

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on July 08, 2019 in the Hammond City Council Chambers.

Council President Robert A. Markovich presided.

Council Coordinator Carmen Balboa facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.
Invocation by Councilman Higgs

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Spitale, Venecz, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Markovich

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Torres

TOTAL: 7

READING OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes of June 24, 2019 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to accept the claims from June 28, 2019 through July 3, 2019. Claim #3591 through claim #3861, inclusive.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Markovich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Torres

Motion carried 7/0/2 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Higgs- National Night Out against crime and drugs is August 6, 2019 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Wolf Lake Splash Pad, 121st Calumet Ave in Hammond, Indiana. Get to know your neighbors and learn the crime prevention emergency procedures and development community partnerships. Together we can make the connections and make a greater community. Free hotdogs, chips, and pop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee- Councilman Woerpel - Brought out 19-15 and 19-16.

Community & Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

- Fri., July. 19; Community Watch at Silver Birch; 2 p.m.
- Tues., July. 16; East Hammond Pullman C.W.; Ophelia Steen Center; 6:30 p.m.
- South Hammond C.W.; Thur., July. 18; Hammond Housing Authority Bldg; 7 p.m.
- Thur.; July. 18; Whiting/Robertsdale C.W.; Calumet College; 6:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz- As Councilman Higgs stated earlier, Mayor McDermott and the City of Hammond Community and Crime Watch Group will again be hosting National Night Out against crime and drugs. That is Tuesday, August 06, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Wolf Lake Splash Pad. A free hotdog, chips and pop will be provided with a donation of non-perishable items for Greater Hammond Food Pantry. Canned goods, vegetables soup, fruits, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, pastas, anything that will keep on the shelf for a while. There will be activities for children and adults alike. I urge everyone to come out and enjoy themselves. It's a good family event. You will have the opportunity to meet a lot of our police and firemen. Get to know the people who protect us while we are sleeping at night. So again, that's August 6, 2019 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Wolf Lake Splash pad.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING- FINAL PASSAGE

19-15 An Ordinance to Approve Additional Appropriations

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for passage.

Councilman Woerpel- This is an Ordinance to re-appropriate money back into the original budget we passed as been explained last meeting, and in caucus. The DLGF constantly changes their estimates of what our budget is gonna be at every year. They were gonna cut it \$ 7,464,438 from the general fund. Parks and Recreation they were gonna cut \$ 193,308. And there really was no appropriation for the safety fund for \$ 246,775, but after the estimates and the cuts the DLGF say we have to make, if I understand this correctly, is basically, we didn't have to make those cuts and the original budget we passed is correct. This just reinstates what the DLGF said what we were gonna have to cut, though no additional tax dollars, no additional money being added to it other than the line item for the public safety fund, and that is money from the local income tax.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Markovich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Torres

Motion carried

7/0/2

ORDINANCE NO. 9444 PASSED

ORDINANCE 3RD READING- FINAL PASSAGE cont.

19-16 An Ordinance to Appropriate New Funds to the Operating Balance for the Hammond Sanitary Districts Special Sanitary Debt Services Fund (8280) and Special Sanitary General Fund (8201

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for passage.

Councilman Woerpel- Based on what I just explained about the DLGF, and all that in the sewer general fund the cash balance that they estimated for January 1,2019 was zero balance and the actual balance of January 1, 2019 was \$ 1,577,369 and the DLGF estimated the circuit breaker credit at \$ 1, 585,485, and the actual impact is \$1,054,281 so we are basically restoring those two.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Markovich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Torres

Motion carried 7/0/2 ORDINANCE NO. 9445 PASSED

RESOLUTION

19R-18 Resolution to Appoint Suzette Kubacki to the Hammond College Bound Exceptions Committee

Councilman Higgs, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for passage.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Markovich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Torres

Motion carried 7/0/2 RESOLUTION NO. R18 ADOPTED

Council President Markovich- Item B on the Agenda is being pulled, 19R-19.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Higgs- I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge our Director of the Hammond Public Library, Ms. Greenleaf, whom I worked with keeping our library for our kids and our City, thank you so much for being here.

Councilman Woerpel- Are we introducing item A, 19-17, under New and Unfinished Business? BZA for variance of use from zoning ordinance to allow for an automotive service station in a C-1 local commercial district located at 5706 Hohman within the City of Hammond Lake County Indiana Petitioner: Arik Mizrach.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

19-17 BZA- Z-19-13 For Variance of Use from Zoning Ordinance to allow for an Automotive Service Station in a C-1 Local Commercial District Located at 5706 Hohman within the City of Hammond Lake County Indiana

Councilman Higgs, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approval)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Higgs, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Markovich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski, Torres

Motion carried

7/0/2

PETITIONED APPROVED

Councilman Higgs- Certainly in passing 19-17, it was a vacant building now being used. I'm hoping it would be beneficial to the entire City. I hope you the best in your endeavors making your business successful in the City of Hammond, good luck to you.

Councilwoman Venecz- I would like to remind everyone there is a blood drive tomorrow, the Mayor's Commission on Disability is sponsoring the blood drive at the Hammond Sportsplex in the Community Room. That will be from 12 noon till 6 p.m. Please stop in and donate.

Councilman Higgs- For some reason I received a press release from the Republican party, they're having a summer rat pack on March 17, 2019 at the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso, Indiana. I guess that's August 17, 2019.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Barry Tyler- I was wondering if the Back to School Rally and the 3 on 3 Basketball, events were going to happen?

William Balasa- I was wondering if we can use the vacant lots in the Community to bring in fresh produce and animals to show the kids where things really come from?

George Stoya- I don't want Hammond to become a barn yard.

Rene Greenleaf- I am the Executive Director of the Hammond Public Library. I want to engage you guys in our summer reading program. For those of you who don't have a public library card, I have that tonight for those who don't.

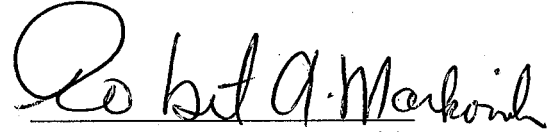
Alvin Cheeks- I would like to thank the Hammond Police who helped that lady who fell. I helped Councilman Higgs with the 3 on 3 for years, I'm not interested in helping this year.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Darnell Ray- It's a tree across the street from where I live and it looks like it's about to fall over. I also wanted to become a judge in the next election. How would I go about that?

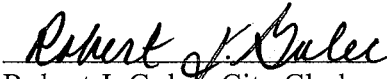
Councilman Higgs, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to adjourn

AYES: ALL



Robert A. Markovich, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:30 p.m.

dw

Minutes approved at the Common Council meeting of July 22, 2019.