

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on February 14, 2022 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.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec 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

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - First and foremost, Happy Valentine's Day to all of you. I'd ask you to be my Valentine but I have a feeling a few of you would say no. So I don't want to get hurt, so I won't do that. I'm gonna be very quick this evening. I have one real update for you and that's the Executive Order that the Mayor has signed for the removal of the mask mandate, so I brought that with me, so I was just going to read it very quickly. "Whereas on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. issued Executive Order 22-02 requiring face coverings to be worn in any public place within the city of Hammond until the resurgence of new Covid-19 positive cases began to decline. Whereas, as of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, John Hopkins University of Medicine Corona Virus Resource Center reported new Covid-19 cases have been declining in 49 of the 50 states in the last two weeks, Indiana included. Whereas, in the in the foregoing positive information, Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr. finds it necessary and proper to rescind Executive Order 22-02; and now therefore, by Executive Order, I, Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. hereby rescinds Executive Order 22-02. Face masks are no longer required to be worn in public places within the city of Hammond." Obviously there's still many times where face masks would be recommended for many people in many different situations but it's no longer mandated in city buildings. So, I just wanted to read that for all of you. The only other thing I had is I just wanted to do a quick plug for this Saturday. It happens to be our 219 Day Event. I know everybody here is very familiar with it. We have a very exciting year this year. One, because it landed on a Saturday, I think, for the first time ever, which is great. Also because we have Tommy DeCarlo, who happens to be the lead singer of Boston, who's gonna perform Boston songs. I think when you have the lead singer you might as well say you have the band there, personally. So we're very excited about that. Then there's another gentleman named Rudy Cardenas who was on American Idol back in the day who's also pretty popular, he's gonna be playing some Journey songs as well. 219 is this Saturday from 6 pm to 11 pm at the Hammond Civic Center. You do have to be 21 years or older. We do have some cool things this year, including an arcade game section. We got some new vendors, I know Riviera Maya is gonna be there out of Highland. I know we having Manic Meatery from Crown Point. As you know, 219 Day is a celebration of the entire region, not just Hammond, WE just happen to host it in Hammond. So we like to highlight businesses from all over the region. With that, I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2022 and place on file.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approve minutes)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MINUTES APPROVED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to approve the claims from January 19, 2022 through February 9, 2022. Claim #513 through claim #951 in the amount of \$9,142,336.09.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approve claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

22-04 An Ordinance Appropriating The Proceeds of the Annual Action Plan and Dealing with Other Matters Pertaining to the Expenditure of Plan Proceeds for Program Year 2022

No one spoke

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Kalwinski - I received a communication that Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association will conduct it's February meeting on Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30pm at the Hammond Mohawk's at 141<sup>st</sup> and Calumet Avenue. Thank you.

Councilman Tyler - I just want to announce that the Hammond Public Library will be hosting their Black History Program next Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. They will be recognizing representatives from the city of Hammond and also diving into the history of the city of Hammond. I also want to announce that this year we would like to re-invite the members of the Divine Nine to attend our next City Council meeting, which is on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in celebration of Black History month. We've done this before. We just have them attend the meeting, take a picture, recognize those groups for their service. So we would once again like to invite all members of the Divine Nine from across Northwest Indiana to attend our next City Council meeting on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Thank you.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Alexander - Our Council Scholarship has already been started at the School City, not only within the city but with HAST and Bishop Noll as well, and we're giving away fifteen \$1,000 scholarships this year, as we've always done in the past, to any senior graduating this May or June of 2022. The principals have been notified. Kaminski is handling those things for us. I wanted to encourage every resident of Hammond that, every student that's a senior, to fill out for our scholarship. That will be due by March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Councilman Tyler - I have two more Black History celebrations. The city of Hammond and Mayor Thomas McDermott would like to invite everyone to attend the city's Black History Program this Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Hammond Sportsplex where we'll be honoring civic leaders from the Black community in the city of Hammond. Then on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hammond Development Corporation there will be a celebration and art exhibit entitled Red, White and Black that will take place from 5 pm til 8 pm.

Councilman Torres - We all got letters asking for donations. I want to highlight the Hermits Little League and the Hammond Hispanic Committee, Hessville Little League and the Greater Hammond Services. Please give generously to them all. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Spitale - Brought out 22-04.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - We met on February 7<sup>th</sup>. We approved \$15,400 for lighting design on Alexander Avenue. We approved \$287,500 for the Little Calumet River Trail Pedestrian Bridge. That is our portion of the match. Then we approved \$300 thousand for the 2022 Roadway Maintenance Pavement Preservation, which is crack sealing throughout the city. Our next meeting would have been scheduled on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, however that is President's Day. I'm waiting to get an updated date change on that. Please check out the website gohammond.com.

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

- Wed., March 2; Edison Community Watch; Edison School; 6:30 pm
- Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tuesday, March 1; 6:30 pm; VFW on Hohman
- Hessville Crime Watch; Thur.' Feb. 17; 6 pm; Jean Shepherd Center
- Irving Community Watch; Fri., March 4; 9:15 am; Irving School

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

22-04            An Ordinance Appropriating The Proceeds of the Annual Action Plan and Dealing with Other Matters Pertaining to the Expenditure of Plan Proceeds for Program Year 2022

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for final passage.

Councilman Spitale - They do this every year for the Action Plan. I'd just like to have a breakdown of CDBG, Home and ESP Projects are housing, public service, (unclear) program, utility assistance, homeless services, redevelopment, economic development and planning and administration.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

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

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-04)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9537 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-05 An Ordinance Transferring Dormant Fund Balances to the General Fund

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, 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 meeting on February 28, 2022 at 5:15p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz - These are balances that were not used at the end of 2021 and they were unencumbered balances. The total is \$410,452.12 that will be returned to the General Fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of 22-05)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

22-06 An Ordinance to Amend Ord. 3305, Am. Ord. 3387, Am. Ord. 4301, Am. Ord. 5004, Am. Ord. 8592, Am. Ord. 8595, Am. Ord. 8961, Am. Ord. 8962, Am. Ord. 9098, 9506 also known as Ch. 117 of Title XI of the Hammond Municipal Code as it pertains to Temporary Food Vendor Licensing in the City

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, 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 meeting on February 28, 2022 at 5:15p.m.

Councilman Spitale - Ordinance 22-06 have license changing for temporary vendors and that will be non-food that will be brought up at our next meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of 22-06)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

22-07 An Ordinance to Amend Ord. 4872, Am. Ord. 8715, 8717, 9133, 9494, also known as Ch. 122 of Title XI of the Hammond Municipal Code as it pertains to Temporary Non-food Vendor Licensing in the City

Councilman Spitale, 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 meeting on February 28, 2022 at 5:15p.m.

Councilman Spitale - Same as 22-06, we have a license changes for temporary vendors for that particular ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of 22-07)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Kalwinski, moved that we currently have a vacancy on the Hammond Community Corporation. Bonnie Henry is retiring from that committee. I'm asking for the consideration of the Council for Janice Polka to take her place for a three year term.

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, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to replace Concepcion "Sean" Medrano with David Demumburn for a (2) two year appointment on the Hammond Community Corporation.

Councilman Tyler - This is just in response to the fact that we've been unable to contact Concepcion Medrano, who has served on this committee for at least two consecutive terms. So with that being said, we want to replace him with someone who is super excited and wants to be more involved in the city (unclear) Mr. Demumburn for your consideration. Thank you.

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

Councilwoman Alexander - The site is still currently not updated so I can not give the Covid numbers but I can give vaccine numbers. Vaccine numbers for 46320, we have 142 new fully vaccinated residents, which in total is 5,903, which is 47.1% of the residents in that area. For 46327, we have 101 new fully vaccinated residents, their total number is 4,939, which is 46%. For 46324, we have 216 fully vaccinated residents, in total there's 10,191, which is 49.8%. For 46323 we have 248 new fully vaccinated residents, Their full total is 10,427, which is 49.9%. For 46394 there's 95 new fully vaccinated residents, their total number is 6,294, which is 52.6%. Once the site is updated I will try to give those other numbers.

Councilman Torres - I'd just like to congratulate my colleague and our president for his book, "Nothing like I planned" is his memoirs and adventures in life, a few escapades, and I'm glad he survived all of them. But it is fun reading and entertaining and I'm sure it will be coming to the nearest store pretty soon. So, dust off a space in your bookshelf for it and you'll enjoy reading it. Congratulations, again.

Council President Woerpel - Thank you, and you know what, I've done some stuff that's made me feel really cheesy. That's about the worst right there.

Councilwoman Venecz - I would like to thank our street department. Last week when we got a foot of snow, they were out there for hours on end trying to keep up with the snow and I know we get complaints but, you know, stop and think about the miles and miles of roads that we have to plow, and the alleys, and the public buildings and all that being said, I think they did a fabulous job and I just want to say thank you.

Councilman Torres - I know there's been talk about getting funds to improve our intercom system here in the Council Chambers. I had an incident where I sat in the audience and a lot of times this is really hard for the audience to hear us. It's been mentioned before, we need an improvement and I just wonder where we're at on that.

Council President Woerpel - I think Megan can speak to that.

City Controller Megan Flores - So during our first round of ARPA we set aside a chunk of money for you guys to have that reconfiguration of the technology in here done. Chris from IT was working on it with Jonathon at the end of the year last year. I know they were probably getting some final quotes and just going through a few vendors and making sure we're getting the best deals but I can assure you that it's very much in movement. Again, not knowing what processes they're going through, I would estimate that at least by mid year we'd have it complete.

Councilman Torres - By mid June?

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

City Controller Megan Flores - By mid year.

Councilman Torres - This summer?

City Controller Megan Flores - Yes, hopefully. Again, I don't know what processes they are still going through but the last update I got in December it seemed like they were pretty close to having all the vendors selected.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to adjourn.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adjourn)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

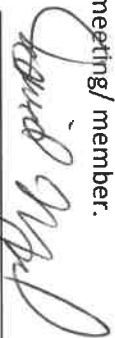
MEETING ADJOURNED

2022 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec												
Katrina Alexander	10	24	14	28	14	28	11	25	9	23	13	27	11	25	8	22	12	26	10	24	14	28	12	26
Dan Spitale	E	P																						
Janet Venecz	P	P																						
Mark Kalwinski	P	P																						
Pete Torres	P	P																						
Barry Tyler	E	P																						
Bill Emerson	P	P																						
Scott Rakos	P	P																						
Dave Woerpel	P	P																						
Initials	R/G	R/G																						

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: 6:35  
cb

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk