

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on July 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, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- Hi, Councilwoman. Nice to see you all. Thanks for the invite. This is my address for July 13th. I want to warn you guys, it's a little bit longer than normal. It's been 3 weeks since we last met. There's a lot going on so I'll try to keep it quick. We had, I know that we've been talking about this here about the status of the high schools. We had a hearing before the Board of Public Works and Safety, in regards to Gavit High School, and I wanted to update you real quick. Last Thursday, the Board of Public Works and Safety conducted a hearing to consider affirming the order to repair or demolish Gavit High School issued by the Inspections Department. The order was issued under the Indiana Unsafe Building Act and conducted just like the board would for any other vacant, abandoned, blighted building in any other part of the city. In this case, however it happened to be, Gavit High School, which has sat unused, vacant, and abandoned since 2021. The Law Department by my Corporate Counsel, Kevin Smith, prosecuted this action, was supported by the Head of the Inspections Department, Kelly Kearney, Head of the Code Enforcement Department, Bill Lewter, The Building Department Inspector Bob Vale and the 5th District Inspector Chris Pajdzik. The case clearly showed that the building had gone unchanged since it's 2021 closure. It has remained vacant. It has remained abandoned. It has remained unused since that time. It clearly needs to come down. The School City, made a statement that the City Police Department has used that building. I want to point out that is completely untrue. The City Police Department has not used that building. They've used other buildings for their SWAT training. Gavit High School needs to come down, and I believe the City's position is solid under the Unsafe Building Act. We cannot sit back while the School City of Hammond does nothing on this vacant building. I personally met with the School Board President, Ms. Carlotta Blake-King, their lawyer, Jewell Harris earlier this year, and I let them both know that the City cannot wait forever for them to do something. Since that time, they have done nothing. They completely ignored that meeting and have done nothing. Water has been turned off to that building for quite awhile. Windows have been found open on that building. Paint is peeling. The bricks and mortar are starting to give. What we've seen in other communities, what happens when school buildings are left vacant, graffiti, people hanging out at night, and even dead bodies. We can't as a community let that happen to our school buildings so I'm pressing ahead to get this issue resolved. I do want to point out, I did not ignore Clark High School, Councilman Mark, I'm supposing you're about to ask me that, July 30th is the Clark High School

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- hearing before the Board of Public Works & Safety in case you want to attend that as well. Same kind of case, same kind of issues, Councilman Mark. It's unacceptable that these high schools are just sitting there unused. We're moving ahead and we need to get them on the ground. That is the first report I wanted to make. I don't know if you have any questions before I move on to the next. Cool. Memorial Park's live auction summary, I know Councilman Barry is online, Thursday, June 25th, we held the live auction for the Memorial Park single family lots. It was held at City Hall right in here. We auctioned 28 lots. The asking price was \$8,500 per lot. We had 25 registered bidders with a mix of residents and developers. The lowest lot sold for \$30,000. Keep in mind we were asking \$8,500 for the minimum bids for all of the lots there. 28 lots, minimum sold for \$30,000. The average sale price was \$35,000. The maximum sale price was \$42,000 with all 28 lots selling at those prices, we came in with right about \$1 million for that piece of property, which is nice for the city. Construction is to begin as soon as the purchasers get their plans approved by Planning and Development. I know Councilman Barry was there, I don't know if Councilman Barry wanted to add to that.

Councilman Tyler- Thanks, Mayor. It was very interesting to see. It was my first live auction, so just being there to see a good mixture of residents and developers, being able to take part in that. I think what's fascinating, it's a sign of just like continued improvements in our district. I know with all of the development that's happening, there's a lot of want for more housing, so I'm glad that we're able to create new housing especially in this part of the 3rd District, so thank you to you and your team, for making it happen.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Councilman. We still have about 1/3 of that development left for, it's going to be senior housing, assisted living kind of situation. Tax credits will be needed for that project to move forward. It stalled out, they're going to reapply for next year. We anticipate that other 1/3 starting probably next year. Last but not least about the big items I wanted to hit, was the summary of the Hammond storms of July 3rd 2026. July 3rd, severe storms hit Hammond especially hard and unfortunately many families woke up to flooded basements and power outages during the 4th of July weekend. That's never a good time for this to happen but a holiday weekend makes it even more difficult. Between 9:30 p.m. and midnight, multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms dropped 3-5 inches of rain in a short period of time, which is a deadly combination. 3-5 inches of rain, you'll get storms over a 2 day period, we don't get that much rain. When you get 3-5 inches in such a short period of time, you're in big trouble. National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for Hammond. That's never a good sign either. It seems like the area around Harrison Park appears to have suffered the most significant damage. Harrison Park itself, was, I don't want to say destroyed, but I've never seen it in such bad shape. Numerous trees down, power lines down all over the city, the sanitary district lost its primary and back up source of power, went to use their diesel generator and they were completely flooded out. The actual Hammond Sanitary District was under water as well. Residents were under water with no power. When residents have no power, unless they have back up in their house, they can't get their sump pumps started which resulted in flooding. We did have significant flooding during that storm. It was horrible. A lot of people worked really hard. NIPSCO lost power to 22,000 customers across service territory with most of them in our city, by the way. Thank you to the Hammond Sanitary District for doing everything they could. We were using the CSO basin, we were overflowing, we were doing everything we could to prevent what ended up happening. The Hammond Sanitary District was working all night on July 3rd, July 4th. Hammond Police and Fire Departments, of course, the Street Department, NIPSCO crews, Park Department workers with the trees, first responders, utility workers. It was a rough, rough storm. Obviously when we have basement back ups, that's a failure of the system and I want to apologize to the families that were adversely affected. Now I'll get into the Mayor's

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- schedule over the last 3 weeks. I received a drone demonstration at the Hammond Police Department showing how departments on the cutting edge like us, are starting to use drones as first responders. They had a drone based at the Hammond Police Department and we responded to a house on Forest Avenue in 1 minute and 20 seconds, which would have beat the Police Department there, and while the drone was hovering over the house on Forest Avenue, it was relaying to officers on the ground a picture of what was going on in the back yard. It was all a drill, but can you imagine that kind of technology when an officer is responding to maybe a shooter or a dangerous type of situation. They could literally look on their phone and see what's going on in the backyard because we have a drone over. We were testing people. We flew 500 feet over somebody's head, they had no idea we were there. We were watching this guy work on an air conditioner, and then we got down to 200 feet and when we got down to there, he heard the drone and he started looking around. This is amazing technology. They have drones that we could put on the lakefront that'll save swimmers. If you're out in the water, the drone will find you because you got heat in your body, and it's equipped to carry life preservers. It's pretty amazing stuff, and we just lost a swimmer right outside of the Hammond Marina, just this last week. It was at night time, and you know this drone would help in that situation as well. We don't have this technology in the Hammond PD yet. We're checking it out, but it was pretty interesting stuff. I imagine we'll be talking to you about that in the future. I attended and golfed at the 30th annual Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce annual golf outing at the Lost Marsh Golf Course. Funny enough, Kellie Taillon who is the Executive Director or CEO of the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce is behind us right now, so thank you very much to Kellie and the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. It was a great outing, also, interrupted by bad weather. It's been the theme lately. In the 2nd District, I attended Big O's Barbeque ribbon cutting in Downtown Hammond located at 5252 Hohman Avenue. It's always great to see another restaurant opening downtown. They've got great barbeque if you're a barbeque type of person. Go to Downtown Hammond and help keep them in business. I met with a lot of architects lately. It seems like a lot of people want to meet with us and talk to the City of Hammond about possibly assisting us in the design and build out in the area around the potential new Bears Stadium. I had like 2 or 3 meetings like that, so I just summarized it into 1 meeting. It's all sales pitches basically and obviously we don't even know for a fact if the Bears are going to end up in Hammond when this is all said and done, so obviously we're not committing to anything until we know for a fact with certainty what's going to happen with the Bears. I attended the Pavillion at Wolf Lake's Summer Concert Series with the Indianapolis based Grateful Dead cover band Hyryder. It was a great night. You guys should have been there, perfect weather. If you like Grateful Dead like I do, it was really good. I did a zoom call with the NIPSCO CEO and one of their upper managers who used to be my Chief of Staff of the City of Hammond, I'll let you figure out who to talk about what was going on with Decennial's development agreement with the City of Hammond that fell apart June 30th, 2026. We've been talking about it in this meeting a lot that it was not going to make it. It did not make it, as we all should know by now. NIPSCO wanted to hear from our side what was going on. There's a lot at stake for NIPSCO as well as Decennial and the City of Hammond. It was a good conversation. I attended the City of Hammond's annual fireworks display, listening to the Bill Porter Orchestra at the PAV like we do every 3rd of July. It was Bill Porter's Orchestra's last PAV experience. It was sorta sad to see him go out, especially because it was cut short due to lightning. That was the night the storm hit. It was wicked. It was coming in while we were shooting off fireworks. It was a pretty amazing display. We already talked about the storm that hit that night. I attended the annual 4th of July Whiting Parade representing the City of Hammond. I walked all along side of a group of College Bound students that were passing out flyers for the Festival of the Lakes as well as a large number of Hammond Residents. It's always a lot of fun thanks to Mayor Spebar in Whiting. I met with Hammond's 3rd District Councilman Barry Tyler in regards to issues he wanted to discuss

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- with Hammond's 3rd District. I met with the Chiefs and Captains of the Hammond Police Department for our regular monthly meeting. I met with Hammond's 2nd District Councilman Al Salinas in regards to issues he wanted to discuss with Hammond's 2nd District. I spoke on a panel for the Indiana Business Journal Innovative Indiana Series at Valparaiso University. I was on a panel with the Director for the Ports of Indiana, one of the owners of Albanese Candy, the Head of the Northwest Indiana Forum, the CEO of the Dean and Barbara White Foundation, and myself. The Governor spoke right before us. He was real positive about the whole Bears thing. He described it as we're in the red zone and we're about to punch it in. I like the Governor's optimism. I attended the groundbreaking in the 2nd District, a lot of stuff going on in the 2nd. I attended a ground breaking for UESCO Cranes in Hammond's 2nd District. It's located at 5009 Calumet Avenue. It's a new national headquarters for UESCO. It's a \$25 million investment. It's a 70,000 square foot facility. I'm real proud to land that business. We kept them online. They wanted to go where Hammond Riverside Christian School is. We chose the Christian School, and they stuck with us and we relocated them across the street. That was a good job by Economic Development and everybody that worked really hard on that deal. I met with Councilwoman Janet Venecz in regards to citywide issues. She needed an explanation from myself about, and I appreciate those meeting. I attended the 2026 Hammond Festival of the Lakes Sponsor celebration at the Jean Shepherd Center. Finally, last but not least, I raced against our Hammond City Employees in our annual 2026 Festival of the Lakes Roadie Run. I turned in a 29. I beat some people. I got beat by a lot of people. It's always nice to see people work hard to get a day off. I figure if they beat me in a race, they're probably not costing us a lot on our health insurance. Festival of the Lakes starts as we all know. On Wednesday, we have the DJ free parking night. We anticipate that, technically it's called the Ultimate Freestyle Experience. Free parking, it's the only night of the fest, free parking, so if you want to just go out and listen to music and take your kids to the carnival, there will be no charges for parking on Wednesday. On Thursday, we have a ticketed show, Jelly Roll, sold out solid in the gold section. The Silver section still has tickets available at face price. Gold section tickets are going for over \$300 each on stubhub right now, which is really cool because they only cost \$100. They're going 3 times the face value. Completely sold out for the gold section. The only way you can get in the gold section is stubhub. On Friday, July 17th, we have The Offspring, selling really well. It's a great band. It's like an alternative band. On Saturday, we have rap night, with Moneybagg Yo and Kevin Gates. Tickets are going like crazy for that one. Then Sunday, July 18th, we have Banda El Recodo. This is their second time playing with us and this time, they're selling about 5 times as many tickets as the first time. They're on pace with Los Tecanas De Tijuana as far as ticket sales. That was our biggest night ever at the Festival of the Lakes. Thank you to everybody. I'm sorry about the long report. It's been 3 weeks. Councilwoman, if you have any questions, I'm available.

Councilman Kalwinski- Any idea how many single family homes for the new development behind Ophelia Steen?

Mayor McDermott- 28.

Councilman Kalwinski- I drove through there over the weekend and the infrastructure is in, the lights are in.

Mayor McDermott- Yep.

Councilman Kalwinski- There's a retention pond or 2 in there?

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott- Yes sir.

Councilman Kalwinski- Another thing is, the flooding events. Would it make sense to put a publication in your water bill monthly about the programs and how to get into the programs because people are calling me about that and maybe that's a way to get it across the city.

Mayor McDermott- You're talking about the back flow preventer?

Councilman Kalwinski- Yes.

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Mark, that's a great idea. I'm proud to say that we through Owana's program, a lot of people are participating in that. I don't believe that's income limited anymore is it, Scott? It is? Owana's is? So, but the Sanitary District also has it, they have their own program, so no matter who wants to install a back flow preventer in Hammond, you could go through Owana's program which is through Community Development, which is great or you could, the Sanitary District's and they will reimburse you. That's an act of God when you get 5 inches of rain in a short period of time, however, we can do better by preventing, you know, we can protect our homes better by installing back flow preventers, maybe having backup power supplies on your sump pump. There's things you could do to better prepare your home. The back flow preventer is the best way you can. I will talk to them.

Councilman Kalwinski- The double whammy to that, is when NIPSCO goes out, your pump goes out, unless you have a backup, and your backup will only go for so long and so people were frustrated they did everything they needed to do, and yet NIPSCO wasn't there for them quick enough.

Mayor McDermott- When we have bad storms, blizzards, or storms like we're having in the winter, one of the first things we're always watching for in the city, is power outages. If we get them, we all know it's an emergency. Power outages during a heat wave, like we're having, no good. Power outages during a rain storm, no good. There's no way to fight it. My house, if I lost power, I don't have a back up to my sump pump. Some people have the generac and the generac kicks on, that's a way to protect your home, but it's expensive. I get it, nobody wants their home to get wet, but we have to protect our homes too, and I realize that some people are better able to do that than others, but I think that's a great recommendation Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- Thanks for considering putting that information in the monthly letter.

Councilman Tyler- Thanks for talking about the storms, and I know you and I had a conversation about it right after it happened too, I just wanna know, I know HSD lost phones for a few days. Are we still asking residents to call in and report flooding occurred so we can keep track of it?

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman. If you had a basement backup, please call it in to the Hammond Sanitary District, even if you fixed it up. We use it for historical purposes. We had like scatter maps for every flood event, and then we see which neighborhoods flood and then we look for consistencies. Even if you cleaned it up yourself, but if you flooded call it in to the Hammond Sanitary District. Barry's right, along with losing our primary, and back up power source, they also lost their diesel generator because it was under water,

MAYOR'S ADDRESS CONT.

Mayor McDermott cont.- and all their phones went out during that storm. Hammond Sanitary District was destroyed. It was right near the Hammond Sanitary District, where the South Shore lines, their canopy, the power lines above it, fell to the ground, and I was just driving by today and they're still fixing it. The South Shore line is affected. Harrison Park, 100 year old trees on the ground, multiple. That was a bad storm, and we got the worst of it in Hammond unfortunately.

Councilman Salinas- Any upgrades or changes that the Sanitary District are currently exploring with the failed options that happened?

Mayor McDermott- The upgrade that we use all the time is the CSO basin. That cost us \$55 million and we use it regularly. Anytime you see that CSO basin with water in it, that's water, when Councilman Mark and I first got elected, that's water that ended up in our basements or in our streets. So when you see that CSO basin, that's a good thing. I know Councilman Al and I have different issues to deal with that for when it gets dry, but that CSO basin, saves us from basement backups, and since we've had that in, we really haven't had too many basement backups. I'll be honest, I know it's like once a year it seems like that we're getting these real bad storms and it seems like basement back ups, I know Councilman Mark got it a couple years ago, Councilman Barry got it bad. It could happen anywhere in the city, and it's like the best you could do is protect your home even more. If there's battery back ups on you sump pump, you know, just stuff like that. There's going to be another improvement we have to do in the Hammond Sanitary District. It's probably going to be a couple of years from now, Councilman Al. It's a storm water capture facility, that's going to be in the 5th District, down by the Starbucks. We talked about doing that, but then Munster sued the Hammond Sanitary District and put it on a hold, but we have the designs for that. What it's gonna do is, it's gonna capture the storm water that comes to us from our customers, Councilman Al, and we don't have to send that, if we treat it there, and we put it into the Little Cal, we won't have to have all that water go to the plant anymore, which will save us, 10's of millions of gallons, but that's like a \$60-\$70 million project. When we decide to finally move on that, it's going to result in rate increases unfortunately. That's how you pay for these things. But that will help us. This is the infrastructure we have underneath the streets, and to change that, is even a lot more than even the Bears are talking about. Thanks for the question.

Councilman Kalwinski- Were these storm events discharges into the river?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. We have to report it. We're not supposed to, but it's better for us to do that than to flood out, right? So what they usually do, Councilman, is, it's a CSO event, they first, the plant starts overflowing, and then it goes into the basin. And then the basin fills up, and then the basin starts gravity filling into the Grand Cal, right, but that's mostly storm water. Let's call it 90% storm water, 10% dirty. Dirty is heavy, and the heavy falls to the bottom of the storm basin. Which is the project Al and I have. So what happens is the solids, usually don't flow into the river, they flow into the storm basin and they get caught at the bottom. There'll be like 6 feet when it dries out right, and then the water that goes into the Grand Cal is dirty, it's not treated like normal, but it's not ecoli. We have to report that to IDEM. It's a violation.

Councilman Kalwinski- We get like 4 events a year?

Mayor McDermott- Oh, regularly, Councilman Mark. The overflow, we don't have basement back ups

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- regularly. We have the overflows into the CSO, into the Grand Cal, on big storms. The storms are changing. We receive water from Whiting, Griffith, Highland, Munster, and Hammond. When we have storms that hit all those customer communities, every rain drop that is falling in all those cities, is coming to that plant. If we can intercept it and keep some of it in the 5th District, because it's mostly seperated down there, so that will just be storm water, and we can just keep the storm water out of the 2nd District plant. We'll treat it right there in the 5th and just put it in the Little Calumet, but that's a couple years away, Councilman, and expensive.

Councilman Salinas- Power still just can't fail though, right?

Mayor McDermott- I mean, that's a whole separate issue when we lose NIPSCO, and I'm not here to beat up NIPSCO, that was an exceptional storm and what happens is, NIPSCO's not losing power, these trees are going down and taking the lines with them. It's our trees that are falling into the power lines, and it kills the power, and then you're out until they can fix all the lines.

Councilman Salinas- They've had a lot of crews out cleaning up around the trees and just doing that kind of maintenance type of things, because I've seen them out.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. It's been a busy 3 weeks, I told you. Sorry about the long report. Any other questions?

Council President Venecz- Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks guys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from June 17, 2026 through July 8, 2026. Claim #4906 through claim #4905, inclusive. In the amount of \$21,065,498.37.

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

Council President Venecz- Clerk Golec, for the record, Councilman Tyler is in Chambers now.

City Clerk Golec- So noted.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Salinas- I wanted to give some thank yous out, because as the Mayor stated, we've gone through a lot of flooding. There's been a lot of extra maintenance and work required, I know of in my district, and I'm sure a few other districts, so I want to go on record and just give a very special thank you to Public Works. Felix and Rhonda have worked around the clock to do their best to get us back to normal, so to speak. I know that Juan Serrano in the 2nd District has been an all star, as well as Timo on the street sweeper doing their best to help get our area cleaned up. Over at Sewer Maintenance, Jack Smith, and Wally and their crews have been busy throughout the 2nd District. I've seen them active. Mayor mentioned about flooding, Magnolia near the Bishop Noll High School area had water up to the knees in the streets, but Jack and his crew came out as soon as they could to help alleviate some of that. Our Parks Department as well, just like Harrison Park and Columbia Park got pretty hard as well. Mr. Devin Wick, Matt Marcum, and Jim Taillon over at the Parks Department, a very special thank you to all of you. If there's anyone I left out, it's not on purpose, just thank you to all of our departments for working hard throughout the city. Thank you Madam President.

Council President Venecz- Thank you, Councilman, and I will just add, I was fortunate not to be affected the way your district was. I did drive through and I saw some of the damage, but all of our city workers, they step up. They are outstanding. Everyone cares about the city. And they are there to do whatever they can to make our city the best that it can be, so thank you. Any other communications?

Councilman Tyler- My apologies for using this as a place for making a personal statement, but I just want to thank the Hammond Fire Department. One of my kids had a medical emergency over the weekend and just like they always do, they responded very professionally and caring to help after my little one. I just want to thank the fire department for all that they do to keep our residents safe, including my family when needed. Thank you.

Councilman Alexander- Piggybacking off of what Councilman Tyler said, I do know that during the storm, our fire department was going and checking on a lot of our elderly residents and things like that to make sure they were good when they were losing power, especially those that are on oxygen and things like that. So giving them kudos for those checks as well.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE- Councilman Spitale- No new business.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Councilman Tyler- No business tonight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Councilman Woerpel- No, but 26-19 will be coming out. Finance hasn't met.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- Capital Improvement Board met on July 6th, and there were a total of 7 funding allocations all of which I'll cover at this time.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD Cont.

FUNDING ALLOCATION #266- 165th Street from Kennedy to Kentucky Design and Michigan Street from Hohman to Calumet- First Group Engineering- in the amount of \$92,300.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #283- Summer Street Reconstruction- Change Orders 8 & 13 thru 17- INDOT/Rieth Riley Construction Co- In the amount of \$15,567.94

FUNDING ALLOCATION #330- Summer Street Sewer Change Order No. 1- Grimmer Construction- in the amount of \$3,100.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #331- Memorial Park Street Dedication- American Structurepoint- in the amount of \$1,300.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #332- Disposed Salvaged Building Materials- Dyer Construction- in the amount of \$10,700.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #333- 2026 General Engineering Services-NIES Engineering- in the amount of \$60,000.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #334- Fabricate Steel Bollards for Hohman Avenue- Van's Industrial , Inc- in the amount of \$18,900.00

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

Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza; next meeting will be in September
East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues. July 21; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Edison Community Watch; next meeting will be in September
Harrison Park Crime Watch; next meeting will be in September
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. August 20; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center
Irving Community Watch; next meeting will be in September
South Hohman Avenue Neighborhood Watch; next meeting will be in October
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thurs. August 13; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College
Jefferson Crime Watch; next meeting will be in September

Council President Venecz-Meanwhile, if you just want some information about something going on in your neighborhood, please be sure to utilize the 311 app. If you're feeling extremely uncomfortable, please call 911. It's better to be safe than sorry. The police would much rather get a call about something that turns out to be nothing, than to miss a call about something of consequence. Please utilize every safety feature that we have available in the city, because community is not just about me, it's about us.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

26-19 An Ordinance of the City of Hammond to Amend Title VII, Chapter 76, Schedule XV of the Hammond Municipal Code, as it Pertains to Bike Paths

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

Councilman Woerpel- This ordinance is literally one half of one page. It's section 1, schedule XV, of the bike paths of the Hammond Municipal Code is hereby amended to add the following locations as additional bike paths in Hammond; Marquette Greenway, Erie Lackawanna, Monon, Wolf Lake, George Lake, Little Calumet River, and the Downtown-Wolf Lake Connector are added to the ordinance. This does not mean they're brand new bike paths.

Council President Venecz- Thank you. Any 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. 9714 APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

26-20 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2026 Gaming Fund

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

Councilman Woerpel- The reason I'm not putting this in committee, it's something we do every year, it transfers the 2025 funds leftover gaming funds into the 2026 accounts

Council President Venecz- Thank you. I do believe there's a need for a public hearing, July 27th, is that correct?

Councilman Woerpel- It doesn't say it on mine, that I'm aware of, let me look.

Council President Venecz- It's on the agenda.

Councilman Woerpel- That's correct. I got my two folders mixed up last week and this week.

Council President Venecz- Ok, so there will be a public hearing on July 27th as well. 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

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS

- 26R-16 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 2026 Spring Distribution

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved for final passage.

Councilman Woerpel- This resolution is pretty much described what it does in the title. It designates the funds into which the distributions of the financial institution tax and commercial vehicle excise tax shall be receipted for the 2026 distribution. Legislative changes provide flexibility to taxing units including the City of Hammond in receipting and utilizing these two taxes and distributions.

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. R16 APPROVED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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

- 26-21 BZA: Z-26-11: Petition of Raul Correa for a Variance of Use From Zoning Ordinance to Allow an Event Space General Facility in a R-1U Urban Single Family Residential District Located at 1424-30 Michigan Street, Within the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved for approval.

Councilman Kalwinski- I consult with Councilman Salinas, before the meeting to see if the letter was sent out within 300 feet of this action and it was and primarily the neighbors were in approval of this going forward. I appreciate that information. Thank you.

Councilman Salinas- I believe it was over 90 percent, as well as I left everyone with a copy from the Hammond Police Department on their desks today, just offering their support that they've given to the business owner, who's here, Raul Correa, regarding anytime there's an event, with alcohol present or alcohol on site, it is a standard that the police department are security of that event.

Council President Venecz- It's a standard, not a requirement?

Councilman Salinas- Well, it is a requirement. It is. He requires it and it's standard in his business practices, and he's got letters supporting that from the Hammond Police Department as well.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

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

Council President Venecz- Thank you. Any other discussion? (X3)

ROLL CALL VOTE (approval)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Mary Schoons- Thankful for Public Works. Thinks the city shouldn't cut down any trees in Briar East Woods and the city will flood without them.

Anthony Higgs- Thanked Public Works, and says he checked with residents around the 3rd District who flooded. Says he has been involved in the community since he was 18. Forwards issues to the department heads. Thanked the Mayor for his help during the flooding. Hopes everyone stays safe during the Fest.

Tommie Dorsey- Wanted to let everyone know he volunteers with the elderly, and praised the Hammond Fire Department for their swift response time.

Linda Verduzco- Thanked the Council for doing a good job. Enjoyed the Roadie Run, and it encouraged her to join a walking group. Would really like for the bridge to be built due to trains in Hessville.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved to adjourn. AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to return to public expression.

ROLL CALL VOTE (return to public expression)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Matt Miller- Expressed opinion opposing data centers.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved to return to regular business.

ROLL CALL VOTE (return to regular business)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Spitale, 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	9	23	9	23	13	27	11	26	8	22	13											
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	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	P	P											
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG											

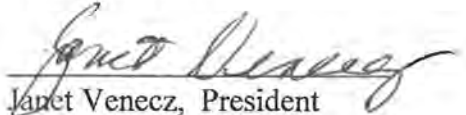
E=ELECTRONIC

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: 7:00 p.m.
mg

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk