecz- Similarly with American Stair, I had an opportunity to visit them back a couple of years ago. Outstanding company, outstanding work, they hire Hammond people. Just a real asset to our city as are these others on the list. For the record, this is an annual report that must be filed with the County every year with regard to the abatements and to make sure that the company's are holding up their end of the bargain.

Councilman Kalwinski- American Stair did come from Illinois to Indiana.

Council President Venecz- Any other discussion? (X3)

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R14 APPROVED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel- This Thursday at Oil Stadium, the Hammond Police Department is playing a baseball game against the Razzles, at 6 p.m on June 11th. Well one says 6 p.m., the other says 7, so come at 5:30.

Council President Venecz- Ok, and who is this that's playing? It's the Region Razzles. I'm assuming it's something like the Banana Rama, whatever it is.

Council President Venecz- Ok.

Councilman Woerpel- They're playing the Hammond Police Department. Is it a baseball game or a softball game?

Cpt. Rich Ray- Baseball

Councilman Woerpel- Fast pitch?

Cpt. Rich Ray- Kind of.

Council President Venecz- Well if it's anything like the Bananas, it'll be fun.

Councilman Woerpel- One other thing under new and unfinished business, because I had a few questions asked about what's going on down Kennedy Avenue as you come from Highland into Hammond. They are on the NB side right now, and they're making cutouts because there's going to be a 2 year bridge reconstruction project beginning, and they want to keep it open 1 lane in each direction, so I'm assuming the NB side, they've cut out some areas and put some blacktop down to make it a little bit wider there coming out of, I call it River Park, but Oxbow Landing, and then there will be traffic on that side, going in both directions. One lane in each direction while they close the other side down, and redo the bridge.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to add Public Expression to the agenda.

Council President Venecz- Any discussion? (X3)

AYES: ALL

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

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Anthony Higgs- Plans to schedule a meeting with the Mayor about the issues he talked about at the last meeting. Offended by all of the things that have been said about him when he was on the Council previously. Wants to continue to work for the benefit of the City of Hammond. Encouraged everyone to get out and vote in the next election.

Terry Steagull- The Data Center is going to foot the bill for the Veterans' Memorial Parkway. Would like the city to reach out and find artists to make a mosaic wall on the concrete wall by ComEd. Thanked everyone for their effort into this project.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION Cont.

Barb Hargrove- Thanked Councilman Kalwinski for supporting the Resolution. Thanked Councilman Salinas for the Thursday Market. Would like the Council to continue to good things in Hammond, and offered to help with them.

Mary Schoons- Doesn't want her address shared at the Council meeting. Hopes the stadium project does well, but thinks the energy spent would be better focused on the School City of Hammond. Thinks businesses should be taxed more.

George Stoya- Doesn't oppose tax abatements and tax breaks, but doesn't think residents should have to make up the difference. Would like adequate signage posted for the new parking ordinance. Thanked Councilwoman Katrina for putting public expression on the agenda.

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to return to regular business.

ROLL CALL VOTE (return to business)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Woerpel- I took the time to read the ordinance. Not only did I take the time to read the ordinance, but it's online.

Council President Venecz-Thank you.

Councilman Woerpel- And it clearly states in there that the Engineering Department will provide signage and it's one thing to have to sit here and listen to the truth get twisted, it's another thing to have to sit here and listen to people that just like to hear themselves talk.

George Stoya- Let's not get carried away.

Council President Venecz- You're out of order. I'm sorry, you're out of order. You had your opportunity during public expression. Anything else, Councilman?

Councilman Woerpel- No, that's it.

Council President Venecz- I do have something to say. Obviously, individuals do not understand that the School City, and the Civil City are 2 separate taxing entities. The Civil City has nothing to do with the closing of schools. That was a decision made by the School City. We have nothing to do with that. For those who attend the meetings, you have heard the Mayor talk that he has tried to engage with the School Board of the City of Hammond. They kept blowing him off, blowing him off, blowing him off. He sent a letter to them. Apparently, they did finally meet and did not reach any solid conclusion. It is the School City who is responsible for the decline in the schools, and not the City of Hammond, The Civil City of Hammond. That just infuriates me to hear that when we are being held responsible for the actions of what the School City does. Elections are coming

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION Cont.

Council President Venecz cont.- up for the School City for the School Board. Next week signatures have to be turned in. Put your hat in the ring. Find out what's going on. Why are these schools closed? Why is it that our School City population is dropping off? Explain that to me. I don't have anything to do with the School City of Hammond. We did at one time have very qualified people on the School Board, and can't deal with the nonsense. It's just not worth it. Anything else under new and unfinished business?

City Clerk Golec- President Venecz, there was a disparaging remark regarding the absence of the public speaking on the agenda. I take full responsibility for that when I prepared it and it was inadvertently admitted. There was nothing behind the fact that it wasn't on the agenda. It was an admission on my part and I apologize to the Council and to the public. Thank you.

Council President Venecz- Clerk Golec, that's why God put erasers on pencils. Anything else under new and unfinished business?

Councilman Emerson- I would like to back you up in what you just said. The School Board, I used to work for the School City, and you know, I back you up on what you just said. We have nothing to do with the School City. Apply to the School Board if you want to.

Councilwoman Alexander- Since we're on that topic, really quick, as an educator in the room, a lot of things don't happen just from a school board perspective, it also comes from our State Government. When funding is being cut from the State, it affects our public schools. So, it doesn't just happen inside of our School Board, it happens from a State perspective and when state's do not help fund public education, we get all these other things. So, if we're going to talk about the dynamics, let's talk about all the dynamics and that is, State's fund public schools, so does our taxes. When things don't happen, yes, as an educator, we want to see more things happen in our schools, but guess what, it takes some things to happen down state to make it happen here.

Councilman Tyler- Just 2 quick points. I want to echo what Councilwoman Alexander said, and just share that I've been working in education for close to 20 years now, and there are different opportunities where municipalities and school districts work together in different ways, whether that is on a policy agenda or some other funding opportunity, so I just do want to share that there are possible opportunities, but to your earlier point, if there is no communication, if there is no collaboration, then we can't make those things happen. I just wanted to offer that. There are probably more things we could do as a Council, as a Civil City, but that does take people coming to the table to want to sit down and engage with us in that way. I'm not pointing a finger at anybody, I'm just stating a fact. The other thing I wanted to share is that, in relation to Ordinance 26-18, I just wanted to clarify that, I know Councilman Woerpel read the entire ordinance, but the only thing that was added, it's an amended ordinance, so the only thing that was added is the language around the bicycle lanes, and no parking in the bicycle lanes. Everything else here was already included in the original ordinance, so when Councilman Woerpel, talked about no parking on the sidewalk, in front of a public or private driveway, everything from item A-Q, all of those things were already listed in the original ordinance. The only thing that's changing now is to add no parking in the bicycle lane. Hopefully, people are familiar with the original ordinance since it's been around, I don't have the exact date, but it's not changing. Also, like he added, the Engineering Department and the Street Department can add additional markings or signage where they feel it's needed if people don't understand that there are certain areas that they can't park in. I'm sure those departments will work together to identify where those areas exist and try to, they don't want to tow more cars, they just want to make

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION Cont.

Councilman Tyler cont.- people compliant with the law. I'm sure they'll work together to figure it out. Thank you.

Council President Venecz- It is online.

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved to return to regular business.

ROLL CALL VOTE (return to business)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

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

AYES: ALL

2026 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

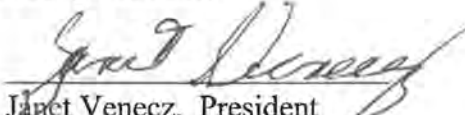
	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	26	9	23	9	23	13	27	11	26	8						
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P						
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Initials	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.


Janet Venecz, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

RJG

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 7:21 p.m.
mg

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*