



HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

AUGUST 24, 2026

COUNCILPERSONS

1ST District

-Mark Kalwinski

2ND District

-Alfonso Salinas III

3RD District

-Barry Tyler, Jr.

4TH District

-William Emerson

5TH District

-Dave Woerpel

6TH District

-Scott Rakos

At Large (3)

-Katrina Alexander

-Daniel Spitale

-Janet Venecz/ 2026 President

The Common Council meets for its regularly scheduled meetings every 2nd and 4th Monday at 6:00 pm, City Hall 2nd Floor, Common Council Chambers.

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-2.9, the website <https://www.gohammond.tv> is the publicly accessible platform where the live transmission and archived copy of this meeting is located. If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting electronically, the meeting will be available for free on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 873 3657 9345

Passcode: 961827

In addition, meeting minutes, agendas, ordinances, resolutions, including recently adopted, can be found on gohammond.com (City Clerk page).

If anyone is in need of special accommodations for this meeting, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, notice of said need should be provided to Sharon Daniels, City of Hammond ADA Compliance Officer, at (219) 853-6502, or e-mail ada@gohammond.com, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate individuals when prior notice is given.

Prepared by:

Robert J. Golec,

Hammond City Clerk

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation

2. ROLL CALL

3. MAYOR'S ADDRESS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

7. COMMUNICATIONS

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. ORDINANCE 3RD READING – FINAL PASSAGE

10. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

11. RESOLUTIONS

A. A Resolution Consenting to and Approving the Continuation of the Local Disaster Emergency Declared by the Mayor of the City of Hammond
Sponsored by Scott Rakos

26R-17

12. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

None

14. PUBLIC EXPRESSION

ADJOURN

**A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO AND APPROVING THE
CONTINUATION OF THE LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARED
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND**

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2026, the City of Hammond and other communities in Northwest Indiana experienced a severe storm system involving sustained winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and heavy rainfall, causing substantial and devastating damage within the City of Hammond; and

WHEREAS, the severe weather caused substantial damage to public infrastructure and facilities, widespread power outages, damage to private real and personal property, and conditions requiring emergency response and recovery efforts and the expenditure of substantial City resources; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2026, Thomas M. McDermott, Jr., Mayor of the City of Hammond and principal executive officer of the City, pursuant to Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29, issued a **Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency** for the City of Hammond as a result of the severe storms and resulting damage occurring on or about August 11, 2026, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29 provides that a local disaster emergency may not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to assess and address damage to public property and infrastructure and continues to incur substantial costs associated with emergency response, debris removal, repair, restoration, and recovery including having to contract with out of state firms to assist with debris removal and monitoring of same; and

WHEREAS, continued coordination with Lake County, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other governmental agencies is necessary and appropriate to facilitate the City's ongoing response and recovery efforts and to seek all available state and federal disaster assistance; and

WHEREAS, city employees have worked tirelessly to assist our city and its residents to recover from the impacts of the storm and continue to do so while many of them and their families are also impacted by the severe storms; and

WHEREAS, as of nine (9) days after the storm the mayor has stated that nearly 10,000 people in the city are still impacted by power outages; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Hammond finds that the conditions and ongoing response and recovery efforts resulting from the August 11, 2026 severe storm warrant continuation of the local disaster emergency declared by the Mayor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Continuation of Local Disaster Emergency.

Pursuant to Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29, the Common Council hereby consents to and approves the continuation of the Local Disaster Emergency declared by Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. on August 13, 2026, arising from the severe storm and resulting damage occurring on or about August 11, 2026.

Section 2. Duration.

DRAFT

The Local Disaster Emergency is hereby continued for an additional period of sixty (60) days from the date of adoption of this Resolution, unless earlier terminated in accordance with applicable law. Nothing herein shall preclude the Common Council from consenting to a further continuation or renewal of the Local Disaster Emergency should conditions and ongoing response or recovery efforts warrant such action.

Section 3. Response, Recovery, and Disaster Assistance.

During the continued Local Disaster Emergency, City departments and officials are authorized and directed to continue all appropriate response and recovery activities, including assessing and documenting damage to public property and infrastructure; documenting disaster-related labor, equipment, contractual, debris removal, repair, restoration, and other expenditures; and coordinating with Lake County, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other appropriate governmental agencies concerning available state and federal disaster assistance.

Section 4. Original Declaration Incorporated.

The Mayor's August 13, 2026 Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, is incorporated into this Resolution by reference and, except as to its original seven-day duration as extended herein, shall remain in full force and effect during the continuation authorized by this Resolution.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, this ____ day of August, 2026.

Janet Venecz, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

DRAFT

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk
City of Hammond, Indiana

PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond, Indiana, to the Mayor, for approval and signature, this ____ day of ____, 2026.

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk
City of Hammond, Indiana

The foregoing Ordinance No. _____, consisting of three (3) typewritten pages, including this page, was **APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME**, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Hammond, Indiana, this ____ day of ____, 2026.

Thomas M. McDermott, Jr., Mayor
City of Hammond, Indiana

PASSED by the Common Council on the ____ day of _____, 2026 and
by the Mayor on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk,
Hammond, Indiana

DRAFT

CITY OF HAMMOND, INDIANA DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, the City of Hammond along with many communities in Northwest Indiana experienced a storm system that had sustained winds of over 100 miles per hour and included heavy rainfall causing substantial and devastating damage within the City; and

WHEREAS, this severe weather caused damage to public infrastructure and facilities resulting in conditions requiring emergency response, recovery efforts, and the expenditure of city resources; and

WHEREAS, the city is continuing to assess the extent of damage to public property and infrastructure and the costs associated with emergency response, debris removal, repair, restoration, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, many of the city's residents have been impacted through loss of power and/or damage to their personal and/or real property and that NIPSCO has reported over 22,000 locations in the City of Hammond have been without power since the storm; and

WHEREAS, the amount of damage meets or exceeds the Indiana Department of Homeland Security guidelines related to Indiana State Disaster Relief Funding; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29 authorizes the principal executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, the nature and extent of the damage caused by the severe storm incident of August 11, 2026 warrants the declaration of a local disaster emergency and may require assistance from Lake County, the State of Indiana, the federal government, or other governmental entities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas M. McDermott, Jr., Mayor of the City of Hammond, Indiana, as the principal executive officer of the city and pursuant to the authority granted by Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29 and other applicable law, hereby declare that a LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY exists within the City of Hammond as a result of the severe storms and resulting damage occurring on or about August 11, 2026.

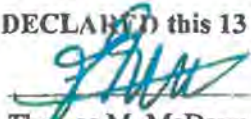
This declaration activates the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance in accordance with those plans.

City departments and officials are directed to take all appropriate actions necessary to respond to and recover from the disaster, document damages and disaster-related expenditures, protect public property and infrastructure, and coordinate with Lake County, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other appropriate governmental agencies concerning available disaster assistance as requested and required.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for a period not exceeding seven (7) days unless continued or renewed in accordance with Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Clerk of the City of Hammond, as required by Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29.

DECLARED this 13 day of August, 2026.


Thomas M. McDermott, Jr., Mayor
City of Hammond, Indiana

