

RESOLUTION NO. 3722R.2,

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FLAG
FOR THE CITY OF HAMMOND, INDIANA

WHEREAS, there is a need for a flag as a symbol of the City of Hammond, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is desirous to establish a flag as a tribute to the people of this city, and

WHEREAS, Anthony Betustak, a conscientious citizen, has prepared and submitted a flag for adoption, the same being of the colors of red, white, blue and gold as a symbol of the National flag and the flag of the State of Indiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana that:

1. The flag as prepared by Anthony Betustak, a citizen, be and is hereby adopted as the flag of the City of Hammond, Indiana.
2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, signed by the President of the Common Council and approved by the Mayor.

Ted Dunajeski
TED DUNAJESKI, President

ATTEST:

Stanley Kulik
STANLEY KULIK, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 3722R.2 APPROVED by the Mayor on the 9th day of February, 1971.

Joseph E. Klen
JOSEPH E. KLEN, Mayor

PASSED by the Common Council on the 8th day of February, 1971 and approved by the Mayor on the 9th day of February, 1971.

Stanley Kulik
STANLEY KULIK, City Clerk

THE HAMMOND CITY FLAG

Excerpt of the Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, dated FEBRUARY 8th, 1971.

(See Flag-City of Hammond, yellow file folder which is kept on file in the office of the City Council Secretary, room 207, Hammond City Hall. This yellow file folder contains the Edison Voicewriter red disk record from the Council meeting of February 8th, 1971, RECORD SIDE NUMBER FIVE (5), point 6½ on the marked grey strip transcribing guide. The transcriber on which this record can be played is stored in the basement vault of the Hammond City Hall, 5925 Calumet Avenue, in a brown box identified as "Council Edison Voicewriter Recording Units" and is one of two total boxes storing this equipment. The transcriber was cleaned and serviced on 9-25-81 for the specific purpose of obtaining the history on the Hammond City Flag. If the transcribing unit fails to work in the future, it usually indicates that a new cleaning of the transcriber parts is required. The Edison equipment for recording is now worn from use, needles are no longer available for recording. The unit was replaced by new Lanier equipment in the Common Council Chambers in 1980).
Dorrie Kometz
Council Secretary

NOTE: During the transcription of Mr. Betustak's flag design and history explanation, a few phrases were most difficult to transcribe due to the echo and acoustics present in the Chambers at that time and, therefore, those few phrases cannot appear in this formal translation.

DESIGNER OF THE FLAG FOR THE CITY OF HAMMOND
WAS
MR. ANTHONY BETUSTAK
OF
NORTH HAMMOND
(now deceased)

The original flag is presently on display in the main conference room in the Mayor's suite of offices in Hammond City Hall.

MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 8th, 1971

Council President, Ted Dunajeski (Councilman - 2nd District):

"With the permission of my colleagues, I would like to present Mr. ANTHONY BETUSTAK who is present here tonight. Mr. Betustak has spent a good many years in research of Hammond history to come up with a design for a flag for the City of Hammond. At this time it gives me great pleasure to present Mr. Tony Betustak."

MR. ANTHONY BETUSTAK:

"In 1963 our Mayor asked what the people of Hammond would think of the idea of a flag for the City of Hammond. He commissioned me to design the City Flag. When he left office in 1967 the present Mayor, Joseph E. Klen, commissioned me to continue this work. After eight years of research and work the flag was designed.

The flag goes back to 1675.....the flag consists of the RED, WHITE AND BLUE COLORS of the national flag.....the GOLD AND BLUE of our State flag.....the GOLD STAR is in commemoration of all the wars; past, present and, only God knows, the future, in commemoration of all those who served and will serve.

The BLUE BORDER ON THE GOLD STAR is for all those who served as well as those who were wounded or disabled. The PEACE PIPE is called The Calumet Peace Pipe. The WORD CALUMET is a French word and a Delaware and Pottawatomie Indian word which represents a reed from which that peace pipe was made. It represents a Land of Peace Pipe.

CITY OF HAMMOND FLAG, continued.....

You will see the OUTLINE OF THE GRAND CALUMET RIVER and THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER. To the left you will see an INDIAN who became the first explorer who history records, right through Hammond in 1675 on approximately March 31st. The Indian possessed that peace pipe, for the first time, through the tribe of the Pottawatomie Indians, without it he would have been put to death. The Indian goes back through the time of the French Explorer, Marquette, who was exploring waterways for Congress. At that time this land was in the possession of the French. Marquette had in his possession one of the finest documents and maps of this area, according to Library of Congress records. For some strange reason these documents were put away or misplaced and did not resurface until about 1832. He was a dying man when he was coming through Hammond.

As I was researching this flag, I thought of those people who were present at that time and thinking of our future. Hammond is the Mother City of the Calumet Region, like a mother who has given birth to all the surrounding communities. I think of those people and the sacrifices they made to give us this land that we possess.


The name Hammond is only about 88 years old (as of 2-8-71) as an incorporated City reaching back to the state line.

I am dedicating this flag to the City, to its youth and its people. This flag belongs to the people of Hammond. I have confidence in the people of Hammond. Thank you."

NOTE: Although Mr. Betustak did not refer to the figurehead on the right side of the Flag, it has been generally assumed that the figure represents President George Washington. d.k.

Office of Stanley Kulik
City Clerk

By:


Dorrie Kometz
Council Division Secretary
Office of the City Clerk
9-25-81

Copy to: Mayor Raskosky's office, where original Flag is on display.
History Room, Hammond Public Library, State Street
Reference Division, Hammond Public Library, State Street
City Clerk, Stanley Kulik