



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITY OF HAMMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
held on February 02, 2026

The Hammond Economic Development Commission held a meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Ground Floor Conference Room of Hammond City Hall, 5925 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, Indiana 46320 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 Passcode: 746224

1) **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Vezmar at 9:00 a.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Roll Call**

Members Present

- John Vezmar, President
- Susan Stevens, Secretary
- Robert Migliorini, Commissioner
- Melissa A. Campbell, Commissioner

Absent

Monica Rubio, Vice President

There was a quorum.

Others Present

- Juan J. Moreno, Director, Economic Development
- Matt Warner, Attorney for Economic Development Commission (Westland & Bennett PC)

4) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5) **Communications**

Juan J. Moreno, Director of Economic Development stated Commissioner Monica Rubio has been reappointed to the Economic Development Commission by Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. for a four-year term commencing February 1, 2026, ending January 1, 2030. Commissioner Melissa A. Campbell has been appointed to a vacant seat on the Economic Development Commission by Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. for a four-year term commencing February 1, 2026, ending January 1, 2030.



6) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Migliorini made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the meeting held on February 3, 2025, Secretary Stevens seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Commissioner Campbell	Yes
	Commissioner Migliorini	Yes
	Secretary Stevens	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Absent
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 4
Nays: 0
Abs: 1

Motion carried.

7) Old Business

There was no old business.

8) New Business

a. Election of Officers:

Commissioner Vezmar opened nominations for: President, Vice President, and Secretary.

President Vezmar asked if the current officers are good with keeping their current positions:

- John Vezmar, President
- Monica Rubio, Vice-President
- Susan Stevens, Secretary

The commissioners agreed.

There were no other nominations.

Commissioner Migliorini made a motion to nominate the current officers to the same position they are currently serving, Secretary Stevens seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Commissioner Campbell	Yes
	Commissioner Migliorini	Yes
	Secretary Stevens	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Absent
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 4
Nays: 0
Abs: 1

Motion carried.



b. Economic Development Updates:

Director Moreno gave the following Economic Development updates:

There is a lot of momentum going on in the City of Hammond right now with major development projects happening throughout the entire city. Director Moreno provided information on the following RFP's that have or will be published soon:

- 6433-49 Kennedy Ave.
- 6538-42 Calumet Ave.
- 5243-51 Hohman Ave.- Mercantile Bank Building
- 475 Fayette St.
- 1719-33 Indianapolis Blvd.

Director Moreno provided information on the following projects:

- **7 Brew** - 7833 Indianapolis Blvd by Johnny Rockets
- **Uesco Crane Co.** - 5009 Calumet Ave.
- **Davies Imperial Coating** - 1175 Summer St.
- **Premier Laundromat** - 1 State St.
- **IXXA Coffee** located at 1720 Calumet Ave. is expanding
- **Popeye's Chicken** - 6740 Indianapolis Blvd. has reopened
- **YMCA** - Phase II: Water Park construction will start Spring 2026
- **Southeastern YMCA** - Re-envisioned facility focusing on residents aged 65+
- **River North Parcels:** 600 177th St & 626 177th St. – RFP will go out soon – A lot of interest in this interstate frontage prime real estate site
- **Towneplace Suites** - 920 Marina Drive - 5 Story hotel; 102 rooms, will start construction this year
- **Springhill Suites** - 7924 Cabela Drive - 4 stories; 125 rooms, being constructed now, should have grand opening by the end of this year
- **Zaxby's** will be starting construction this year at 5903-23 Calumet Ave. – very exciting, this will be the first location opening up in the northern Indiana region

Director Moreno provided information on the following Downtown Hammond projects:

- **Hohman Avenue - Phase 2: Russell St. to Douglas**
 - Construction to begin Spring 2025 - Completion Summer of 2026
 - One lane each way north and south
 - Creation of more street parking
- **LaSalle - 5264 Hohman Ave.**
 - Have a signed Development Agreement
 - 24 units rental (6 per floor)
 - 2 commercial tenants on ground floor
 - Timeline 18 months for completion
- **The Banc - 5231 Hohman Ave.**
 - 100 units occupied, units leased faster than the developer anticipated
- **Mercantile Bank Building and vacant lot to south - 5243-51 Hohman Ave:**
 - RFP was due on 01/20/26
 - Received 2 proposal



- **Purdue Northwest College expansion: 5412 Hohman Ave.**
 - Roberts Impact lab - will support innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization activities
- **Downtown Hammond Station: between Russell St. and Fayette St.**
 - Received a response to the RFP
 - Construction to begin in 2026
 - North / South Bound
- **Franciscan Hospital Site:**
 - 5412 Hohman Ave
 - Approximately 12 acres is available for development

Director Moreno provided information on the following residential projects:

New single-family home developments being planned and happening in Hammond

- **Millennium Estates** – total of 20 new homes
- Hessville area
 - **Florida Ave** – 11 homes
 - 2nd phase will create 8 more homes
- **New York Avenue** near golf course – 3 homes
- **Clark Fields** - 37 lots, all sold at auction
- **Memorial Park Development** - Total Lots (37)
 - 28 Residential
 - 8 R-3 Duplex
 - 1 Senior Home R4
- **Jacobs Square**
 - 19 sites
 - 51 total lots
- **City of Hammond / Hammond Redevelopment Commission residential lots**
 - Website was launched of city owned residential lots to market for sale to expand a yard or new build (over 500 available lots)
 - Since 2025:
 - Closed on 12 vacant lots
 - Many out for RFP

Director Moreno provided information on the following Ribbon-Cutting events:

- 08/05/25-** Tootie's Chicken & Fish
 - Well attended and thankful
- 07/24/25-** Calumet Quick Care Open House- 5518 Calumet Ave.
 - Met with Dr. Watson and staff
 - Offers physicals, labs, x-rays, stitches, wellness checks
- 07/30/25-** The Banc / Reserve Ribbon Cutting
 - Greatly attended with over 300 in attendance
- 09/10/25-** Hernandez General Contractor
 - Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce led
- 10/02/25-** Ivan's Roofing 7325 Kennedy Ave.
 - Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce led



Director Moreno provided information on the following upcoming events:

- **Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:**
 - PNW Roberts Impact Lab

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - 02/05/26- **Black History Month Program**
 - Civic Center, 10a
 - 02/17/26- **Mardi Gras Celebration**
 - Sportsplex Community Center, 11a-1p
 - 02/21/26- **219 Region Reunion**
 - Civic Center, 6p-11p
 - 03/25/26- **2nd District MNO- BNI**

President Vezmar asked what is the status of the old Pizza Hut building on Indianapolis Blvd by 165th Street.

Director Moreno stated Huhtamaki acquired it in their expansion and it has been demoed.

Commissioner Campbell stated that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for The Brew Box Coffee Shop that just opened inside The Banc building in Downtown Hammond on 2/12/26 at 1pm. She asked for the Commissioners to share the information and stated she also sent out a calendar invite to the Commissioners.

Director Moreno stated that another ribbon cutting ceremony that the Economic Development Team is working on and will happen in 2026 is Swanel. The Swanel expansion consisted of a \$7M investment, including the construction of a new 40k building and creating 25+ new jobs. This will be a big ceremony. An invite will be sent out to the Commissioners.

Director Moreno also stated that the Mayor's State of City Address took place on 01/29/26 at the Hammond Sportsplex. It was greatly attended with over 450 attendees, the largest audience to date. It was great to hear all the Hammond highlights and updates from Mayor McDermott.

9) **Public Expression**

There was no public expression.

President Vezmar stated that he did not see anyone online or in-person to speak. He noted that this meeting is taking place in-person in the Ground Floor Conference Room of Hammond City Hall, as well as online via Zoom, as per the notice that was published.

Public Expression is now closed.



10) Call for Adjournment

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Secretary Stevens.

Roll Call:	Commissioner Campbell	Yes
	Commissioner Migliorini	Yes
	Secretary Stevens	Yes
	Vice President Rubio	Absent
	President Vezmar	Yes

Yeas: 4
Nays: 0
Abs: 1

Motion carried.

The Economic Development Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Approved and signed this 6th day of April, 2026.

Susan Stevens, Secretary

John Vezmar, President

Melissa A. Campbell, Recording Secretary



2026 Hammond Economic Development Commission attendance record of Electronic and Physical Presence.

Commissioner	02/02/26			
John Vezmar	P			
Monica Rubio	A			
Susan Stevens	P			
Robert Migliorini	P			
Melissa A. Campbell	P			
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

