

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on June 13, 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

Mayor McDermott- Hi, everybody. Nice to see you. It's great to be here for my council report tonight. Last, well since the last council meeting, I caught COVID, which is not wonderful. It's not fun. I'm twice vaccinated and boosted and I caught COVID and it knocked me down for three and a half days, so uh, actually four and a half days. Day five, I could basically get out of bed again. But it's out there, so, um, so if you're not boosted get boosted, it's my recommendation. Anyway, um, we had a couple ground breakings in the last couple weeks. First ground breaking was in the 2nd District. Councilmen Torres was there. I appreciate him being out there. Meat by Linz, a company out of Illinois that's building a thirty-five million dollar brand new plant, it's the former Queen Anne Candy site on Hopkins Street. It was a wonderful ceremony. We've been working a long time on the economic development project so it's wonderful that it's finally done and had the ground breaking. It was a wonderful day. And then, we had another ground breaking that was completely opposite weather. This ground breaking, Huhtamaki, was a big project, hundred million dollar project. We've been working on this project also for, not as long as Meat by Linz. Meat by Linz was close to eight years, probably, to get that deal closed. Huhtamaki was more like a year and a half. We were in competition with a company out of the southern United States. We were chosen for the hundred million dollar investment. Hundred and forty new jobs, two hundred fifty thousand square foot facility, brand new technology. They're gonna really change the whole orientation of Huhtamaki so that, you know, where the Pizza Hut is on the boulevard? When you look behind it, that's gonna be looking at the front of the building, the new addition is gonna be sort of like the frontage. Like, you know, uh, Indianapolis Boulevard there. It's a big addition for those of you that uh, it's north of the current building going off towards the trees. There will be access off 165th to get into the parking area. So we're real happy. We had a monsoon that day, I don't know if it qualified, but it seemed like it. We were all under a tent and there was rivers on the tent and it was a ground breaking I'll never forget. We had so much rain that knocked out all the power and we were stuck underneath a tent. Interesting, it was a mud breaking, everybody said and I felt so embarrassed because all these people flew across the world to come to Hammond and it literally started as soon as the groundbreaking was supposed to start. So their image of Hammond is this wildly

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - torrential, rainy place. But anyway, it's a great project. We're real happy about it. We've been talking about a community meeting in Robertsdale. We've talked to Councilman Mark. Said that before we went forward with any development for the Clark High School athletic fields, that we would go to the community and present proposals to them. We had three different proposals we're gonna present to the community meeting. I believe that's on the 22nd, 22nd at 5 p.m. in the Clipper Room. June 22nd at 5 p.m. at the Clipper Room. Community meeting on the three different proposals we're gonna present to the community and get their feedback on. We're really happy about this project. I think it's gonna be real positive. One part that we didn't deal with in this is basically from 122nd St., which is where the current fire house is, all the way down to basically the Nature Center, right there, which is the location of the new fire house, we left that intentionally blank. Councilman Mark, we'll talk about that down the road. What we're talking about during this community meeting is basically the athletic fields area where we wanna build houses and things like, so, I was asked earlier today about the high school, which is a great question. The high schools themselves, so Clark, Gavit, any abandoned school, Columbia, we can't touch them right now. The school city is sitting on them. They can't put them up for sale because if they put a school up for sale they could get bought by a charter school for a dollar. So the school city is paralyzed because of this lawsuit they have with the state of Indiana and we're just sort of waiting. I wish we had control of the schools right now because we'd be moving forward with development, so what we're doing at Clark with the parking lots is legal because it's not the school itself. So when you get asked by the residents about Clark School or Gavit we can't touch the buildings themselves, or Columbia, or whatever abandoned school. We can't touch the schools themselves. We can touch the parking lot, the athletic fields, but the school itself is subject to litigation so we're in the middle of that. I think it's ridiculous but unfortunately the legislature passed a law that said the schools have to sell abandoned buildings for a dollar to a charter school. They have to offer it up first. It's ridiculous. Gavit High School is worth far more than a dollar. The taxpayers of Hammond own that school and we would literally have to sell it for a dollar. If it was worth five million dollars or one million dollars, we would have to sell it for a dollar. So until that litigation is worked out, you're not gonna see anything moving forward with the schools. So we just gotta make sure that the school city and Superintendent Miller keep good control of the schools and it seems like they're doing that so far. Station 2, firehouse station 2 project is moving. It seems like it's moving forward real well. Bid Spec's are being prepared. It's gonna be bid out soon. Awarded early, twelve to thirteen month construction project. So Station 2 is gonna be located, it's moved basically from the corner of 122nd St and Calumet down to where the Nature Center is, down in that area, so.

Councilman Kalwinski - Mayor, the Environmental Center, is that where it's going to be?

Mayor McDermott - Yes sir, the Environmental Center, exactly. And then, it'll be a little bit north of there. So, sorta to the tennis courts. That'll be where the firehouse sits. Closer to the Pavilion, which is nice for the big crowd nights. And then everything north of that is intentionally left blank because, as they say in the government, we're gonna talk about that down the road. Nothings been prepared. So basically the frontage to Calumet will still be wide open. What we're talking about this community meeting is everything else back in the fields. So we're setting that up for the 22nd and last but not least we got bad news yesterday about the Festival of the Lakes. For those of you that haven't heard, Toby Keith is dealing with the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy from cancer, stomach cancer, that he hadn't disclosed and he cancelled his entire tour which includes City of Hammond and the Festival of the Lakes, which is our Wednesday night with one month to go.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - This is a tough task. So Aileen's brand new as Special Event's Coordinator and she has an open night one month before the show. So we're gonna try our best to fill it and if we don't, we can put local acts on or we'll go dark for the first time in our history. So, hopefully, that won't happen. We do, we're trying to salvage it right now. We have a pretty good offer on the table for a good act. A real good act actually. If it's accepted it'll be a home run so. If you don't have any questions, that's all I have for my.... COVID sorta took out five days of my work so.

Councilman Kalwinski - So your back and feeling better

Mayor McDermott - I'll be honest with you Councilman Mark, I heard about the hangover from COVID. It's a real thing. I was clean, I was negative, but I couldn't get back to working out, I couldn't ... it took me a full week to get back to sorta normal, but I feel back to normal right now so.

Councilman Kalwinski- A quick question, one of the last meetings that you had your report to us, you mentioned discussions with Polyjohn and have there been more?

Mayor McDermott- I haven't been part of any. It was, I'll be honest with you Councilman Mark, the meeting we had with Polyjohn, I thought it was real positive. I met with the ownership. It seemed to me like they were really concerned about the allegations of the plastic going in the water. We had a real good meeting, they were telling us about the containment they are establishing up there to prevent that from happening again. I thought it was real productive. We also talked about the future, like if Polyjohn is not in that location, which I personally feel, would be wonderful. The best case scenario would be if we could relocate Polyjohn and keep them in Hammond. Obviously, I don't want ... they are sorta out of place now because that whole area around Polyjohn, with the Lost Marsh, that whole area has turned natural on them and they are the only industry really left in that area, and they're aware of it. I thought it was, I'll be honest, I thought it was a real positive meeting.

Councilman Kalwinski- So are they open to making a move if we could find a place for them?

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir, definitely. I definitely had that feeling and there's definitely gonna be followup if there hasn't been already, but I thought it could have been either way one of those meetings you didn't know which way it was gonna go. I thought it was real positive being honest. They seemed like really nice people and they're very concerned about the allegations. They're working with IDEM, they're working with Hammond Department Environmental. So I thought it was real positive, Councilman Mark. And next time I meet with them I'll make sure you're there and I apologize I didn't know which way that was going. It could've been a horrible meeting for all we knew, but it was real positive.

Councilman Kalwinski- I appreciate it, thank you.

Councilman Emerson- Hi Mayor, construction on the bike bridge between, on Calumet, between Muster and Hammond has begun. Which we're very happy about.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott- Me too. It's a great project. It's gonna be wonderful. We're getting, we got a lot of help on the bike trail bridge between Hammond and Munster from the Little Calumet River Basin Authority, town of Munster helped us with it. So it's nice to have other people participating and it's a, that's a dangerous crossing for anybody that's on the street, and it'll get everybody that's walking or riding up above the traffic which will be nice, so.

Councilman Woerpel- It's very dangerous there.

Mayor McDermott- Yes, sir. It's really, probably our most dangerous crossing. I remember what started that project with me was a letter from a Munster resident talking about how dangerous it was so, it's neat. Any other questions?

Council President Woerpel- You know, when I heard you had COVID, I'm a hypochondriac anyway, and I swore I was gonna die cause I had saw you the day before and I made myself sick.

Mayor McDermott- I'll be honest with you, I think I was in here the day before. I was in here the day before actually. I'm glad nobody got COVID. I didn't know I was contagious. I wouldn't have been here.

Council President Woerpel- The Friday after you caught it I'm like 'well you got a free test why don't you take one, and I came back negative.

Mayor McDermott- By the way, my wife, Judge Marissa, CHECK is really good about these tests that they send for free. We've got like ten of them at my house right now, I know you can email the government and they'll send you a COVID test and they're, I bought the same exact thing that Marissa got for free for twenty-five bucks in Indianapolis, and they work, they're really good so. For those of you out there, I'm sure you could find it just type in 'free COVID test, and they'll send them to you. We get them in the mail.

Councilman Tyler- It's not a question but, it's just, I want to thank you. I know you're going down to Hoosier Boy State again to speak to the delegates.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, you're gonna be there, right?

Councilman Tyler- Yeah, of course. This year I'm not able to volunteer at the program but I'll be back next year. But yeah, I'll be there on Friday.

Mayor McDermott- Yeah I leave Friday. I'm doing, it's funny, Friday last week I did, on Friday I left, went to Angola, to Indianapolis for two meetings I had to go to, and this Friday I'm doing the same exact trip. Angola for Boy State, to Indianapolis for the Democratic Convention, so a lot of traveling. And by the way, I don't use my city car for that. I wanted to point that out so. I appreciate you all, it was nice to see you. If there's no more questions, I'll go over here. Thanks guys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of May 23, 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 May 18, 2022 through June 8, 2022. Claim #3297 through claim #3669 in the amount of \$3,454,713.66

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

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- I have a few. I just want to announce that the City of Hammond will be having their annual Juneteenth celebration this Sunday, June 19th, at MLK Park from 2-4pm. The day before that, New Zion Temple is also having a Juneteenth celebration along with the Father's Day celebration. I don't have the exact time in front of me, but I believe it's late Saturday morning, early Saturday afternoon. I also want to announce that and each council person should have received this in their mailbox, but the First Tee of Lake County, which is located here in Hammond, is having their annual golf outing, which is their biggest fundraiser of the year on Wednesday, June 22nd. Uh, asking each council person to sponsor a whole sign to show their support of that organization. I just want to congratulate all of the 2022 graduates from the School City of Hammond on completing high school and going off to college or entering into their careers, whatever it is. I know Hammond Central, of course, had their first inaugural graduation, which was a big success. Councilwoman Alexander and I were able to meet with the Student Council at Hammond Central. Um, and this past Saturday I was able to attend the School City of Hammond Strategic Planning kind of capstone. I've been part of that committee for the past year. Uh, they're preparing to release their finalized strategic plans sometimes this fall to the public where residents will be able to take a survey to get feedback on the aspects of the strategic plan so that they can ratify that before actually going into implementation sometime I believe in January of next year so excited for the public to receive that I think it's a great way for the city to be a part of what the school city is trying to do academically and socially and emotionally for our students. Thank you.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz- Animal Control Committee met this evening and at the next council meeting, we will announce the next public committee meeting for Animal Control to discuss Ordinance No. 22-19. So that announcement will be made at the next Council Meeting.

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

Wed., June 15th ; Community Watch at Mt. Zion Pleasant View Plaza; 1:00 p.m.

Harrison Park Crime Watch; VFW; No Meeting

Thur., June 16th; Hessville Crime Watch; Jean Shepard; 6:00 p.m.

Thur., July 14th; Whiting Robertsdale; Stay Tuned for Location

I'd like to announce that coming up is the 2022 City of Hammond Security Light Program. Anyone who owns and resides in their Hammond home, must provide proof of ownership and provide a valid driver's license or state ID, to get a free dusk-to-dawn security light. Applications will be taken in person only. June 21st through the 24th at City Hall the third floor, room #312. Uh, quantities are limited. So, first, this is on a first come, first-served basis. And I just want to encourage our residents to come out to a Crime Watch Meeting. And as I always say, because community is not just about me, it's about us.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilman Spitale - Met on Monday, June 6th. We approved \$25,800 for Hohman Avenue Reconstruction Phase 1 relocate water and sewer on Sibley, American Structurepoint Design. We also approved \$80,065 for Hohman Avenue Phase 2 Russell St to Douglas St. The next meeting will be held June 21st. The work study session will be held at 5:15 and the meeting will follow at 5:30 pm. Thank you.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING FINAL PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-20 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for Economic Development Purposes in 2022

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on June 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and a Public Hearing on June 27, 2022.

Councilman Spitale- Yes, the Innkeepers Tax is for marketing purposes this is for promotional events and advertising. Thank you

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-20)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

22-21 An Ordinance Vacating a 14-Foot-Wide Alley of the 5200 Block of Hohman Avenue Lying between Rimbach Street & Muenich Court in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

Councilman Torres, 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 meeting on June 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and a Public Hearing on June 27, 2022.

Councilman Torres- This is vacating a 14-Foot-Wide Alley west of the 5200 block of Hohman between Rimbach St and Muenich Ct. and for the purpose of redevelopment and support of Hammond Downtown Master Plan to build Rimbach Square Development. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-21)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

22-22 An Ordinance Vacating a Variable-Width Alley of the 100 Block Sibley St Lying between Sibley & Rimbach St in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on June 27, 2022 at 5:00p.m. and a Public Hearing on June 27, 2022.

Councilman Torres- This ordinance is to vacate a 20- foot-wide alley located at 100 Block of Sibley and Rimbach Street, and it's for the purpose again for the redevelopment deemed necessary for Rimbach Square and the rest of the Downtown Master Plan.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

22R-11 A Resolution of the Hammond City Council Approving Certain CF-1s as filed with the Common Council of the City of Hammond as the Designating body by Applicants previously Approved for Economic Revitalization Area Deductions from Assessed Value Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1

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

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler- This is just the annual compliance document that we have businesses who are receiving tax abatements complete. Like I said, we go through this every single year. So just a normal document that we have to approve. 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. R11 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to reappoint Bernie Grisolia to the South Shore and Visitors Board.

Councilman Kalwinski- Is there a resolution or was there one in the past?

Council President Woerpel- We just voted on it like 2 years ago...

Councilman Kalwinski- We usually do it by resolution?

Council President Woerpel- We've done them both by a motion on the floor and by resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

APPOINTMENT ADOPTED

Council President Woerpel- Councilwoman Venecz, do you know when the next appointments are?

Councilwoman Venecz- I believe at the end of the year. I don't have it with me, but I believe it's at the end of the year.

Councilman Tyler- I just want to share with the public that Mayor Thomas McDermott has announced that due to extreme heat expected this week, I think we're supposed to get a heat index of up to 107. The City of Hammond has mobilized and identified several buildings as cooling centers including the Jean Shepherd Center, Lost Marsh Golf Club House, and the Hammond Civic Center. You may use these facilities during regular operating hours, which are 8am to 5pm. And if necessary if a power outage were to occur, these shelters will also remain open during the overnight hours. Thank you.

Councilman Spitale- The FOP, the memorial is tomorrow at the police station starting at 2pm.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS cont.

Councilman Tyler- I also forgot to announce that Mayor's Night Out is at Hammond Central High School this Wednesday at 6:30pm. So, that will be the 3rd District Mayor's Night Out.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Celestina Geronimo- I wanted to discuss this issue that we've been having since Chicago has closed down its puppy mills. When they come in, the next day and they're dead. And he says, oh, that happens. It should not happen. There's no licensed Vet that works at this shop. I have more than enough proof. It's just not okay and something needs to be done about this. Thank you.

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

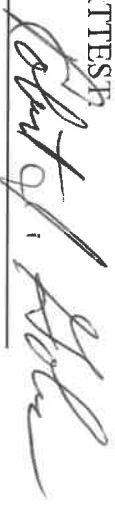
2022 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Katrina Alexander	E	P	P	P	P	P						
Dan Spitale	E	P	P	P	P	P						
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Barry Tyler	E	P	P	E	E	P						
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	E	P						
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P						
Initials	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: 6:40
cb/dw

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk