

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on AUGUST 24, 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.

Council Coordinator facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Moment of silence observed.

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Alexander

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- It's good to see you all. This is my report for August 24, 2026. It's all about the storm, because 1 day after our last meeting, Hammond got hammered by the worst storm I've probably ever been in, one of the most damaging storms we've experienced, probably in our city's history. In roughly 20 minutes, 1.71 inches of rain fell, accompanied by winds exceeding 90 mph. The Hammond Sanitary District plant peaked at nearly 90 million gallons a flow, keep in mind, this plant is rated for 70 million gallons, it was peaked at nearly 90 million gallons a flow and the CSO basin was fully utilized eventually overflowing at a peak rate at approximately 200 million gallons, way over our capacity. Half of Hammond Sanitary District's 40 pump stations lost power. 6 of them lost power in Hammond. 14 of the pump stations in Munster lost power requiring Hammond Sanitary District employees to work around the clock maintaining stations and generators until NIPSCO power was restored. In parts of Munster, NIPSCO power is still not restored, so it's been extraordinary in Hammond Sanitary District and the response that they had to do. Immediate City response, immediately after the storm, I directed all available city departments and resources towards emergency response. The damage to Hammond was extensive. Public Works initially documented approximately 80 city owned trees down, while Parks received more than 250 phone reports and 311 click fix requests involving trees. At least 15 trees had to be removed from homes, and approximately 163 additional trees have been removed from homes, parks, and streets. The scale of the clean up was probably best illustrated by the debris. I don't know if anybody has seen behind the sportsplex on 167th, we converted one of the parking lots into a debris field. I drove by it right before I got here. It covers the entire parking lot, and it's about 10 feet tall. That's from all over the city. We felt it was best to bring to that, most of the damage was in the 4th, 5th, and 6th, and it was the easiest most central to put it there. We've already processed approximately 11,500 cubic yards with another 23,000 cubic yards still estimated to remain on the streets of Hammond that needs to be processed. We also lost power to 47 traffic signals, creating significant traffic problems throughout the city. Public Works immediately deployed 20 tree cutters, 5 payloaders, 2 chippers, a bucket truck and approximately 40 trucks. Public Works and Parks were joined by employees and equipment from the Hammond Marina, the Hammond Sanitary District, Hammond Sewer Department, and the Hammond Water Department. Despite the enormous amount of damage, all of Hammond's thoroughfares were cleared by August 12th, one day after the storm. It's incredible that we got our

*Prepared by
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MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-streets open and that's a testament to all of the hard work from all of our laborers. They hit the streets with chainsaws and payloaders and bucket trucks and just started cleaning up. We were driving around Hammond freely on Thursday and the storm hit us on Tuesday. It was a remarkable accomplishment by our employees working under extremely difficult conditions. These employees had damage to their own homes and they were working on other peoples homes while their own homes sat there exposed. Our police department also deployed 6 additional officers on overnight patrol, supplementing our normal beat officers in the neighborhoods without electricity to protect homes and property during the outage. We did have a couple break in situations reported but it was really actually very quiet during the storm, lower crime rate than normal. We did have a couple occasions where we caught or we're seeking the people that broke into some homes, but for the most part it was really quiet crime wise. State and outside assistance, on August 12th, Hammond hosted Governor Mike Braun at Hammond Central Firehouse to inspect the damage and brief the public on the regional emergency. The following day, August 13th, I formally declared a local disaster emergency for the City of Hammond. At that point, 32,242 Hammond customers had been impacted by the storm, most of our city. 32,000 units. How many people live in your unit? There's 3 people that live in my unit. You're talking, most of the city was affected by this storm when we declared an emergency. That declaration allowed us to activate emergency procedures, coordinate with County, State, and Federal agencies, pursue available disaster assistance, and move quickly to bring in outside help. Within 2 days of the storm, we authorized specialized contractors from Mississippi through Looking Great Services to supplement our Public Works and Parks crews and begin removing the massive trees and debris throughout Hammond. Keeping residents informed and helping families, communication was also a major priority. My office and Gohammond provided frequent updates on restoration efforts, resources, and assistance available to residents. Gohammond published more than 70 storm related updates during this period. On August 14th, virtual morning with the Mayor received approximately 13,500 views. At the same time, we worked with community partners to help families dealing with prolonged outages. Between August 15th and 20th food distributions were held at Scott Middle School, the Hammond Sportsplex, and the Hammond Civic Center, working with HC3, NIPSCO, HUEA, and the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, and more than 100 volunteers at those events. NIPSCO restoration throughout the outage, we stayed in constant contact with NIPSCO. I had frequent conversations with the CEO and multiple people in NIPSCO throughout the entire ordeal advocating for additional crews and resources while making sure that our own crews were cleaning streets and removing trees so NIPSCO workers could reach the damaged electrical infrastructure. From August 19th, through August 22, we participated in daily NIPSCO municipal leader conference calls. During those calls, I personally pressed NIPSCO's CEO directly for community specific restoration information instead of simply providing regional numbers. NIPSCO subsequently began issuing daily community by community reports showing outages, restoration progress, crews deployed, and estimated restoration timeline. They gave Hammond residents much better information about what was actually happening in their own community. As we transitioned from emergency response into recovery, I also authorized Governor Braun's state incident command operations to relocate right here to Hammond City Hall, bringing the State's emergency management operation directly into Lake County and closer to the communities hardest hit by the storm. Where we stand today, finally on August 22nd, 11 days after the storm, Hammond reached NIPSCO's 95 % restoration benchmark. As I give this report tonight, we are down to approximately 121 remaining outages. So while this was extremely difficult 11 days for Hammond residents, I'm proud of how our city employees responded. Every department pitched in, we brought in outside resources when we needed them, we worked with the Governor and the State, we pushed NIPSCO for resources and better information, we helped residents who were struggling, and we kept working until Hammond was largely

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- restored. There's still cleanup ahead of us and we're not finished until those remaining outages are resolved and the storm debris is gone. I want to publicly thank our employees, first responders, volunteers, community partners, NIPSCO linemen, and outside crews who worked extraordinary long hours to help Hammond recover. That's my report. It's been a heck of a two weeks since the last time I saw you. I'm very proud of our city. I'm very proud of our employees. I'm very proud of the way everybody pulled together. It was frustrating for all of us sitting in the dark. I was sitting in the dark for 5 days and that was more than enough for me. We had residents that did twice as long as that. I've been Mayor for a long time, you guys know that, and that was definitely probably the most trying time. It was the most trying time I've experienced as the Mayor, so I don't know how many questions you have, and I know everybody's got comments and everybody up here helped, and I appreciate all your help, so thank you very much for letting me speak on this madam chairwoman. If you have any questions, I'm available.

Council President Venecz- I would like to say that we appreciate you pushing because NIPSCO definitely needed to be pushed in this situation. We appreciate all the city employees who stepped up. Our employees are outstanding anyway, but they really showed up for this situation and they're the best, and from all of us, thank you to them.

Mayor McDermott- Can I interject on that real quick about the NIPSCO issue?

Council President Venecz- Yes, of course.

Mayor McDermott- We brought it up, it seemed like when we were 2 or 3 days into the storm, you'd as NIPSCO when is Hammond going to be back on? I mean, that's my main concern, I'm the Mayor of Hammond.

Council President Venecz- That's your job.

Mayor McDermott- But they'd say, oh just look at our website, and you'd look at the website and it says there's 300 thousand plus people out of power, we would expect the have them back within a couple weeks. It was just like there was nothing specific, so the first opportunity I got to talk to Mr. Parisi, the CEO of NIPSCO, I was like Mr. Parisi, we have to do something about community specific restoration times. Even if it's bad news, we don't know if it's going to be one day or if it's going to be 2 weeks. If I tell you right off the bat, it's going to be 2 weeks, you approach your life differently than if you think you're going to get it back the next day, and I think NIPSCO really took that to heart and they came out the next day, and they gave Hammond, we got the first community specific report, and then everybody started getting them after that. I think that should be standard practice. Hopefully NIPSCO learned some lessons from this as well, but I thought, and even though it didn't contain great news, in that time it was like, next Saturday, you're going to be turned on. Nobody was happy about that, but at least you knew. NIPSCO gave us the word. I think the meetings they had with elected officials were very helpful. Thank you for bringing that up.

Council President Venecz- And, as far, from my perspective, I think NIPSCO has got a lot of explaining to do. It would not be productive to have an open meeting, because it would just turn into everybody ripping on NIPSCO, but as far as you, and the President or Vice President, whom ever you spoke with, that's where the meetings need to take place. It used to be that NIPSCO trimmed trees. We didn't like the way they were

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Council President Venecz cont.-trimmed because they just trimmed a v in the middle of the tree, but they were trimmed nonetheless and I haven't seen that in years, so from my perspective, I think that NIPSCO has got a lot of explaining to do to consider the fact that we have so many seniors in our city. We have senior buildings. My girlfriend, her mother is 93 years old, and she's running around town trying to find food because all the food in their fridge was destroyed. All of that needs to be taken into consideration, the human cost of something like this. I know it's out of our control, but there's such a thing as preparedness and one thing that I have always admired about you, is that you are forward thinking. You always think into the future. I didn't see that with NIPSCO, so that's my perspective. Now I'll get off my soapbox.

Councilman Rakos- I agree with what Councilwoman Venecz says, and again, kudos to all of our city workers, they did a great job. I want to thank you for getting that information out so on social media, I was allowed to copy that and send it out as it came everyday, along with all the different services that were being provided and meal plans, and stuff like that. It was definitely the way to go and definitely the way to get information out, and I appreciate you getting that out.

Mayor McDermott- That happened sort of, I don't know, I went to the first community meeting, and I was just taking notes. I was literally just writing down everything I heard. Then I got done, and I like put them all into a document and I just dropped it. I don't know if NIPSCO was crazy about it, but I was just like, our people need to know something in Hammond, and I dropped it. I called each of you and you all shared it, and I appreciate that. Gohammond shared it. Really between all of us and Gohammond, we could reach almost everybody in this city, and we dropped it, and then I noticed other cities and towns started doing the same thing and then everyday it just became a thing. We would just do a daily report. This is how many people we have out, this is how many people we started with, and NIPSCO made this much progress. I was still sitting in the dark, like I said, 5 days later. It seemed like they were biting off like 10% a day. They were doing a little bit better some days, and before you know it my lights turned on. It was a happy day. I never really appreciated electricity so much until that day.

Councilman Woerpel- I think, all the days ran together to me, but um, I found out number 1, why I hate camping. I think we spoke during the storm, maybe I'm wrong, but you were down with the flu weren't you?

Mayor McDermott- One of the first days, yeah.

Councilman Woerpel- And we spoke almost everyday along with Mr. Miller and I can't thank the city enough, and I'm speaking on behalf of my residents for the response that was shown. I had the pleasure one day of riding with the District Foreman Jeff Rutherford and seeing the residents come together, Matt Marcum from the Parks Department included pushing the brush out to the street so the buckets could pick stuff up, and the comment was made about whether or not, something about him making a comment about NIPSCO, would they expect anything less? I mean, if you were unhappy about something, would they expect you to stay quiet?

Mayor McDermott- You know it's interesting, Councilman, I think this is the more mature Mayor that's been here for awhile, it's important for your Mayor to have a good relationship with NIPSCO for a number of reasons, so like, it's important to have a relationship with NIPSCO, for the Mayor. It really is. It does our city a lot of good if NIPSCO and the Mayor are on the same page.

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Councilman Woerpel- I kept my mouth shut because you and I are on the same grid, and I didn't want your power shut off because I said something stupid, but thank you and all the city workers for the job you did and responding to every phone call, and making sure what we needed was done. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- Thank you, Mayor, and again, thanks to the city employees for all the overtime and hard work they put in. Some people were doing work that they weren't accustomed to doing and nevertheless, stepped up and did their share and grateful to the neighbors for helping to move tree limbs and branches so the city trucks could get to the big trees in the alleys and the streets to cut them down. It was a nice concerted effort. As you know the Pulaski Park Neighborhood was dark for 9 days with no power, no cable, no internet and that was rough, as you would know. I appreciate you staying in touch with me letting me know what's on and off in the way of power, etc. but as I'm thinking about our role as a city, the gohammond was a great place to have resource information, but for people in our situation, that wasn't helpful.

Mayor McDermott- Because internet wasn't working, yes, sir.

Councilman Kalwinski- Right, and so I still think of like WJOB as a warehouse when the flooding occurred and how information also passed through them. We almost need a second opportunity, because I have a battery operated radio as some others tried to get to listen to JOB to get updates, so that's just a thought down the road.

Mayor McDermott- That's a great point, Councilman. I didn't have internet at my house for the first few days and I had to come to City Hall to get stuff done. City Hall thankfully was unaffected, so I was getting my internet and my power from City Hall just for some assistance.

Councilman Kalwinski- But everything the city did was wonderful. It really helped and the resources available will continue to come. I know I contacted Northwest Indiana Food Bank, they still are going to try to hit Hammond and Whiting one more time. Another idea was that this resource list for emergencies, should get broadened and updated, and on the site all the time for when this hits again, because apparently we're going to be seeing more, not less of this kind of weather event, so thank you again for everything you did.

Mayor McDermott- You know what's interesting, and I know there's more popular questions, I think us as a Mayor and Council need to, we need to look at some type of ordinance about trees and power lines. I think it's something we need to talk about. If you're close to a power line, you should have some type of obligation as a city, if it's our tree, but if it's your tree as a homeowner, it's not fair to your neighbors if you don't maintain your tree, and it falls on the power lines and knocks everybody out for a week. I don't think these storms, Councilman Barry, we just what, a month ago in Harrison Park, lost multiple trees, and they all fall the same direction. They fall from the west, and they go to the east, right? It's like we know the direction they're falling. These big old trees are falling down now because these storms are getting worse, and it's not far away, that we're going to be back in this same kind of mess. These storms are not getting weaker.

Councilman Kalwinski- I agree, we need to do that.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott- I have the Legal Department looking into ordinances to see what kind of options there are out there.

Councilman Salinas- To that point that you just brought up about maybe coming up with some kind of ordinance or resolution, we were all sitting in the dark, for quite a bit, some of us longer than others, I got to thinking, how could Hammond, what can we do to be better prepared as well and a lot of things have crossed my mind, a lot of ideas, I'm sure we've all come up with. I'd love for all of us to sit down and have a brainstorming session in terms of what we can do as a whole to be better prepared, because we clearly know NIPSCO wasn't. That's for sure. Maybe we can all agree on that. I don't want to miss that point as well. I really am negative when it comes to just their public outreach, when it comes to their updates, like you said, it took awhile to get anything out of them, and that's unacceptable. It really is.

Mayor McDermott- I agree with you, Councilman. If we have a power outage today, and I tell you, Councilman, it's going to be 5 days before you get your power on, you're going to be pissed, and you're not going to wanna hear it, but you're going to get ready for 5 days without power.

Councilman Salinas- Absolutely, absolutely.

Mayor McDermott- If I say, there's no answer, you think, well maybe I'll have it back by tonight, and you approach life differently. If you know it's a prolonged outage, you should, and we should have all known, based on the damage. I've never seen damage like that in the City of Hammond, so we all knew it was extraordinary, what happened.

Councilman Kalwinski- You're right, if you know how many days you're running for that amount of ice to keep your fridge cold, you're running for more batteries, etc. so at least if you have a generator, you know how many days you're going to have to gas up.

Mayor McDermott- That's right. I agree.

Councilman Salinas- Absolutely.

Councilman Kalwinski- That end date is critically important on planning to get through it.

Mayor McDermott- And if you get it earlier, people are happy. If I tell you, it's going to be next Saturday, and I give it back to you on Thursday, you're happy as heck because it's not Saturday. I agree. I think NIPSCO has never been hit with something like this, and I'm not defending NIPSCO, I'm just saying, it was extraordinary what happened. They said it's the biggest storm in their company's history. I believe them. I think that they had a policy going into that, whenever they have a power outage, if Councilman Barry has a power outage, NIPSCO's approach is like, don't tell Councilman Barry when he's going to get it back, he'll just be happy when it comes back. If it's a 4 hour or a 6 hour outage, we can handle that, but if it's going to be a 10 day outage, you have to give us a heads up, right?

Councilman Salinas- Right.

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Robert J. Golec
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MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott- I think NIPSCO definitely learned lessons from this as well.

Councilman Salinas- To that point, you know, I also thought to myself, at this point, just lie to me. Just give me anything, please, I'll take any news. So yeah, I agree with you on that one, but you know, as I sat there in the dark, like a lot of us, I was quickly reminded how great my neighbors really are. I mean, I've been fortunate enough to grow up and be raised in the same block where I currently live and a lot of the families that helped raise me, are still there and to them families, and to those good residents that are on my block and in my area, I want to say thank you as well because offering food, offering assistance, or even just talking to them during certain times, helped us get through this, so there are still a lot of good people in Hammond that reside in all of our districts. Also, I wanted to ask, you mentioned about 100 residents out and without power. Do we know where they're at or what areas they're in, because I'd like to try to reach out.

Mayor McDermott- They're scattered throughout the city, Councilman. It's not really, and it's to the point where it's house specific issues that electric weather head falls off or if it's like specific to that house damage. If you're out and all your neighbors are on, there's something specific to your house that needs to be fixed, and that's most of the cases left, and I know NIPSCO's knocking them out, but it's obviously, if you're not turned on in your entire neighborhood, or you're just turning on 1 house, it's harder.

Councilman Salinas- Like with weather heads, do we know if they're waiting on NIPSCO to come shut them off or turn them on, or we don't really know?

Mayor McDermott- I don't really know, Councilman.

Councilman Woerpel- Now that that was brought up, I had a lady who's weather head went down, and 5 days after it was repaired, she was calling me going, I got this repaired 5 days ago, and I asked her if she called NIPSCO, and she said no. People have to understand when you get that weather head repaired, you do have to call them to call them to come back out and turn it on.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you for saying that.

Councilman Spitale- You said about NIPSCO 23 years ago, I guess they didn't understand what you were talking about did they.

Mayor McDermott- What do you mean?

Councilman Spitale- You did the right thing, and they never said a damn thing about it because this is where it's at now. You've been kick ass all the time.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, sir.

Council President Venecz- As I'm listening to all of the conversation, it reminds me of when I was a young child and transistor radios came out and we thought that was the greatest thing, you could walk around with a radio in your hand. You know something like that would have been very helpful at a time like this. I did want to mention, all of the people who made food donations, and prepared the food, and volunteered to pass out the

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Council President Venecz cont.-food. When things get bad, the worst comes out in people a lot of times, and this certainly was an instance where the heart of Hammond came out. People were concerned about their neighbors and their neighborhoods and their city, so thank you to all those who donated and volunteered.

Councilman Spitale- They're the best.

Councilman Salinas- Hammond strong.

Mayor McDermott- That's my report. Hopefully we don't have a 2 weeks like we just had. I appreciate everybody. The Council did a great job. I appreciate all your support. I think we did a good job communicating with the public. Our job is to patrol the streets. We had 18 officers working every night. Our job is to clear the streets. Our streets were cleared the next day and we were driving around normally on Thursday. Our job is to help the homeowners out, and we got 10 foot pile of rubbish in the Sportsplex parking lot right now from all over the City of Hammond. You know that company we hired out of Mississippi, they have equipment, if there was a huge tree on your house, they had a little claw that would just pull it off and chop it up into pieces. We could have never done that. It would have taken us 2 days to do that, and it was just one pull of the house, and it cost us money. I mean, we suffered economic damages and obviously we're applying for FEMA to get reimbursed for all the damages we suffered, but we're out quite a bit of money because of the storm response, but I wouldn't change a thing, because we're up and running. I'll tell you, we were energized as a community. I know that we still have people that are in the dark, and we have to fight for them, but for the most part, all of the communities around here were jealous of Hammond because we got turned on quick. I think part of the reason we got turned on so quickly is because we cleared the streets out and NIPSCO was able to get around and turn us on. If you were counting on NIPSCO to come in and pull the trees off the house, if they have to pull the trees off the line, it's going to take longer. We were doing that stuff ourselves and we got turned on quicker and still 10 days is way too long, but there's people that are still out right now guys.

Councilman Kalwinski- Has the Governor gotten a response from D.C. about the area?

Mayor McDermott- I believe so Councilman, I'm sorry that that's not in my report. I'm pretty sure, you know, the Governor is pretty tight with the President, so I imagine it's going to be received well. I'm not positive on that though, but the Governor's emergency response office is in the basement of City Hall if anybody wants to go down there and talk. Tony Ferarro is the Governor's guy from this area, and he reports to Hammond City Hall everyday. It's a pretty extraordinary 2 weeks, but I appreciate you all. Keep the good work and I'm gonna go home and eat some dinner.

Councilman Tyler- There's one thing you didn't touch on. Northwest Indiana got a pretty decent contribution from an organization. You might wanna touch on that?

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, \$200,000 donation from the Chicago Bears goes through the Gary Diocese Catholic Charities. I think they did \$100,000 to Illinios, and \$100,000 to Indiana, but I don't know that the Bears, a year ago, would have donated \$100,000 to the Gary Diocese and Catholic Charities, so that's pretty nice. I appreciate, you know, Mr. McCaskey and the Chicago Bears organization for that donation. It's gonna help replenish our food bank. It's gonna help replenish the not for profits that spent a lot of money helping out, so thanks for bringing that up Councilman.

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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Councilman Woerpel- Go Bears.

Mayor McDermott- That's funny, anyway, thank you all, it's good to see you.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2026 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from August 5, 2026 through August 19, 2026. Claim #6365 through claim #6781, inclusive. In the amount of \$3,084,068.60.

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

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Councilman Tyler- No report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE- Councilman Spitale- The Plan Commission had a August 17, 2026 to allow a child daycare center adult daycare an overnight care center is what they came to, they have to go tomorrow night in the meeting to get this to go. That's exactly where it's at.

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Councilman Woerpel- I'm sure Councilman Salinas will be giving the Capital Improvement Board report, but um, we passed expenditures of \$38,862.26, which leaves a total of unallocated funds at \$2.551 million in the Capital Improvement Board fund.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- Capital Improvement Board met on August 17, 2026 and there were 2 funding allocations approved.

FUNDING ALLOCATION #338- Modifications to Outdoor Volleyball Courts at Hammond Sportsplex- Grimmer Construction - in the amount of \$25,625.26

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Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- Cont.

FUNDING ALLOCATION #339-Repair Guardrail at 165th Street at Stateline Road-Specialties Company LLC- in the amount of \$13,237.00

COMMUNITY AND CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venecz - Well, this is going to be a little bit confusing because I've been unable to get in touch with the schools to find out exactly what's going on, if we're able to gain access to the schools for our crime watch meetings so, my recommendation, thank you Officer Ray, my recommendation would be for anyone to check out facebook, I'll be in touch with the Hammond Police Department if we are going to have Crime Watch meetings, but I will give you tentative dates.

East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues. August 18; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Edison Community Watch; Wed. September 2; pending approval from the school
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues. September 1; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. September 17; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center
Irving Community Watch; Tues. September 8; 9:30 a.m.; pending approval from the school
South Hohman Neighborhood watch- has yet to announce
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur. September 10; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College
Jefferson Crime Watch; Wed. September 9; Jefferson School

Council President Venecz- As always, I recommend that you go to a crime watch meeting to find out what's going on in your neighborhood. I do have to say that as the result of this storm that we had, there are scam calls that are coming through and you need to be aware not to give any of your personal information to anybody who calls you in regard to repairs to your home or if they come to your door, they must have a badge. If they don't have a badge identifying the company that they are with, call the police. These are the kind of things that we learn at crime watch meetings that would be very helpful in emergency situations, such as we experienced recently. As always, community is not just about me, it's about us.

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

26R-17 A Resolution Consenting to and Approving the Continuation of the Local Disaster Emergency Declared by the Mayor of the City of Hammond.

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

Councilman Rakos read the Resolution in its entirety.

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved to amend 26R-17 to say resolution instead of

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS Cont.

ordinance on the last page.

ROLL CALL VOTE (amendment)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

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AMENDMENT APPROVED

Councilman Tyler- I would like to be added as a co-sponsor.

Council President Venecz- Anyone else? If anyone is interested, after we pass this, we can add all of us.

ROLL CALL VOTE (as amended)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R17 APPROVED
(AS AMENDED)

Council President Venecz- Does anyone else want to be added to this? I personally would like to. Carmen, if you would add all of us, thank you.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel- Yesterday, I was given the task of trying to get Scott Rakos to go somewhere and if you know him and I, that could be next to impossible sometimes, but I want to wish Uncle Junior over here a happy 40th birthday.

Councilman Rakos- 40th? Yeah, that sounds good, I like that.

Council President Venecz- Happy birthday, Councilman Rakos.

Councilman Rakos- Thank you.

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

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Laurie Czulno- Thanked all the workers for their efforts during the storm cleanup.

Paul Aguilera- Thanked all the workers for their efforts during the storm cleanup. Will be holding a small town hall to see where the city can improve. Talked about tax relief for Veterans.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION Cont.

Anthony Higgs- Thanked all the workers for their efforts during the storm cleanup. Thanked Strack and Van Til's for feeding people. Helped some of his neighbors. Says you can't fault NIPSCO because it was an act of God and NIPSCO rates will go up if you sue them.

George Stoya- Thanked all the workers for their efforts during the storm cleanup. Says the lawsuit filed by the Allen Group is monumental and one way we may get NIPSCO to answer in a critically rational way and not just get a push through, through the IURC and get whatever they want.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Spitale, 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	22	13	27	10	24								
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E								
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	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	P	P	P								
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P								
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P								
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	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	P	P	P								
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	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	P	P	P								
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG									

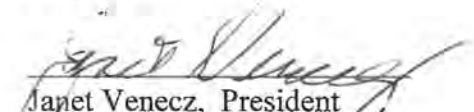
E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY

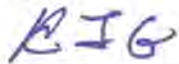
PRESENT

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: 6:56 p.m.

mg

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*