

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on April 25, 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.

A moment of Silence was observed

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Rakos

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Corporation Counsel Kevin Smith - I'm here on behalf of Mayor McDermott tonight who sends his regards and as many of you know he's been moving around the state. In fact, in the last week or so he's been to South Bend, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Terra Haute, Evansville, New Albany and Rising Sun. He wanted me to make sure everyone knows even though he's been out of City Hall a little bit, he was in the office both Saturday and Sunday catching up. Also, tonight he's in Indianapolis on city business with city staff preparing to receive an award and speak in Carmel tomorrow at the Greenway Foundation's 14th Annual Luncheon relating to the city's bike trails and greenways. Just some quick notes and some updates. As many of you know, and many of our residents know, construction is continuing throughout the city and it's kind of construction season in full force. It's good news, of course, but it can be a bit of a traffic hassle for people trying to get around town. That would include Hohman Avenue through Downtown, Kennedy Avenue Business District. NICTD continues it's preparation for the South Shore West Lake Extension. Anybody who lives on the west side of town from probably about Gostlin all the way to the river knows about that. Hoffman and Chicago Avenue continue their construction. The Calumet Avenue bridge that's going to go over Calumet Avenue at River Drive at the Munster border has begun. That project, of course, has a million dollars that was given to that project from the Little Cal River Basin Commission. So it's an exciting time to see so much investment in the city and it will continue, I believe, throughout this year for sure and into next year at least, and probably even into 2025 on some of these projects. Festival of the Lakes is almost fully announced. Acts for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday have been announced by the Mayor, and Saturday and Sunday should be able to be announced soon. So were looking forward to that as we get into warmer weather and festival season. I wanted to give a little bit of additional information to what was given by the Chief of Staff at the last Council meeting regarding the Columbia Avenue fence. I wanted to be clear to let the Council know that we do have an easement, an easement in favor of the city signed off by each of the property owners so that we do have access to that. Maintenance will be the city's, but we won't be going on private property. I think there was a little bit of a confusion over ... it's still private property but we have an easement. So it's a little of both but I wanted to make sure that everybody

MAYOR'S ADDRESS CONT.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Smith - understood that. The city continues to invest in additional LPR cameras through the police department. They are now updated to the next generation, which are clearer. And just as, kind of like, your laptop, right, every eighteen months or two years you need a new one to get the better technology. Well same thing with LPR cameras, that's occurring and that's exciting because they continue to be one of the best crime fighting tools that we have in the city along, of course, with our policemen and women that continue to patrol our streets and keep us all safe. Some exciting news about Jacob's Square. The playground at New Windrich Park is nearing completion this spring on Thornton and that will be the first park in the Jacob's Square neighborhood. That's pretty exciting for everybody and really exciting for that part of town as we continue to look to redevelop that area and I know that the Planning Department is continuing to work on trying to aggregate lots that the city owns and make those available for new housing through both United Neighborhoods, Inc. and private developers. We have some interest in that and that will be something that's gonna happen as we move through 2022. I.T. has, this is exciting for the Council, the I.T. Department has quotes for Council Chambers upgrades. Those, of course, are from the ARP Funds that were previously passed by the Council. So that's something that's gonna happen this year for sure and I believe that I.T. will be reaching out and meeting with, I think, the Council President in the near future on that. The Controller's Office is continuing meetings citywide software upgrades that will modernize everything from dog licenses to Inspections and bring us into, maybe, the late 20th century as well as the 21st century. That's happening and that's actually a 24 month project so it's just starting and I know that Megan and her staff have been in hours and hours of meetings every week, it's ongoing. So phase three Energy Savings Program, excited to announce that some work has started on city hall to make this place a little more energy efficient so you don't have to go to the hallway to get cool in the summer and then in the winter you boil because the radiators are on. So, that's getting under control. Also, something that's a little bit interesting, new windows were put in at Central Fire Station and to much acclaim the firefighters have said that it's become much more quiet at Central and climate controlled, so that's exciting. Speaking of the Fire Department, Station Two will be bid out this spring with the fall 2022 anticipated start date. That's all I've got. Of course, I'm open to any questions. If you have any I'll be happy to try to answer them on behalf of the Mayor.

Councilman Emerson - Kevin, regarding the dog licenses, is that gonna go online? What is I.T. doing with that?

Corporation Counsel Kevin Smith - Yes, they'll, hopefully, be online so you won't have to worry about going to the window to pay your \$10 or \$5 or whatever it is.

Councilman Emerson - Okay.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Smith - Yes, that's one of the things that will happen, not immediately, but when this software upgrade goes through it will also, like in the Inspections Department, when the Inspector's are in the field they'll be able to have hand held devices that will help them inspect so it's all gonna really just upgrade where we are electronically and I know Megan's excited about it and she's really been putting in the hours to get that done.

Councilman Kalwinski - When the build for number two (unclear).

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Smith - We hope, if all goes well, my understanding from the City Engineer, is that drawings are at the 90% phase. We're waiting for those final drawings and then it could go out to bid. Then if bids come in, hopefully, as we expect, I know that the City Council passed, as part of ARP Funds funding for at least, hopefully, part of or a majority of that project. We believe that the bid will be let and construction will begin still within the 2022 construction season. So probably, you know, I guess, earliest would be maybe July. More realistic will probably be later in the year, provided that we have the funding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE (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 April 19, 2022 and ending with claims dated April 20, 2022. Claim No. 2339 thru claim No. 2699 in the amount of \$3,216,296.18.

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 a communication that the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association will hold its meeting on Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Hammond Mohawks. A second announcement from the Mohawks is that the Mohawks are planning to hold their North Hammond Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th and it will be the first time in several years because of the pandemic and it'll be on Monday, May 30th staging will take place at the (unclear) and the parade will kick off at 11 a.m. Staging will occur on Baltimore near the Cavalier Inn and the former roller rink.

COMMUNICATIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler - This Thursday from 4:30 til 5:30 I'll be at Tanglewood Apartments. I'm trying to just give more updates about projects we are working on across the District. So we're doing this, kind of, not to copy the Mayor, but Councilman's Night Out at Tanglewood Apartments at their Clubhouse on Thursday, April 28th, from 4:30 to about 5:30. Then also next week in conjunction with the Hammond Parks Department and the Ministerial Alliance will be hosting a Peace and Prayer Walk which will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4th at MLK Park.

Councilman Tyler - I announced it at the last meeting but once again, the School City of Hammond is moving forward with their renaming of Maywood Elementary to honor Annie Burns Hicks. That'll take place at 10 a.m. this Thursday and she will be in town to help celebrate that . On the same day, which is April the 28th, at 6 p.m. at Morton High School they'll be showing the documentary that Roland Parrish put together detailing the story and the fight that Mrs. Burns Hicks went through to become the first African American teacher within the City of Hammond. So I encourage everyone to come out to both of those events and honor a living legend from our city.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Spitale - Brought out 22-15.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - Met on Monday, April 19th. Received a report of the 2nd Quarter Gaming dollars in the amount of \$2,056,828.45. \$1.425 million is unallocated. \$9,200.18 was approved, which was our portion of a 80/20 match for Chicago Street Phase 1 change order 16 through 19, which is related to underground utility conflicts. \$600 thousand was approved for the 2022 Sidewalk Program. A Change Order #1 for Hohman Avenue Phase 1 was approved in the amount of \$30,638.43 for unanticipated underground foundation and an underground vault that each needed to be filled. Next meeting will be May 2nd, at 5 p.m. with a work study session at 4:30 p.m. that same evening.

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

Wednesday, May 4; Edison Community Watch; 6:30 p.m.; Edison School

Harrison Crime Watch will not meet on May 3 which is Election Day; they're next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7 at the VFW on Hohman Avenue

Hessville Crime Watch; Thursday, May 19; 6 p.m.; Jean Shepherd Center

Irving Community Watch; May 6; 9:15 a.m.; Irving School

Whiting Robertsdale C. W.; Thursday, May 12; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Scholarship Committee - Councilwoman Alexander - I just want to put a reminder out there that next meeting we will have our scholarship recipients in the building to receive their awards from our last meeting.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

22-15 An Ordinance Creating a New Fund (Fund #2465) for the City of Hammond Police Department for FY2022 Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (SAVE) Grant Funds

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

Councilman Spitale - An established new account, #2465, is dedicated and created for the City of Hammond Police Department for the Stop Arm Violation Enforcement Grant funds. The Police will be targeting Stop Arm Violations and Unsafe Driving around school busses.

