

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on November 22, 2021 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Dave Woerpel presided.

Council Coordinator Darrell White facilitated.

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

ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Hi, everybody, nice to see you all. Uh, sorry, it's been a couple of meetings since I've been here. I appreciate being able to appear before you and speak as I usually do before council meetings. I see there's a lot more people in the audience and that's my fault. So, I want to start the meeting with the mistake that I made. I want to walk back that mistake and I'm going to ask the council for its cooperation. I hate making mistakes but I make a lot of decisions and sometimes I drop the ball and I apologize to all the residents, especially Robertsdale, that are here and they're angry because their city government let them down. I want to point out that I was not the only person involved in this situation in my administration, but one thing I've learned about being Mayor is when you do well, everybody's patting you on the back and they want to be in the picture, and when your team messes up, there's nobody standing by your side, and here I am standing before you and I want to explain how this mistake happened. I'm talking about Forsyth Square, which is an area bound to the north by 119th Street, on the west by Forsyth Square and on the east by Warwick. You know that we're always very aggressive about trying to build single-family homes in the City of Hammond. Um, we have this green space that has not been designated as a park. I know it's been used as a park. It's a green space in Robertsdale. It's been there, I don't know, think 50 plus years, probably even longer than that. A green space, it's just never been designated as a park. It's never been designated as a business area. Just sort of a green space that's been maintained by the city. The idea was raised in my administration, not by me, but by my team, which makes me responsible that we should look at this area to develop single-family homes. Now, this wasn't at the top of my priority list. I'll be honest with you. We have a lot of things going on. This wasn't the number one burning issue in the City of Hammond, and it didn't really get the amount of attention from me that I probably should have given to it, okay. I have a lot of balls in the air. This was one of them, but it wasn't the biggest and heaviest ball. It was in the air and this proposal works its way through the Council, and I'm not faulting anybody on the Council at all. This is my fault. It works its way through the council. Still, many balls in the air. This is one of them, gets through the Council, hits my desk. I signed it, but I remember right before I signed it, I was like, what, we're going to turn that little green grass strip into a house? Then I was like at this point, like,

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - this is my fault that I'm questioning at this point, because it's obviously gone through all the channels. It's gone through the Council, it's gone through my departments, so if I veto it at that point, I'm vetoing a process that started in my own administration. So, I weakly signed it. I knew I was doing the wrong thing, and coincidentally enough, that night, I'm speaking to the Whiting Robertsdale Crime Watch and I got my butt kicked that night on a lot of issues. But this was one of them, and it bugged me. Because I literally was just thinking about whether, if, I should sign this ordinance, and then I went to the Crime Watch, and there were understandably, neighbors that are like, what, you're getting rid of this green space in my neighborhood? Nobody even talked to us. You know, I acknowledge it was a mistake, and I signed it. And when I drove around that night thinking to myself how much I let the residents down and how much I tried to partner with the residents and how this wasn't partnering with the residents, this was giving the residents a middle finger. I decided I had made a huge mistake. And I reversed courses completely that night. And I apologize to the Hammond Council. It's my fault that it appeared before you. It's my fault that it passed. It's my fault that it's signed. I realized, after all, that what a big mistake I had made. So I went back to my team and I told them I am completely off this train, we made a huge mistake and I wanted to reverse it and that's what we started doing. Before the commotion, for instance, there's a big petition out there and there's a lot of signatures on it and a lot of angry comments, and I understand why there's a lot of angry comments and signatures on there. I get it, okay? But this isn't because of the commotion. This was going on last week. Maybe we didn't do a good enough job of telling you we reversed courses, but in the mail today are about 20 letters to residents all over this area. I have a copy of the letter here. Um, if you don't mind, "City of Hammond recently acted to modify the classification of a city-owned green space in your neighborhood called Forsyth Square. We were approached by a developer who was interested in constructing new homes on this green space. This action caused concern among your neighbors. After listening to your complaints and concerns, I have determined that the best course of action is to reverse course and revert the land back to the city green space, and right away. I appreciate you and your neighbors for standing up for what you want your neighborhood to be now, and into the future. Forsyth Square will remain a green space as it should be, and will continue to be maintained by the Hammond Port Authority as any other city-owned Parkway in the city. And the work we're going to do to make sure this never happens again is we're going to go . . . we've already started the process for the Hammond City Council to replant it. We're going to replant it S1, which is park space, and it'll be maintained and never will you go through this again. I apologize to the residents. I hate messing up. I hate making mistakes. I would be lying to you if I told you I didn't do it and if you went home to my house, Marissa would tell you how often I do it. But I'm just here before you right now to say this is not how we do business. I apologize to the residents that were here. And I'm sorry, Council members. Thank you. Thank you. If you guys don't mind . . . You will see a cleanup ordinance that will pre-designate this back to Park Space and we will never be able to subdivide Park Space.

Councilman Kalwinski - Thank you for listening to the residents and for the petition that they offered you. You know, I had people calling me and saying, well, they really didn't know much about it and there weren't really good foundations laid about what was coming until it was appearing. It was going to be done. But then people said, well he's got a parkway in front of his house and there's one on Baring and should those be housing too or you know, some I guess you'd want to think about how it would feel if that was done to you.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- Can I interject Councilman? That's exactly the issue I brought up with my team. I was like, we are basically telling people we're building houses on Knickerbocker Parkway or Indi-Illi or Barron and that's exactly the example I used, Councilman, and then I started peppering my team with questions like, who gets the back end of the house? Which houses get to look at the back end of the house? This site did not work for a number of reasons and it's 100% my fault. I'm standing before you apologizing.

Councilman Kalwinski - I thank you for rescinding that push to have it done and I really . . .

Mayor McDermott- And I'm glad the residents stood up, Councilman Mark, I really am. They woke me up. I was in a funk and I should have been listening and I apologize.

Councilman Kalwinski - I want to thank the residents for the calls, the emails, the blistering sentiments about what was happening. Thank you for that. This is how government is supposed to work and we appreciate you coming out for this. Thank you so much.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate everybody being here. I'm getting applauded for making a mistake. I appreciate it. So, Hessville's survey on stopped trains, I know Chief of Staff Phil Taillon talked last time about the proposed Governors Parkway Bridge, which is what we call it, Governors Parkway, because it's going to link up to Morton High School. It was a good name for the project. This is a project. It's about \$11 million, Uh, \$3.5 million payable by the City of Hammond. The rest is covered by the state. The purpose of this bridge is to get us over the Norfolk Southern tracks with perennially stopped trains in Hessville. Funny enough, today, as I was driving around the City of Hammond, sitting dead stop, locking all intersections in Hessville was the Norfolk Southern Train. Just like every day. It's funny, we're talking about this today, but the problem is happening today just like it's going to happen tomorrow. Just like it's going to happen next week, and the week after that. Now, this bridge goes through one of the natural areas of Hessville. There are other natural areas of Hessville. In fact, there's a state park. Well, it's not a state park, it's a County park, in Hessville. It's nicer than this and just a couple blocks to the north, but nonetheless, I would not be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that this plan is somewhat controversial with those that are concerned with the environment. I acknowledge that hundreds of trees will have to be cut down to make way for this bridge, and that each tree that's cut down will be replanted on a two-for-one basis. Absolutely, so, what we did, we decided, I know we talked about this in the past between the council and me to send a survey out to everybody, basically, in Hessville. The boundaries for this were 165<sup>th</sup> to the north, 80/94 to the South, Kennedy to the west, Grand Avenue to the east. It's most of Hessville. If you live east of Grand Avenue, it's not that we don't consider you to be in Hessville, we just think that you're probably going to use Cline Avenue and you're not going to go across those tracks anyway. That's why we cut the line there. Those surveys, the biggest survey we've ever done, it's more like a political survey gages how much you're into this, how concerned you are about the park land, how often you get stopped. I do have a copy of the survey on gohammond right now. If you're interested in seeing it, we sent those out this week as well. So, not only did we send the letters to Robertsdale residents about Forsyth Park, we sent the surveys out today. We have a deadline on the surveys to come back by December 7<sup>th</sup> and on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Mayor's Night Out at Scott Middle School, we will unveil the results. So, that's going on.

Councilman Kalwinski - Mayor, the replanting of the trees, 2 to 1, where will they go?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- Good question. It doesn't have to go in that area. Obviously, we would keep them as close as possible. Councilman Mark, but there's no requirement, but we put them . . . I think it'd be only proper to put them in Hessville, obviously, but we could put them 2000 trees or whatever, you know, if it's 800 to get knocked down, 1600 trees on a two-for-one basis.

Councilman Kalwinski - Thanks.

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Scott, I know you cover this district. I don't know if you have anything you want to add. This is what we look for with this is overwhelming consensus. I'll be honest with you, this is a fix for the stopped train problem. I know that's the number one problem. I get, and we all get, multiple complaints. Stopped trains in the Mayor's office is by far the number one complaint. I feel like this solves a lot of the problems.

Councilman Rakos - I agree, Mayor. This has always been a problem in Hessville, whether you've been there 70 years, 50 years, 20 years, we all know that's the biggest problem in Hessville, doesn't matter. Today I missed the committee meeting because I got caught by a train. Usually, I try to give myself plenty of time knowing that's a possibility, especially where I'm at, but trains have always been the main problem in Hessville. It's always been that way back in the 70s, there was a group that played school dances and their name was Train City Blues. They came from Hessville in 1973. I mean that's what the situation is. It's been that way forever.

Mayor McDermott - Hammond's a big city. We have trains all over our city. This is really the only part of the city where I see trains and I go all over the city. This is really the only part of the city where I see trains stop for hours at a time. I mean, you'll get trains in all of our districts, but in Hessville, they park, and that's incredibly frustrating. Divides Hessville, you can't get across it. So, this is going to be the way over it. It'll help our kids get to school because if you're traveling on 173<sup>rd</sup> right by Paris's Barbershop, you're going to go over the bridge and when you come down, you'll land and you have the option to take a right-hand turn heading north, a right-hand turn will get you over on 171<sup>st</sup> over to Morton High School or you can continue a little bit further north where it's going to ease you to the west where you'll link up with Parish Avenue. So, it's a great option, gets you to Morton, gets you to Scott, from a 173<sup>rd</sup>. I think it's a good plan.

Council President Woerpel - Mayor, can I just say something, I was questioned by a few residents in my district. I want to go on record now saying I support this plan. Like I've said to Councilman Rakos, and to yourself, that you know how much overtime money that train got me when I was working at the post office. And ironically, just like Councilman Rakos said today, that thing was blocking Kennedy Avenue for what? An hour?

Councilman Rakos - Longer.

Council President Woerpel - I tried to get by there around 1:30 or 2.

Councilman Rakos - Well, I went to go pick up my grandson at 3:30 it was still there.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - In the event, for some reason, it really doesn't fly in Hessville. I would like you to consider 11 million over the CSX and South Shore tracks either on Calumet, Hohman, or Sheffield. That would be great. Would you go along with that?

Councilman Torres - I would just want to add also on Calumet, and Fayette in that area. And I know we got that overpass less than a block away but sometimes traffic is blocked on the north all the way to White Castle. I mean to the CSX.

Mayor McDermott - That's a bad one also.

Councilman Torres - And while we're on trains also, every time that I meet with Hammond Elderly Building or the Humphrey Building or the folks from the Renaissance, they always mention the quiet zone that it's just needed, not only in the 2nd District, throughout the city, a lot of just about every city around here has that and we're the only ones. I know it's expensive to rebuild those streets and reconstruct that to whatever standards the railroad people and the State requires, but that ought to be planned somewhere along the line.

Council President Woerpel - Basically, Mayor, trains are like fireworks in the state of Indiana, correct? As much as we hate them, there's not a lot we can do about them.

Mayor McDermott - Nothing we can do locally, there's nothing we could do about trains blocking intersections. There's nothing the state of Indiana can do about trains blocking intersections. The only person that can do it is Congress, US Senate, and the President of the United States. That's it.

Council President Woerpel - And we got this grant from the State how many years ago, Councilman Rakos?

Councilman Rakos - 2 or 3 years ago.

Mayor McDermott - This has been years, and it's very well planned out. We recently started getting push back from environmental groups. I have been accused of lack of transparency and that I wasn't listening to people much like the current situation with Forsyth Square. I think this situation is far more dire with the number of complaints we get about stopping trains in Hessville and I feel like we're doing the right thing. Unlike Forsyth Square, where I felt like we made a mistake, I feel like we're doing the right thing on this. I just want confirmation from the residents. I really feel like this is the right thing to do. I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't feel like it. When I looked at Forsyth Square situations with a fresh set of eyes, I was making a mistake, which is why we went backwards. I never felt like this on the Hessville Project. Let's be clear. I think this is the answer. I am getting push back. I want to do this in the interest of transparency and it's very blunt. It's very not one-sided at all. It's like a lot of trees are going to get knocked down. But it will get you over the trains and we do have the money. I think it's important, but I hope the residents back me up on that and last, another controversial topic, but today's Executive Order 21-45 and Executive Order 21-47. Further tighten the screws, so to speak, on employees who are not vaccinated. We're currently somewhere north of 60%, in that ballpark, for total employees being vaccinated. I'm vaccinated times 3, by the way, for the record. I led by example, got Moderna

MAYOR’S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - first and second. I got them in March and I just got my booster. I know thousands of people and I know most of whom have received all their doses and they didn’t get sick and they didn’t get crazy side effects. I think this is the way out. I feel like I need to be a better leader in the City of Hammond for our close to 1000 employees. So, we decided to . . . because that 40% is still holding out, you know, we’ve offered incentives twice, and then we said okay, you’re on your own. If you get sick, you’ve got to use your own personal days and vacation. We’re not going to cover you if you’re not vaccinated, so those are the three attempts we’ve made already. So, now we’re saying under Executive Order 21-45, all new employees and all part-time employees, in the City of Hammond have to be vaccinated. We pay a good wage. We have great jobs. So, if you want to be a new employee, I don’t think we should add to the problem of unvaccinated employees. So, we’ve signed that executive order effective immediately. I also signed an executive order that said if you’re a current Hammond City employee and you put in for a job promotion, transfer, internal bid, you can’t do it unless you’re vaccinated. That’s the next step in what will be the final step, which is when OSHA mandates all employers with 100 or more employees, which qualifies the City of Hammond, to receive mandatory vaccinations. That’s the next step I’m waiting for the federal government to do, what I anticipate them to do, and when they do, the City of Hammond has no choice unless we’re going to sue the government. We have no choice but to implement this. So, I’m trying to get the employees ready. I hope the council agrees with what I’ve done. I was hoping maybe you could do some type of resolutions, opposing or affirming, hopefully affirming, so that the play base feels like we’re all on the same page. But so, 21-45, can we make sure we get copies to the Council of 21-45 and 21-47? And then maybe at the next council meeting you have some ideas to change, or if you want to affirm what we’ve already done, I’d appreciate it personally. If you guy want to change it, then let’s change it and you know, we’ll talk. I think they’re both good policies and my job is to try to get that 60% number to 100%. So that’s all I got.

Councilman Emerson - I agree. There is some that feel that to be on a ventilator for a month or longer that you have to pay for it but maybe that’s a little harsh, but I know, I get tired. I’ve been vaccinated threes times too and I get a little tired of people that are anti-vax and yet I’m supposed to go by all the rules and then they don’t seem to care for one reason or another. Maybe they’re medically challenged, you know, I don’t know, but what not all but some are anti-vax and it’s like, you know, we’re never going to get rid of this thing, so I agree with this.

Mayor McDermott- For the record, in our policies, we do have exceptions for religious purposes and for medical reasons. Just like the federal government does. So, I just wanted to point that out.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of November 8, 2021 and place on file.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approval)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MINUTES APPROVED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to approve the claims from November 3, 2021 through November 17, 2021. Claim #5640 through claim #5991, inclusive.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Kalwinski - I received notification that the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association will resume their meetings, effective Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> in their new home at the Hammond Mohawks Athletic and Conservation Club. So, they wanted me to make that announcement here today. So, the Pulaski Park will resume meeting after better than a year's layoff due to the pandemic. And that will be Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at Hammond Mohawks. Thank you

Councilwoman Alexander-We just want to put this on the record, on December 16<sup>th</sup> we will be doing the Annual Holiday Treat's Giveaway where we are accepting donations of new toys for the kids. Um, there was also an email sent out to all of the Council as well. But we wanted to let the residents know that they'll be on the lookout for them to sign up for a Holiday Treat's Giveaway on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Tyler - I just want to thank everybody who had a hand in helping us coordinate and facilitate the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway this past weekend. Thanks to a last minute contribution from the Hammond Firefighters. Uh, we were able to give away 212 turkeys to Hammond residents. It was a great event. I want to thank the Hammond City Council. I want to thank Food Bank of NWI. I want to thank the Minister Alliance, and the Ophelia Steen Center, and all those organizations. Um, this is our second year in a row doing it. So, excited to continue to build on that event and hopefully do it even bigger next year. Thank you.

Councilwoman Alexander - I also want to thank the City Council for your prayers during the time of the loss of my uncle and me not being here at the last meeting. So, I thank you guys for those prayers. We do appreciate that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Spitale - Brought out 21-45.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - We met on November 15<sup>th</sup>. We approved \$4,954.48 for the Chicago Street Phase One Change Order. It was change order number 13, 14, and 15 and that was related to the utility work. The next meeting of Capital Improvements will be December 6<sup>th</sup>. That will be at 4pm for the work study and the meeting at 5pm.

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

- Tues, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> ; Pulaski Neighborhood Assoc. Watch; Mohawks; 6:30p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> ; Edison Community Watch; Edison School; 6:30p.m.
- Edison Community Watch on the Road; Dec 9<sup>th</sup>; 1:00 p.m.; Golden Manor Senior Apt.'s
- Harrison Park Crime Watch; Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>; 6:30 p.m.; VFW on Hohman
- Irving Community Watch; Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>; 9:15 a.m.; Irving School
- Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> ; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College
- Hammond Elderly; Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>; 1:00 p.m.; at their building

Councilwoman Venecz - This is the opportunity for all of our residents to come out and find out what is happening in your neighborhood and to get some safety tips. Uh, one of the tips that we've been passing forward lately is to not let your vehicle run while you want to warm it up. Whether it's in your driveway, whether it's at the gas station, when you're going in to get gas. Don't let your vehicle run. That is an invitation for somebody to come and take your vehicle and then your purse, your wallet, whatever that's in the car is gone. Um, also, there was an incident over on Indianapolis Boulevard, a woman was getting gas, and somebody showed her a gun at the gas station. Please be aware of your surroundings. Whether you're at a stop sign, stoplight, at the gas station, no matter where you are, look around. Make sure that nobody is lurking around you. Because although this is the season for giving, it is also the season for taking, by some of the ne'er-do-well. So, please come out to a Crime Watch Meeting, get some additional tips. Because community is not just about me, it's about us. Thank you.

ORDINANCE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING-FINAL PASSAGE

21-45 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #274, Fund #277, Fund #279, Fund #289) for FY2022 Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP) Grant Funds

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

Councilman Spitale - This comes before us every year, but this is for creating new funds for future grants. This is not money being moved around when the funds come in and they new funds come into place.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9531 PASSED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

21-46 An Ordinance fixing the Salaries of Elected City Officials for the City of Hammond, Indiana Commencing January 1, 2022 Be it Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on December 13, 2021 at 5:15p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz - These are the salaries for Mayor, Clerk, and Council people.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & CAW)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

21-47 An Ordinance Authoring the City Controller to Transfer Funds from One Line Item to Another Within Various City 2021 Budgets

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on December 13, 2021 at 5:15p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz - This ordinance is something that we do every year, transferring funds from one line item to another.

Councilman Kalwinski - Which rainy day fund are all these passing into?

Mayor McDermott - We created the, what I call, the real rainy day fund we created last year. That's the one you can't take money out of. When Heather was Controller, she had a fund that she used, she called the rainy day fund, but it's more like a holding fund for our energy efficiency debt payments. So, the savings we would get from energy efficiency debt payments would go into Heather's rainy day fund, and eventually be paid out to cover the debt payments for the energy efficiency. That old fund is not going to be called rainy day anymore. The real rainy day fund that we created with the new ordinance last year, Councilman Mark, um, this is not that fund. This is the holding fund for energy efficiency payments. You didn't notice where the money is coming from is the same grant.

Councilman Kalwinski - And do we change that name by ordinance?

Mayor McDermott - It's going to next year anyway, Councilman Mark. All of Megan's accounts have to go to four numbers and all of them have to be renamed. It has to come before you anyway. That rainy day . . . the old rainy day fund is going away.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - Do you know the new name for it already?

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, in 2022 you'll never . . . the rainy day fund you'll see it'll be the one we created Councilman Mark.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & CAW)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

21-48 An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the City of Hammond for Zoning Purposes and Amending Ordinance No. 8514 (An Ordinance Establishing a Zoning Plan for the City of Hammond including the Regulations and Maps to Administer the Zoning Plan in Order to Provide for Orderly Growth and Development Within the City, all in Accordance with the Comprehensive/Land Use Plan, as Amended) for Property commonly known as: 2350 White Oak Ave.

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on December 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. with an Intent to Consider on December 13, 2021.

Councilman Kalwinski - This is a rezoning that's going from commercial to residential R-2. And just a brief history and I'll go over that again. This was the old Dusty's Tap that the Dustani family owned and occupied for a long time and was sold recently to a developer who is taking the four existing units, apartment units, and remodeling them and has taken the bar out and will make that a fifth unit. So, it's no longer serving a commercial purpose and that's why the rezoning of the R-2, and we'll look forward to seeing if that will pass on 12-13, for third and final. The developer is here. Mr. Nick Herbst as well as some of his fellow developers and the city planner is here too. Should anybody have any questions?

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & CAW)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

21R-29 A Resolution to Reappoint Melissa Farrell to the Gaming Advisory Committee of the City of Hammond

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - Ms. Farrell has served on the Gaming Committee for a number of years. Ever since I stepped down from it and has been very attentive going to all the meetings and taking that work seriously and I'm happy that she will follow up with this reappointment. She was eager to go back on board and I want to thank her in advance of the vote. Thank you

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R29 ADOPTED

21R-30      A Resolution to Reappoint Miriam Soto Pressley to the Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for adoption.

Councilman Kalwinski- Miriam Soto Pressley has served on the Redevelopment Commission for at least 8 years. And has been a vital part of that commission serving as a commissioner but also serving as a translator when necessary as she's bilingual and teaches bilingual classes. She has been called upon at times to be able to help residents who are trying to navigate the process by interpreting for them what their needs are and helping them get through processes that are required for what they're pursuing in the Redevelopment Commission. I am happy that she's willing to re-up for another year and look forward to her serving in the same capacity. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R30 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to reappoint Gregory Myricks to the Hammond Redevelopment Commission.

Councilman Kalwinski - I look forward to his re-up , but do we have to wait for the paperwork before we vote on this?

Council President Woerpel - We can do it as a motion from the floor. We've done, it under New and Unfinished before.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (appointment)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

APPOINTMENT APPROVED

Councilman Tyler - I apologize, under Communications I should have also thanked the various volunteers that came out for the turkey giveaway as well as the Hammond Police Department. We didn't have any issues with traffic control because they were there to assist with that. So, I want to thank those groups again for their support with our event this past weekend.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Leda White - I am here for the residents who opposed the Forsyth Square development. On behalf of the hundreds of residents who signed our petition, I would like to personally thank the Mayor for his actions here tonight. So we submit this petition to you tonight in the hope of encouraging open communication and conversation about the Robertsdale community and how to work together.

James Gutierrez - I was here to voice my opposition to the development which now is moved because you have thankfully, removed the issue.

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to adjourn.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adjourn meeting)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Torres, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MEETING ADJOURNED

2021 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

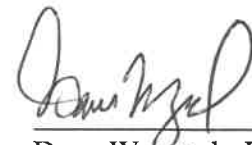
	May	June		July		Aug		Sept		Oct	Nov		Dec		
	24	14	28	12	26	9	23	13	27	12	25	8	22	13	27
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	A	P		
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Mark Kalwinski	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P		
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Barry Tyler	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P		
Bill Emerson	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		
Dave Woerpel	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		

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.



Dave Woerpel, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:50

dw

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk