The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 13, 2026 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Janet Venecz presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.
Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander

ROLL CALL
PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None
ABSENT: None
TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- Hi, how's it going? It's nice to see you, Councilwoman. Thanks to the Council. It's been a couple weeks since I've been here. I missed the last meeting. I appreciate Scott for covering me at that meeting. I condensed this report, I didn't want to go through my entire last month. It was my fault I missed the meeting, I'm sure Scott covered some of the stuff that we did in the Mayor's Office when he was here last time, so since then, I had a meeting with the owners and the attorneys of The Banc, Downtown Hammond. I had a really good meeting. There may be some ordinances, we're discussing with the Banc, how to help them out with a situation they're having with the Lake County Assessor's office right now. I can talk to you a little bit more off record if you want to talk about it, but we want the Banc to do very well. They have a disagreement with the Lake County Assessor's. I think that the City of Hammond could play a role in it, so we met with Latonya who is awesome and I love very much. She is an outstanding Lake County Assessor. She's trying to represent the cities and I think she does a good job. We met with the attorney's for the Banc, and I think that there's some resolutions that we can come up with to help them out. I'll be keeping you guys in tune on that one. I think we've held 3 Mayor's morning in's since the last time we spoke. I want to have guests on that. It's every 2 weeks, we have it on Friday mornings. I will be having council guests in the future, so I just want to warn you and if we call up and ask you to be on Mayor's morning in, it's only like 15 minutes. It's a Friday morning. We get a couple hundred people, a couple thousand views per show. Right now it's more just what's coming up within the next couple weeks, answering any questions they have online. It's pretty cool. That was an idea of Mya, the new social media person for the City of Hammond. I appreciate her doing that. I got interviewed by Jerry Dick of Inside Indiana Business regarding Hammond's Economic Development since the announcement about the possible location of the Bear's home field was made. A lot of people have interest in our city right now. It seems like things have slowed down as far as requests from the media, which is fine with me. Everything is sort of quiet right now. We're sort of focused on the Bear's and what they're doing on the field as opposed to the Bear's and what they're doping with their next field. I don't think that we should be bugging Kevin Warren, and Mr. McCaskey, I don't think we should be bugging any of them at this point. We're just sort of sitting back and letting the football season unfold. I know for a fact, a lot of work is happening in our city. Even as soon as last week, there is work being done. I met with Hammond's Police Chief and Assistant Chief and Captains in regard

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-to Hammond's LPR system and safeguards that we use in that system to ensure Hammond's privacy rights are protected. This is becoming a big issue, and I'm sure the Council people are getting approached by public and or press about the LPR system. I want to point out that we unfortunately over the last couple of weeks, we had a double homicide in the Hammond's 2nd District. It was 2 thugs firing blindly down an alley, and they hit 2 victims who didn't deserve what happened to them that day and we had those suspects apprehended in a couple hours because of the use of the LPR system and when we have violent crimes, we want to catch the people that are firing blindly down our alleys and killing people and that's what that system allows us to do. When people approach you and say, are you doing this, are you doing that? I want you to keep in mind all the good uses of the LPR system, like what we had last week, when we caught those two animals that were firing guns down the alleyway, killed 2 kids. I met with Councilwoman Venecz, regarding city council related issues. I appreciate her. I appeared in a 2 person panel speaking with the Speaker of the House, Representative Todd Huston, before a society called Insgap. It's Indiana Society of Government Affairs Professionals where Speaker Huston and I spoke in detail, and it was off the record too, there was no reporters there, so we were, it was basically lobbyists from across the state, a couple hundred, and it was pretty cool, Speaker of the House talking about a deal that we can't really talk on the record about. We had the Hammond Realtor's Breakfast at the Lost Marsh, last week. There was 100+ realtor's from across Indiana at this event. We always love this breakfast because, you know, these are the people that are selling our houses, and they're selling our city, and we feel like if we give them presentations, answer their questions, take care of their concerns, it helps them sell Hammond. We've been doing this for 10+ years. It seems like each year, it's very successful. I appreciate everybody that worked so hard to put that together. I had lunch with PNW Chancellor Ken Holford. We dined at the PNW Tourism and Hospitality Restaurant on campus. It was awesome. If you ever get invited to it, definitely go. I've been there a couple times, but this is the first time with the new Chancellor. It's literally a restaurant on campus. They're open during the week. It's when the kids are in school. The kids run the restaurant, and it's top quality, it's cheap, amazing service. It's all kids that want to get into hospitality. It's really cool what they're doing over there at PNW and I appreciate the Chancellor inviting me. I had lunch with Councilman Spitale in regards to pressing Hammond City Council issues. I know Councilman Spitale is helping us out a lot with current ordinances going through and I appreciate him meeting with me on that. I attended Hammond's Annual Trunk or Treat at the Hammond Civic Center. I appreciate you all for being there. I want to point out that there is a certain political party in our city that feels like they were left out and they're complaining about it. I don't know if it's getting to you or not, but I just want you to know that we went into this, straight up, first of all, it was packed. You guy all know that. There was over 1,000 kids there, 2 hours long, and it was packed as far as vendors as well, meaning Hammond City Council had a booth, Clerk had a booth, Mayor's office had a booth, Police Department had a booth. Everybody with booths, filled up the Hammond Civic Center, so if we would have opened it to candidates for instance, or political parties, or political organizations, we wouldn't have had room first off. Secondly, that would just, it's an election year, can you imagine how many different organizations would want to be in there? We, like a lot of parades that we've all been in, like the Whiting parade for instance, to be in the Whiting Parade, you can't be a candidate for office, you have to be a public office holder, so we took that approach with our trunk or treat, saying if you're an office holder, city department, something along those lines, you could be in the trunk or treat. Well, unfortunately, the republican party is very offended by that and they're making a lot of noise online. I just want to point out that we made a decision, and by the way, there's friends of mine that are running for office that couldn't get a booth there either. It worked for both sides. I just wanted you guys to know, they're out there screaming bloody murder right now, and we had a solid reason for doing what we did because it was 2 hours long, packed solid

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- with kids, and packed solid with vendors. We didn't have room in the Civic Center for anyone else. I did want to put that on your radar because it's out there. I attended the Paladin Showcase, hosted at the Hammond Sportsplex. I know a number of you were there as well. That Paladin is an event held for the program Paladin. It's a program that helps adults with special needs. You know there's a lot of organizations out there that help young people with special needs, this is an event that takes the kids that are 18 and older with special needs, takes the people with special needs and gives them things to do. I'm real proud of the Hammond Sportsplex and the partnerships we've made with organizations like this, and I'm real proud of the Hammond Police Department. There was 4 teams that played in the tournament that day, and each team was coached by a Hammond Police Captain. That's a high rank in the police department, 3rd highest rank. Rich Ray, in the back, he's a Captain in the Hammond Patrol Division, and there was 3 other Captains coaching teams. Each Paladin team had a Hammond Police Officer playing on it, and it was really cool. I want to thank everybody involved. It's always nice to showoff the Sportsplex as well, and there's people from all over the region there as well, so it was nice. Also, I attended Hammond Fire Department's annual open house. Many thanks to Chief Grisolia and the entire cast at the Hammond Central Fire House for being great hosts. They were. It's a lot of people going through there and they just basically gave them their whole day. I know we have budgets going through, I was going to save remarks about the budget for that appropriate time if that's alright, Councilwoman. Anybody have any questions?

Council President Venecz- Mayor, I do want to comment on the Paladin event. It was so much fun to watch. In my family, we have 2 special needs adults, and I always admired our family, how we treated them just like any other kid in the family. You know, slap them around and stuff like that, and tease 'em.

Mayor McDermott- You're on the record right now, Council woman.

Council President Venecz- You could see that these individuals were treated that way too, as if they were no different than anybody else on this earth, and it was just spectacular to see.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, it was super cool. Again, I want to thank everybody that worked really hard on that. I know the Sportsplex, it seems like the Sportsplex is really taking an interest in helping out in these types of ways with the community, that's why it's a community center as well. I appreciate the Sportsplex, police department, and Paladin for choosing Hammond.

Council President Venecz- It was great.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, any other questions? Alright, I'll talk to you guys during the budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2026 and place on file. AYES: ALL

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to approve the claims from September 23, 2026 through October 7, 2026. Claim #7702 through claim #8191, inclusive. In the amount of $6,454,347.24.

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

26-27 City of Hammond 2027 Budget Proposal

26-28 2027 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

26-29 2027 Hammond Sanitary District Budget Proposal

Council President Venecz- Anyone wishing to speak on any of those 3 ordinance, please come to the podium?

Mayor McDermott- I just want to hit the highlights of our budget proposal. I appreciate the council for considering this. It's a very similar budget to last year, outside of a couple odd expense increases, that being, I'll get to that in a second. So first off, recycling services increased by 5 percent. That's no fun, but I've been getting lots of complaints about recycling. It's contractual, but it's no fun. Obviously that has to be built into the budget. Landfill services to increase by 5 percent, I mean that's no fun either but we do generate garbage and when they increase, we have no choice but to pass it through. Increased net assessed value, I always love that when Hammond's worth more money. It went up around 2%. Hammond's basically worth $3.94 billion dollars. I'd just call it an even $4 billion dollars which is nice and that went up a couple percent. It's been marching up pretty steadily since we've all been in office, so I appreciate all your help on that. Total budget increase of slightly over a $1 million, which isn't horrible. Payment in lieu of taxes, that's PILOT fees we get from other entities across the city is almost $6 million. We've made real good headway on that which is nice. College bound runs us around $4 million a year, excuse me, $3.5 million a year. 1.1, so 1/3 of College Bound is being paid for out of the TIF District down there at Purdue. We cleared that through State Board of Accounts a number of years ago. We're continuing that as we've been doing. I thought it was interesting, it's no fun to talk about, but it's interesting, that the total amount of money that we get from property taxes, because that's how we pay our bills, let's just call it $50 million, it's $49 million, but we get around $50 million in property taxes, and the budget of the police department by itself is $40 million, so our property taxes doesn't even cover police and fire department. It covers the police department, it covers just a portion of the fire department. When I first became Mayor, when Councilman Mark and I came rolling in here, our property taxes were covering a big portion of the police and fire department budget before we could even get to other things, and now you can barely cover, and that's tax caps and that's fine. There's a reason the Bears want to come to Indiana right now. It's probably because of tax caps as well, so it bites both ways, but it's hard to make this all work when the police department by itself costs $50 million, and you get $40 million in property tax revenue. It's no fun. So right now it's $66 million is public safety alone. It's $40 million for police, and $26 million for fire. Like I said

PUBLIC HEARINGS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-earlier, we get $49 million in property taxes. We're getting $20-24 million in gaming. I always say it's $22 now, so it's right around where I've been talking about. Water sales to neighboring communities, $12 million. That marches up annually. It usually gets up to about, it goes up about $1 million a year which is nice, so that's helping us a lot. PILOT payments like I said earlier is $6 million. Raises for employees, contractual raises was right around 3%, I think it might be a little higher in police, and a little lower in fire, or something like that, but they were negotiated separately because the contractual rates for those were going out right around 3%, we put the employees in for 3%, obviously we hope you consider that. You have the right to go lower if you want, but it is contractual for police and fire, and teamsters. The smallest portion is the regular employees, like Liz, your office staff, you know, she's non union, so I always have a problem if our unions who a lot of whom, don't even live here, are getting 3 percent and we're just like, sorry Liz, you're not in the union, we're giving you 1%. I never think that's fair, so I always try to keep it equal between all departments, so that's why we put in for 3%. I don't know if you have any other questions for me.

Councilman Tyler- Mayor, this is a random question, I know it's before my time, way before, but at it's peak, how much were we bringing in from gaming revenue?

Mayor McDermott- $35+. $35 million+. Yep, yep. There were some years, Councilman Barry, like when we first opened, the mother of all boats, $38, $39 in its heyday. We didn't know it was heyday. It was heyday. Now it's a lot different, and by the way, keep in mind, I don't want to depress you all, Chicago hasn't opened their big boat downtown yet. Keep that in mind. We used to, all the big gamblers used to come to Hammond and now there's a lot more options for big gamblers. They can stay in Chicago, go to Rivers, go to Hard Rock, they can go to Hammond, but we're in a competition, a lot more of a competition now than when Councilman Mark and I came rolling in. We were pretty much the only big game in town, especially after 2008 when they built the new boat. That was where everybody went. It sucks being on the other end of it, Councilman Barry, like watching everybody want to go to Hard Rock. I remember when that used to be our casino, but it's going too, so we'll see what happens. I'm sure the casino, and the people at Caesar's are very interested in what's going on with the Bears as well. I think a lot of people are sort of in a wait game right now, Councilman. Thanks for the question.

Lisette Montanez- Good evening, Council. I just wanted to address the budget and the breakdown and just encourage you guys to look over where things are being appropriated because,

Council President Venecz- Excuse me, and you are?

Lisette Montanez- Oh, I'm sorry, Lisette Montanez, Robertsdale, 1st District.

Council President Venecz- Thank you, and please speak up.

Lisette Montanez- So, just go over, I don't know how much time you guys have, more than I had, I'm sure, and although it looks the same, there's some appropriations that are going up in certain areas and down in others, that might be more important to look over before.

Mayor McDermott- I'm not going to answer every question that gets asked tonight, but I do want to point out that, the City Controller's office, run by Tinisha Greenwell right now, went to every department with actual

PUBLIC HEARINGS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- stats, including the Hammond Council, including the Clerk's Office, and said, these are your actual expenses, in each budget item over the last 3 years. There's some cases where that budget line was under inflated. One area for instance was trees. We just got done getting well up and all of our trees knocked down, and we doubled the tree budget in the Park Department, obviously in response to what we just dealt with, so not every single line item on every single page, and every single budget you're looking at is the same as last year, and if it's not, it's probably because in Tinisha's meeting with the department heads talking about the actual expenses they've incurred, and if it said $100k in the budget item, and your actual expenses are $130k over the last 3 years, that $100k in the budget has to be changed so it properly reflects what you actually spend. If I said that, I apologize, I didn't mean to misrepresent and say this budget is exactly the same, because it's not. I apologize if that's what I insinuated.

Councilwoman Alexander- Really quick, one question, so, um for instance, when a department may need to go over budget, what do we do in those instances where some things may fluctuate because of like, we know the tree issue, and we have to change things, what do we do in those cases where the department needs more, but yet their budget says one thing.

Mayor McDermott- Great question. We usually end up, you'll see these coming in this time of year, Councilwoman Katrina, where obviously it's an important, if they're meeting with the Mayor's office, and the Controller, and they're like, hey listen, I'm gonna run out of this budget, I need more money, I know that Megan and Tinisha usually go back, and they figure out how to pay for it. Then what we end up doing with you all, is floating a resolution or and ordinance at the end of the year that wraps everything up and transfers money around so it makes it good before we go in for an audit. If we were wrong on one budget item, it's not fatal, but you know, sometimes the department head thinks it's an emergency, and we don't, and if it was a case like that, they would have nothing the rest of the year. It really depends on, usually, it's police and they need something, and we have to make it happen. They say police's overtime was $1 million, and they were at $1.2 and it's only August. They obviously need more money in there, right? We usually have to figure out how to make it work and then we come to you all to wrap everything up with a closing ordinance so to speak. You'll see them at the end of the year. I know you've seen a number of them over the years.

Councilwoman Alexander- I have. I think it was just good for the public to know like when we have those issues, what's happening internally to help fix or rectify something that may be transpiring, because we do see those things at the end when we have to wrap up and move funds because this wasn't spent in this one and that and the other and have to go to the new accounts.

Scott Miller- I'm just getting text messages that the audio isn't working while on the live stream. We're working on it if you're getting messaged. In the past, we have a local copy that we can upload later, but that is happening right now.

Councilman Woerpel- For the record, I'm having trouble hearing some of the speakers.

Council President Venecz- Anybody else from the audience wishing to speak on these 3 ordinances? Ok, public hearings are now closed.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Venecz- Anyone have any communications? (X3) Communications is now closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Councilman Tyler- Nothing to report tonight.

PLANNING COMMITTEE- Councilman Spitale- No planning report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Councilman Woerpel- Finance committee hasn't met, but I was going to bring up the 2027 budget. They Mayor covered most of the bullet points, all that I will add is that I think it's a very good budget compared to the challenges we face. I remember a long, long time ago when Clerk Golec and Councilman Hamm were on the Hammond City Council and when they had to pass a budget, they had to pass a budget right. Sometimes them rates were 5-6% and we face criticism a lot that we're not transparent, but um, I think with the restraints that we have, restraints we have nowadays, that this is a good budget. I think that the council has done some things to alleviate a lot of expenditures, such as creating the Capital Improvements Board that allows projects to get done in other areas, and the one thing I always look at is there an increase in the net assessed valuation of the city. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to drive around the city like I do, and believe me, I spend a lot of time driving around everywhere, and there's economic development going on everywhere in this city and there's more coming. I read in the paper the other day that there's a Jack in the Box coming. I haven't ordered a hamburger from a clown in about 20 years and they're coming back and they're coming to Hammond. There's other businesses coming that we've seen in the paper everyday and just thinking back to watching the meetings when we never knew what the assessed, you know what the tax rate was gonna be. This is a great budget if you ask me and I commend Tinisha and Jessica over there hiding behind Scott and everybody that worked on the budget. I would not want a bunch of paperwork thrown in front of me and say here, figure this out. That's all I really got to say about it.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- Capital Improvement board met on October 5, 2026 and we passed 5 different funding allocations, all of which I will discuss here:

FUNDING ALLOCATION #350- 173rd Street Pedestrian Crossing Study- VS Engineering- in the amount of $18,300.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #351- Trees in Median on Hohman Ave Phase 2- Slussers Green Thumb- in the amount of $18,040.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #352- Repairs to East Stairs at Civic Center- Berglund Construction- in the amount of $85,732.08

FUNDING ALLOCATION #353- Marquette Greenway Trail Kennedy to Cline- First Group Engineering- in the amount of $303,500.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #354- Lyman Storm Sewer Project- Grimmer Construction- in the amount of $94,000.00

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD Cont.

Councilman Woerpel- Just to touch on one thing he brought up, there's a study for a pedestrian crossing on 173rd and I know there's a pedestrian crossing right there by Purdue, this is an entirely different one. This is one that they're studying the feasibility of putting a pedestrian crossing by Purdue, by the dorms on Wicker and 17rd because the parking garage is on Wicker, so this has nothing to do with the one that was just built. This is a whole different study that's being done.

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

East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues. October 20; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Edison Community Watch; Wed. November 4; 6:30 p.m.; Edison School
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues. December 1; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave.
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. October 15; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center
Irving Community Watch; Wed. October 21; 6 p.m.; Irving School
South Hohman Ave Neighborhood Watch; Thur. October 22; 6:30 p.m.; Trinity Lutheran Church
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur. November 12; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College
Jefferson Crime Watch; Wed. October 14; 6 p.m.; Jefferson School

Council President Venecz- I would like to point out also that the Hammond Police Department is having a Trunk or Treat on October 29th at the police department and that's from 5-7 p.m. Bring the children out, meet the police officers who patrol our neighborhoods and likewise at the crime watch meetings. These police officers patrol our neighborhoods and it's nice to get to know them and know who's keeping us safe at night. You also learn about things going on in your neighborhood so you can keep yourself, your family, and your property safe because community is not just about me, it's about us.

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE
None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

26-27 City of Hammond 2027 Budget Proposal

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to CAW, October 26th at 5 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

26-28 2027 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Cont.

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to Council as a Whole, October 26th at 5 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

26-29 2027 Hammond Sanitary District Budget Proposal

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to Council as a Whole, October 26th at 5 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

26-30 2027 Hammond City Officials and Employees Salaries

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to Council as a Whole, October 26th at 5 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)
AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

26-31 2027 Hammond Police Officers and Firefighters Salaries

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to Council as a Whole, October 26th at 5 p.m.

Councilman Woerpel- Councilman Rakos would like to be added as a sponsor to this. He sent me a text saying he wanted to introduce it, and I didn't see it until it was too late.

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
None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel- I just wanted to let everybody know that a few years ago, a city worker, Steve Fowler passed away after a short battle with cancer, and I kept in contact with his mother the last 2 years, and I'm sad to report that, she passed away maybe a week or so ago. She's already had her funeral and been buried, but I know Steve and her were liked by a lot of the city employees, and I just wanted to mention it.

Councilman Tyler- I just wanted to say thank you. I feel like I heard from almost all of you over the last couple weeks. I know we announced last, I missed last meeting because one of my children was hospitalized. He got a cold that triggered his asthma, so he was in the hospital for a few days. It was pretty scary incident, but I just wanted to thank you all for your support. He's back home healthy. Right after he got home, the other twin got sick with something completely different, so now he's rebounded, so we're good, but I just wanted to thank you all for your support during that kind of scary ordeal. Thank you everybody.

Council President Venecz- I would like to point out that in regard to the budget, if any of us have any questions, please feel free to make an appointment with Tinisha or any of the department heads to have your questions or concerns addressed. I just wanted to point that out.

Councilman Tyler- One more thing that I wanted to announce is, a few months ago, we passed an ordinance to do an honorary street renaming in the memory of Cecil Harper for the 1000 block of Lyons Street. That ceremony will take place this Saturday, October 17th at noon. If anybody who wants to stop by and pay their respects, and see us unveil the new street sign, come to the corner of Lyons and Howard. We will be there at noon on Saturday.

Council President Venecz- I was told it was going to be at MLK Park.

Councilman Tyler- Well that's not where the street sign is.

Council President Venecz- I guess I'll just look for the crowd. Any other new and unfinished business? (X3)

SPECIAL ZONING ACTION ADOPTED UNDER I.C. 36-7
None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Darren Washington- Would like for the Council to pass a resolution in solidarity with multiple cities across Indiana for the Indiana General Assembly to repeal and amend I.C. 8-1-39.

Lisette Montanez- Talked about demolition, pollution, air quality, economic development, the budget, and the meeting date change was not publicized very well.

Councilwoman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Salinas, 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	27	10	24	14	28	13					
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P					
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	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	P	P	P					
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	A	P	P					
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	A	P					
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	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	P	P	P					
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P					
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	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	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