



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITY OF HAMMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
held on July 01, 2024

The Hammond Economic Development Commission held a meeting on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held Hammond City Council Chamber Room 209 and via Zoom on link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240793278?pwd=UEVoL3Q4eU9XK1hIU0RpaExZaE5HZz09> with telephonic option at 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 892 4079 3278

1) **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Vezmar at 9:09 a.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Roll Call**

Members Present

- John Vezmar, President
- Monica Rubio, Vice President
- Alexius D. Barber, Secretary
- Susan Stevens, Commissioner Present via Zoom, had bad connection and disconnected.

Absent

Bonnie Henry, Commissioner

There was a quorum.

Others Present

- Anne Taylor, Executive Director of Planning and Development
- Juan J. Moreno, Director, Economic Development
- David W. Westland, Attorney for Economic Development Commission (Westland & Bennett PC)
- Melissa A. Campbell, Recording Secretary
- Zoheria, present on zoom, Rez Environmental Resource Solutions

4) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5) **Communications**

There were no communications.



6) Approval of Minutes

Secretary Barber made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted from meeting held on April 1, 2024, Vice President Rubio seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Commissioner Stevens	Absent
	Commissioner Henry	Absent
	Secretary Barber	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Yes
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 3

Nays: 0

Abs: 2

Motion carried

7) Old Business

There was no old business.

8) New Business

- a. Approval of Resolution of the Economic Development Commission of the city of Hammond making a recommendation to the Common Council of the city of Hammond, to designate certain areas within the jurisdiction of the city as an economic development target area for redevelopment and economic development purposes including financial incentivization of qualified redevelopment and economic development projects, in accordance with Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1.
 - i. Exhibit A- Townplace Suites by Marriot Economic Development Target Area (EDTA) Report

Secretary Barber asked where is this location.

Director of Economic Development, Juan J. Moreno stated this is a very exciting project in north Hammond. It will be across from the Horseshoe Casino by Luke's gas station and car wash. Current address is 850 Indianapolis Blvd. but once everything is established the new address will be 930 Marina Drive. It will be the first 5-story hotel, 15,840 square feet, 102 rooms. Workforce will bring about 10 full time jobs. It about a \$5 million-dollar investment. One of their incentive asks is a tax abatement.

President Vezmar explained that this will be in one of the outlets by Walmart.

Director of Economic Development, Juan J. Moreno stated that the name of the hotel will be Townplace Suites by Marriott.

Vice President Rubio made a motion to approve Resolution of the Economic Development Commission of the city of Hammond making a recommendation to the Common Council of the city of Hammond, to designate certain areas within the jurisdiction of the city as an economic development target area for redevelopment and economic development purposes including financial incentivization of qualified redevelopment and economic development projects, in accordance with Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1., Secretary Barber seconded the motion.



Roll Call:	Commissioner Stevens	Absent
	Commissioner Henry	Absent
	Secretary Barber	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Yes
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 3
 Nays: 0
 Abs: 2

Motion carried

- b. Adopt Transmittal of Economic Development Commission Resolution No. EDC 2024-01 to the Common Council of the City of Hammond.

Attorney Westland explained that the Commission just adopted the resolution. There is also a transmittal letter in the packet that the president needs to sign to send to council. The Economic Development Commission needs to make the target area before a tax abatement can be done. The Council will have the say to grant the tax abatement but this letter will advise the Council that the EDC adopted the resolution making it a target area.

President Vezmar asked that a grammatical correction be made, 3rd paragraph, "and" to "an"

Secretary Barber made a motion to authorize the transmission of the letter to the Common Council of the City of Hammond as adjusted, Vice President Rubio seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Commissioner Stevens	Absent
	Commissioner Henry	Absent
	Secretary Barber	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Yes
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 3
 Nays: 0
 Abs: 2

Motion carried

- c. Economic Development Updates:
 Director Moreno gave the following Economic Development updates:

HRC recently approved the sale of vacant land at 6524-40 Calumet to Starbucks. This will be a \$2 million-dollar investment. They are in the process of doing their due diligence.

Secretary Barber asked if this was across from White Castles and how will this affect traffic.

Director Moreno stated yes, it's the middle lots and Starbucks is working with the Planning Department to ensure everything works smoothly.

Secretary Barber stated it sounds like a great project.



Director Moreno stated:

- Jets Pizza is opening at 7943 Indianapolis Blvd.
- Wing Stop opened at 7147 Indianapolis Blvd. Trying to connect with them to do a ribbon cutting
- Fuerte Restaurant opened its 3rd just north of city hall
- Annual Job Fair is September 19th, 11am to 3pm at the Hammond Civic Center
- Mayor's Night Out in 4th District on August 28 at Edison elementary school
- Recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony for That's a Cake in second district on 629 Gostlin, very well attended
- Meats by Linz ribbon cutting was on June 18th, located at 628 Hoffman in second district, workforce is about 300 new jobs, \$55 million-dollar investment
- YMCA is on track to open at the end of the year, looks great
- The Banc is conducting leasing tours now, working with them on a ribbon cutting ceremony and the opening of Hohman Avenue this year.

9) Public Expression

There were no public comments.

10) Call for Adjournment

Secretary Barber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice President Rubio.

Roll Call:	Commissioner Stevens	Absent
	Commissioner Henry	Absent
	Secretary Barber	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Yes
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 3

Nays: 0

Abs: 2

Motion carried

The Economic Development Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

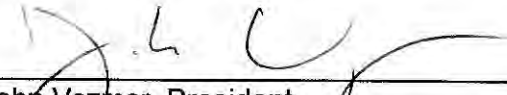
Commission wished each other a Happy fourth of July.



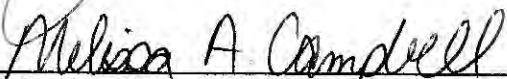
Approved and signed this 2nd day of December, 2024.



Alexius D. Barber, Secretary



John Vezmar, President



Melissa A. Campbell, Recording Secretary

2024 Hammond Economic Development Commission attendance record of Electronic and Physical Presence.

Commissioner	02/05/24	04/01/24	07/01/24	
John Vezmar	P	P	P	
Monica Rubio	P	P	P	
Alexius D. Barber	P	P	P	
Susan Stevens	P	P	A	
Bonnie Henry	P	P	A	
Initials				

- E- Electronic
- P- Present
- A- Absent

If the Commissioner qualifies for an exemption from "Consecutive 50" requirements draw a circle around the E for that meeting / member. Reference to Economic Development Commission Resolution No. 2021-2