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. 9548 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-17 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2022 Gaming Fund

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on May 23, 2022 at 5:15p.m. and a Public Hearing on May 23, 2022.

Councilwoman Venecz- This is simply moving unspent monies from 2021to 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-17)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

22-18 An Ordinance Creating a New Fund (#4409) known as the Hammond Police Capital Fund

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a Committee Meeting on May 9th, 2022 at 5:15 pm.

Councilman Spitale- State Board of Accounts recommended their creation of a police capital equipment fund. The renewal fund must be created for the City of Hammond for #4409 Police Capital Equipment Fund.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-18)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

22-19 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinances 4109, 4298, 5039, AM. ORD. 8591 otherwise known as Chapter 121 of the Hammond Municipal Code as it Pertains to the Prohibition of Retail Sales of Dogs And Cats by Pet Shops and Conforming Revision to Animal Provisions within the Hammond Municipal Code

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Animal Control Committee with a Committee Meeting on May 9th, 2022 at 5:15 pm.

Councilman Tyler- As stated, this is really a consolidation of several of the pet sale ordinances that we have on the books, and it clarifies it even better that we haven't amended this. I think Corporate Counsel said it's since the late 80s. So, it was time for us to revisit all of the ordinances that we have on the books concerning the sale of dogs and cats in our city. And as of January 3rd, 2023, the sale of dogs and cats in our city will be prohibited if this ordinance is passed. Thank you.

Councilman Torres- I see it mentions retail shops, does it also prohibit individuals from selling dogs and cats. I know several people that don't have a shop, dog had a litter and they sell them individually.

Councilman Tyler- So, breeders will still be allowed to sell but this prohibits the sale from those actual retail shops within our city, and they have to be licensed.

Councilman Torres- So, do they get those licenses from Animal Control or the Controllers Office?

Councilman Tyler- The Breeders would have to get a license. I'm not sure if it's through Animal Control or the AKC...

Councilman Torres- Yeah, Animal Control no longer does the licensing. Okay, thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-19)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

22R-08 A Resolution Recognizing Annie Burns Hicks for her Contributions as the First African American Teacher within the City of Hammond

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

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved to amend in 22R-08A in its entirety.

ROLL CALL VOTE (amended adopted)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Golec read Resolution 22R-08 in it's entirety.

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. R08 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to accept the appointments. Rich Spitale, to a two- year term for the Building Contractor Board; Ron Lubas, two-year term on the Electrical Board; Jorge Bautista, one-year term on the Electrical Board; and Ron Kotso, two-year term on the HVAC Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

Councilman Kalwinski- Spring is here and that means opening day for Little League Softball, girls softball, and Babe Ruth is upon us. In the 1st District, Hammond Hermits will have it's opening day, Saturday, April 30th, with a parade starting at 10am and ceremony, opening day ceremonies at the park at 11am. Also in the 1st District, the Lakeshore Babe Ruth Girls Softball play at Forsyth Park, will have it's parade Friday, April 29th at 5:30pm, followed by opening day ceremonies at the park. Thank you.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilwoman Venecz- There are other leagues throughout the city that are celebrating their opening day. Um, Saturday, April 30th, the Hammond Optimist Youth Sports will have their opening day at Optimist Field at 10am. Hessville Little League will have a parade lineup that begins at 8:30 am. The kickoff is at 9am. Their opening day ceremony is at 10am. Again, that is April 30th as well. Thank you.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Linda Anguiano- I wanted to acknowledge and recognize Councilman Barry Tyler Jr.'s ordinance prohibiting retail sale of dogs and cats. These animals are very special to me. I also want to thank the resolution for recognizing Annie Burns Hicks as the 1st African American School Teacher. I would like to also recognize the group of activists that organized Earth Day's fantastic event. And lastly, I'm going on a trip to Washington DC, with a group called Cosecha and I'd like you all to be aware of them. They were started by a group of undocumented immigrants and the focus of this group is driver's license for all.

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, 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

2022 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

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


ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:45
cb/dw

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk



Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council