

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on August 22, 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, Torres, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: Kalwinski

TOTAL: 8

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - It's great to be back. Good to see you all. I wanted to give you a report. The last time I gave you a report was right after the Festival of the Lakes. I wanted to update you since we last met we had the Whiting-Hammond After Midnight bike ride, WHAM ride. We had around 900 riders this year. A total success. I thought it went really well. It's a free ride. We stopped charging years ago because it was hard to police it. We would say you have to pay \$10 bucks and then people would just like start riding their bikes. What are you gonna do? Tackle the and knock them off their bikes. So we just stopped charging a while ago and it seems like it's gotten bigger since we stopped charging because people feel free. But that went really well. We had a lot of people coming to Hammond that night. The way I see the world right now we have three things that we all need to complete. Three official things, that I know you guys see the world similarly, that we need to complete before December 31st. I was talking with Megan about it today. Just so we're all on the same page, obviously, budgets, Civil City, Sanitary District, H2O, HPA, Police & Fire Salary Ordinance, and the Elected Officials Salary Ordinance, we all know that. Deadline is October 31st for our budgets. Police & Fire Salary Ordinance needs to be done by the end of the year, no. Another thing that needs to be done before the end of the year, is redistricting of the six (6) Council Districts. It doesn't look that difficult to me. I don't know if you guys have seen the numbers yet. It seems like it's gonna be fairly straight forward. I personally think that we should have six (6) Council Districts with about the same number of people in them. I think that should be the goal, personally. I was just looking around, it seems like the 2nd's a little low right now and it seems like other district's are kind of high. I don't think it's gonna be very drastic changes at all. We're certainly not going to be like the legislature and make salamander districts. It's gonna be pretty straight forward. If we need more residents in a district we'll probably just lop off a neighborhood, you know, a couple streets, hopefully that makes it up. But, hopefully we can all agree on that, but it does need to be done before the end of the year. I know Kevin will be working on that for my office. So, look for that and, obviously, if anybody wants to help draw these, and, obviously, the Council people that will be affected the most, obviously, District Council people, we will be in constant contact with you, so everybody's comfortable with what we are talking about. I'm going off the top of my head, I know for a fact looking at, I saw the map a couple times, I know the 2nd was the lowest in the city right now and that

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - probably has to do with neighborhoods that we've acquired and people moving out, so we have to reflect that in these districts. So I imagine the 2nd gets a little bit bigger. I think the 1st gets a little bit smaller, literally a couple hundred people max. So we're talking a street here and there kind of stuff. But that needs to be done before the end of the year. Then the American Rescue Plan, round two needs to be done before the end of the year. We talked about that the last time I was here. I could answer any questions on round two, ARP funding, if you have them. I do have the statistics with me right now. Hammond Civil City buyout ordinance, I know that you will have an ordinance pending for 1st and 2nd reading, hopefully by the end of this meeting, if not by the next meeting. We will offer, in the Civil City, this has not been authorized in the Hammond Water Department, this has not been authorized in the Hammond Sanitary District, and I'll explain my reasoning in a second. We see an opportunity, in the Civil City, to enact a buyout and cause some personnel turnover, which is good for us. It's, quite frankly, it's good business too. A lot of the people that are taking the buyout are, I mean, not even a lot of the people, the people that are taking the buyout are some of our highest paid employees, with the most vacation, the most seniority, the most expensive employees. And in replacement of these employees are the younger employees with less seniority, less vacation, they'll be at work more often. So, in a lot of ways, buyouts make sense, financially. Especially the way that Megan and I want to approach it this year is if somebody takes it in Public Works, I'm just using this as an example, I don't know if this gentleman's planning to take it or not, but Gary Gleason, in the Hammond Dept. of Public Works. If Gary takes the buyout, he's the department head, we're not getting rid of Gary's position. I think we can all agree, we need a leader of the department of Public Works. But what will happen is, through the shuffling that takes place, we will be looking to get rid of the driver spots, which is usually what becomes vacant when people move up to replace that. So we will be looking to replace to replace most spots that we buyout. Which will help make our budget process easier. And like I said, I think one of the great things about buyouts also is when the employees take the buyout they sign a release upon their exit from the city of Hammond which clears, legally, there's no worries about legal liability at that point, once a release is signed. So, buyouts make sense in my opinion. For a number of reasons we haven't offered a buyout in the city of Hammond since 2017. So we don't offer these all the time. I'm telling the employees there ain't no guarantees in life. This may not be offered ever again. We're asking for a quick turn around. From once the Council approves it, hopefully, right now, I believe, it says, so let's assume you pass it at the next meeting, so that's what, early September, we want, by the end of September it closes. Employees got to make quick decision. We don't want it lingering through the budget process whether or not they're on the fence, whether or not they're gonna leave. We're gonna offer it to them, if they say no, we go forward with the budget process and there ain't no guarantees in life. Okay, so, that's why we're talking about it now with our employees, to give them a heads up. This is hopefully gonna come. Obviously, the Council's got to pass it and I got to sign it. But as long as it is passed by the Council and signed by me, the Employees will have 'til September 30th to take the buyout. We're offering \$1 thousand per year of employment and obviously their vacation and all of that will be bought out at the end as well. That's one thing that's pending before you. Last, but not least, I wanted to address the Martin Luther King Park shootings that we had take place a week and a half ago. On Thursday, the 11th of August, in MLK Park, on the basketball courts, two fifteen year olds got into an altercation. Both of them were armed. I believe one of them had the weapon on him at the basketball court, the other one had a weapon close by, when they started fighting they started shooting. Both of them were injured and taken to the hospital. Thankfully, both of them survived. Were injured. Obviously very scary for everybody that experienced the shooting at MLK Park. Keep in mind, we all know this, I'm saying it for the people that are at home watching this. MLK Park is also surrounded by houses. Little kids are playing in

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - MLK Park. Obviously, for me, for the Council people, we just got done doing a huge multi-million dollar renovation of MLK Park. We installed a new walking trail, quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King, a memorial plaza to Dr. Martin Luther King, basketball courts that are first rate. We have a lot of people traveling from other cities and across the city of Hammond to play at our courts, and we appreciate that. It's a very active park. So, obviously, that was mentally scarring for me. Scary, it was right here, you know, all these kids work and play here, we work here. So, two days later, two adults got into a situation at MLK Park. One gentleman, I believe, if he wasn't forty, he was close to forty. Thank you, Ma'am, thirty nine. Another gentleman, who, unfortunately, was shot and murdered, was in his thirties as well. That also took place in front of kids, in front of neighbors. Very dangerous situation. We apprehended the shooter. He's in custody as we speak. This was the second shooting in three days at MLK Park. Both of them on the basketball courts. I made the decision, as Mayor, after consulting with Council people, I don't want to say who because this is my heat. I thought it was best to be consistent with how we approach problems in our parks. I will remind the Council that I was in here a couple months ago complaining about graffiti in a park in North Hammond, I took a very heavy handed approach to the graffiti problem in North Hammond and I shut that skate board park down and I threatened that we were gonna move it to another part of the city if the kids didn't take care of their park and we left it shut down for more than a month. It's been open now and we haven't had any problems, being honest with you. Hopefully the neighbors are taking more responsibility for their park in North Hammond. Hopefully the kids are taking more responsibility for their park in North Hammond. So at MLK Park when there is a murder and two shootings in three days, I didn't have a choice. It's a dangerous situation. It's a jam packed park and I love the fact that it's jam packed. We spent money to make it jam packed. So the fact that people are getting killed in Dr. Martin Luther King Park is not a good situation. Dr. Martin Luther King, as we all know, was a non-violent protester. The park is named after Dr. King. I think we need to remind the neighborhood and everybody around here that that park is Dr. Martin Luther King Park and that's not gonna be tolerated. So, it's shut down indefinitely at this point. I'm being vague on when it will reopen. But I think we've got to keep it shut down for a while. I know Councilwoman Katrina is working right now on setting up a community meeting. I don't know if you want to address that, Councilwoman.

Councilman Kalwinski is now in attendance.

Councilwoman Alexander - Yes, on this Thursday there will be a prayer in the park at the basketball court at 5:00 p.m. There is a community meeting schedule on August 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Ophelia Steen Center where some Council representatives will be there. You'll be there, it's on your schedule, Chief Andy Short will be there, as well as Ministerial Alliance representatives will be there. The whole goal of the meeting is we want to ... we know the situations and the problems that we have in the city but we want to come up with solutions so that we continue to thrive. That we can continue to have our parks open. It's sad that the park ... the park isn't closed but the basketball court is and we want to come up with a good solution that we can reopen the park as soon as possible.

Mayor McDermott - Thank you, Councilwoman. So, anyway, that's my report. If anyone has any questions about anything I reported. I'm available is you are.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - I have a question about the murder behind the mini mart at Hohman and 142nd a few weeks ago. Any updates on that?

Mayor McDermott - I do not have any updates on that. I apologize. I get briefed on it when they happen and I don't get briefed as often when they are a couple weeks old. I'm not sure if the chief is here. Corporate Counsel says ongoing investigation at this point still, Councilman Mark. I'll try to see if Chief Andy can reach out to you and give you an update, okay?

Councilman Kalwinski - I appreciate that. One more question. I thought I heard you say the round two ARP dollars were going to be appropriated or the projects are going to be approved. I just wondered which projects are they for round two and did any of them get pushed off of the round because of a lack of dollars right now.

Mayor McDermott - What I said was we need to get round two approved through the Council. So that process hasn't started yet, as you know, if it did you would see it. We talked last meeting or the meeting before about our ideas about ... and I know that some of the projects that were in round one that we anticipated being in round two weren't gonna be put in round two. But the projects that we started in round one, round two is sufficient to cover the cost overruns on the projects from round one. I hope that didn't confuse you. So everything we committed to in round one is going to be completed with money that we have left over. We anticipate having a little bit of money left over also for one other project in the 3rd District that we worked real hard for with Councilman Barry and the Ministerial Alliance and that's the project at Memorial Park and quite frankly, Councilman Kalwinski, that's gonna be pretty much everything. So round one will be covered. I think one, in all fairness, I know Council President Woerpel, the 5th District Councilman, one of the projects we hoped to get done in the 5th District had to get wiped. We're trying to figure out another way to pay for that as well. But everything we committed to in round one, we have sufficient cover in round two. But, Councilman Mark, we still haven't presented you all with the budget yet and that's got to be the first step.

Councilman Kalwinski - I got you. I appreciate that. One last item because I came in a minute or two after you started speaking. Did you mention that the buyout would not cover Sanitary or the Water Department.

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir. I did mention that and I'm glad you asked about that. I mentioned it but I didn't explain why. First off, usually when we operate, because, obviously, I'm the Mayor of the whole city. I don't really see the difference between Sanitary, Water, and Civil City. For me we're all the same team. And I usually am very strict about everybody getting treated the same way. I can tell you that in the Sanitary District and the Water Department, we have Certified Water Handlers that it takes years to get these designations and we're just like everybody else, we're scrapping for manpower right now and certified water handlers are gold, right now, to us. Quite frankly, I'm afraid if we offer the buyout to Water and Sanitary that the Certified Water Handlers will take it and we'll have to pay them money to leave and, quite frankly, we can't really afford to lose one of them, Councilman Mark. So, I left the door open to the Sanitary District and to Water Department. I said, if you guys can explain to me why this isn't gonna hurt man power, I'm open eared. But at this point, Councilman Mark, we're just offering it ... it's a proposal, obviously, pending before the Hammond City Council and if it's approved it applies to only Civil City right now, Councilman Mark. Not to the Port Authority, not to the Water Department, not to Hammond Housing, not to the Sanitary District at this point. If that changes, I'll update the

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR’S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - Council as that goes down. But the department heads in each of those utilities has to speak directly with me and explain why it won’t effect manpower.

Councilman Kalwinski - Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor McDermott - Another thing I wanted to address while Councilman Mark is on here. He sent me pictures of the right of ways in North Hammond and I want to apologize to Councilman Mark and the residents of North Hammond. The right of ways are out of control with weeds and I talked to my staff today about rectifying that yesterday. It’s unacceptable the way the right of ways look, Councilman Mark, and I know that was a private conversation and I do want to acknowledge that you’re doing your job and bringing up problems to the Mayor and it is a problem and it will be fixed tomorrow.

Councilman Kalwinski - I appreciate it, thank you.

Mayor McDermott - In our defense, that area is a construction zone. This is where the new train line’s going in. It’s all very rough right now but that’s no excuse to let the weeds go three feet high and we’ll take care of that tomorrow. Any other questions? Thank you, Council. It’s great to see you all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 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 August 03, 2022 through August 17, 2022. Claim #4873 through claim #5187, in the amount of \$4,468,715.31.

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

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Rakos- I would like to announce the HUGS Cultural Committee is sponsoring the Hispanic Independence Parade on September 25th, at 12pm., starts at Morton, goes to Purdue Northwest. And following the parade, there'll be a Hispanic Heritage Month Festival at Purdue Northwest on the 169th Street side. Thank you.

Councilwoman Venecz- I wanted to announce that there will be a September 11th remembrance ceremony. Uh, this is on September 11th, obviously, at 9am. Uh, it's up by the big flag way up north. Uh, you can enter through the Marina and enjoy the scenery up there in addition to the ceremony. It was spectacular last year. So, hopefully we have the same kind of weather. That's September 11th at 9am. Thank you.

Councilwoman Alexander- Even though I mentioned it during the Mayor's report, we will have a Prayer for the Village, Unity in the Community. A prayer on the basketball court at MLK Park on August 25, at 5pm. And our community, meeting it's Unity in the Community meeting with our Mayor, and ourselves, with Chief Short and Ministerial Alliance at the Ophelia Steen Center located at 5927 Columbia Avenue on August 30th. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - Met on Monday, August 15th, we approved \$47,900 for the 165th and Stateline improvements. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6th because of Labor Day holiday on Monday. Tuesday, September 6th, the work study will begin at 5:30 and the meeting will begin at 6pm.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:
Community Watch at Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza; Wed., Oct. 11th ; 1 p.m.
East Ham'd Pullman Crime Watch; Tues., Sept. 20th ; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Wed., Oct. 5th ; Edison Community Watch; Edison School; 6:30pm
Tues, Sept 6th ;Harrison Park Crime Watch; VFW; 6:30pm
Thur., Sept. 15th; Hessville Crime Watch; Jean Shepard; 6:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct 7th ; Irving Community Watch; Irving School; 9:15 a.m.
South Hohman Neighborhood Watch; Thur., Sept 13th ; Trinity Lutheran Church; 6:30 p.m.
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., Sept. 08th ; 6:30 p.m.; Whiting Mascot Hall of Fame

ORDINANCE 3RD READING FINAL PASSAGE

None

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-31 An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of a N-S Alley East of Calumet Avenue Lying within 4500 Block and within Petitioner’s Property in Block 10, in Towle and Avery’s Addition To the City of Hammond IN, 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 September 12, 2022 at 5:15p.m. and a Public Hearing on September 12, 2022.

Councilman Torres- This ordinance is vacating a portion of North, South Alley within the petitioners’s property and will facilitate the development of a dormant, vacant building. Uh, to transform to a viable business as proposed by the petitioner.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-31)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

22-32 An Ordinance Vacating a 25.0 Foot Portion of the 4500 Block of Cedar Avenue Lying within Petitioner’s Property in Block 11, in Towle and Avery’s Addition to the City of Hammond 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 September 12, 2022 at 5:15p.m. and a Public Hearing on September 12, 2022.

Councilman Torres-This is part of the same property as 22-31. Just the East portion of it is a 25 foot portion that needs to be vacated. And again, to enhance that possible business coming into that location.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-32)

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.

22-33 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: 4545 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN, 46320

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 Committee Meeting on September 12th, 2022 at 5:15p.m. with an Intent to Consider on September 12th, 2022.

Councilman Torres- This ordinance reclassifies the property at 4545 Calumet Avenue. The residents have two different classifications. So, this reduces it to one. So, make it more suitable for the upcoming development by the petitioner. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-33)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to suspend the rules to amend the Agenda.

ROLL CALL (suspend rules)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 RULES SUSPENDED

22-34 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 9390,9207,8880,8942,8091,9016,9072,9207,9124 and 9305 Creating a Voluntary Retirement Program in 2022 for Ceratin Eligible Employees of the City of Hammond.

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading.

Councilman Rakos- This is just another ordinance, like it says, it's offering a voluntary retirement program. Uh, we want to pass it on first and second reading and have it so we can pass it in a timely manner for the employees that choose to take this voluntary retirement by the end of September.

Councilman Kalwinski- Listen, I just wanted to mention, what was spoken about in the caucus, that Sanitary, Water, and Port Authority staff, employees, are not included at the present time in this buyout ordinance, per the Mayor. Thank you.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd of 22-34)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to return to the regular order of business.

ROLL CALL (return to business)

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 Spitale, moved to change the October 10th meeting to October 11th, 2022. Due to the holiday.

ROLL CALL (change meeting date)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Emerson- I have the good news that MJ Polish of 7412 Calumet Avenue in Hammond, in the 4th District, has celebrated 25 years at that location and they have an assortment of foods that you take home. Uh, polish sausage obviously. Uh, polish hams and great treats from Poland. Uh, imported from Poland. And cabbage rolls and whatnot, and it's saying something to be in business for 25 years in the same location.

Councilwoman Venecz- They have outstanding sandwiches.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Gary Droischoff- I hope the Mayor was talking about getting our street on one of the projects. Maybe getting funded to get done. I was at a Board of Public Works meeting and made some things aware to them because there's a dip in the middle of the road. Also, can we work on getting the weeds cut down. There's an alley way from Alexander to McCook. It's getting too over-grown. Also I want to thank Councilman Rakos and

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Gary Droischoff cont. - Councilman Barry Tyler, they both were at our Hessville Crime Watch Meeting. And it's nice to hear about other activities that are happening.

Hope Brooks Comer- I'm speaking on my sisters behalf. The incident happened in the park on August 13th. The guy that got shot and killed was my nephew. I lived on Lyons Street for over 10 years. Well, bullets have come through my house, with my whole family there. And closing the park should have been shut down a long time ago. Thank you for taking the basketball rims down but it was just a little bit too late. Now my nephew is gone. With that being said, with the parks, if they ever do get back open, when I lived over here, all I asked for was some security for the park.

Mayor McDermott- I appreciate her coming up. It's a tragedy what happened. I'm really sorry on behalf of the City of Hammond. That's why we shut it down, obviously we can't have gun play going on in a Hammond Park. I do want to point out, in defense of the Hammond Police Department, because I'm quick to come down on the police department when something like this happens, and there was a police officer that went by the park one or two minutes before the shooting took place. Literally, about one minute before the shooting took place, there was a Hammond cop that was right there. The Hammond police officer didn't deter the shooting at all, and that's a fact. We have it all on videotape. Like one minute before, the officer was there, literally drove by the shooter, and then the shooter walked on the court and did what he did. It made no sense. It was, it's horrible violence. I'm so sorry on behalf of the city, ma'am, for your family.

George Stoya- Sorry for your loss, ma'am. What I want to present is going to be off the beaten path. I was listening to the duo of Dustin Anderson and Larry Gardner on WJOB, you know, bragging about their vision and their strategy for Ridge Road. The longer I listened, I was just listening in passing, as they talked about how to reduce Ridge Road. I believe it's still Route 6. Still part of a federal or state highway system. They're going to reduce it by 1.3 miles. They're going to reduce, ultimately, Ridge Road to two lanes. You know, this is not Hohman Avenue we're talking about here. To benefit the citizens of Munster, as if you know, they're on an Island, and you know, I, and no one else is around. Where will all that traffic be routed? I'm guessing through Hammond. We're talking about Route 6 and I hope this city intervenes and takes it up because they're talking about Route 6, man, that's 4 lanes. They claim, and you're going to love this one, that it's to ensure the safety of pedestrians on Ridge Road. Well, I'll tell you what, I invite any of you here to take a ride from Columbia to Stateline and tell me how many pedestrians on any given day that you see walking on Ridge Road. It's like they're trying to create a Republican enclave to wall themselves off. It's almost like a Plessy Ferguson type of segregation. We're the Republican pastors in Northwest Indiana, and by god we're going to build a wall and keep ourselves away from the unwashed Democratic Party. You guys really gotta look into this.

Carl Wolf- I'm here to talk about the Hessville Dunes to give some more information about the importance of that area. So, as it's been reported by various news sources including the New York Times, United States faces deep inequity when it comes to tree coverage across the country. Urban Green Space plays a profound role in limiting temperature rise. And trees in urban areas play an outsized role in protecting communities from the worst effects of climate change. Trees are the most effective way we have to guard against heat in cities. I will ask again that the city reconsider the plan for the Hessville Dunes, a place with hundreds if not thousands of trees.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Alvin Cheeks-First of all, I accept your apology that was cool to you to be real. I'm not going to make it private because the officer interrupted and searched me because he smelled weed. So, it's not illegal to smell like weed. Taking down the rims, that slowed down the traffic, it's not going to fix the problem. What I was saying to you when I was interrupted by the captain, was that you need a roving patrol with three officers on bikes. You have bikes already. Turn the area into something like a satellite substation where those officers can pass through there all the time. The things that are going around in the neighborhood are to stop when the men get involved. The police, they can't stop what goes on. They react after it happens. The people that live in the community, those are the people that can stop crime. You got to have a proactive program. So, why not use a Henry Unit style approach? So, the only way you're going to fix the problem is to sit down with the men and have the men in the community talk to those young people.

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, Mr. Cheeks. Uh, first off, I want to respond to the last few speakers. I thought they were all excellent. Uh, Carl Wolf, very great speech. I appreciate it. I agree trees are vital. I was just reading an article listening to a podcast about how America needs to plant a trillion new trees and, you know, so your speech hits home, I appreciate it. I want you to know I agree with you in a lot of ways, but it's also difficult running the city, but I appreciate your passion and I'm listening to you and I appreciate it. George, I thought your speech was excellent. I appreciate it. I would urge you to please reach out to Dean Button, I think your points are valid, actually, that if this did happen to Ridge Road in Munster, it would affect our city and I think we have a say and I appreciate you bringing that up. I hadn't heard that. I don't listen to Town of Munster show on WJOB. So, if you could bring that up, Dean so that we can start looking into that. I appreciate it. And last but not least, Dean's a professional engineer, as you know, he goes to NIRPC meetings. I'm sure he knows about this, but I appreciate you bringing that up. I think it's completely valid. It's not very often you get discussions about Ridge Road in Munster brought up at the Hammond Common Council Meeting. So, thank you and last but not least, Mr. Cheeks, I appreciate your passion. I know you care a lot about the community, as do all of us . Um, you know, it was a man that killed another man on the court on Saturday. That's very disturbing. Um, obviously, we need to work our way through this horrible situation and I appreciate the woman who spoke on behalf of her nephew and again, so sorry about your lost, ma'am, and we need to do something because it's not tolerable. I drove by the park right before I got here and there was a little girl right by the basketball court sitting in the shade on a blanket, just enjoying herself, and I was thinking. Wow, you don't really see that very often there. You see, it's jam-packed with people going back to Carl's point. So, I imagine very hot out there. Not a lot of shade in MLK Park, but there was a little girl just chilling by the basketball court just sitting on a blanket and I was like, wow. You don't see that very often, and so, I we need to remind ourselves that the MLK Park is a peaceful park, we can't tolerate that. So, God bless to the council. Thank you to everybody that spoke today. I'll see you guys next meeting.

Ken Rosek- One of the hot topics of today is climate change, and I already talked about the heavy rain events that we're going to see happen by 2050. A study conducted by Purdue University shows not just more rain is coming, but extreme temperatures are coming as well. Parts of the US, including Indiana, will experience heat indexes reaching 125 degrees or above by 2050. Removing 25 acres of woodland would intensify this. These are not just a bunch of trees. It's an entire ecosystem that will be destroyed here. There are solutions within the budget with a lot less collateral damage to the environment. Build an underpass at Grand or Parrish Crossing, add a pedestrian bridge, and the problem is solved. Thank you.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Linda Anguiano- Thanks Clerk Golec for the condolence letter to her family regarding her father. It was very much appreciated. I want to talk a little bit about MOMS, and I went to a meeting and they had Moms Demand Action there and it's a group that started up in Northwest Indiana three years ago. And one of the startling statistics I heard is, do you know what the number one cause of children's deaths are? Guns. Now I'm going to switch to my mom. She's a recent widow, she's 90, and still works at Walgreens. She's very unhappy about this bridge. If some of these railroad crossings are closed. I'd really like to know how the ambulances are going to get to my moms house and how are they going to get her out of there and to Community Hospital? That's what I'd like to know about this bridge plan.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, 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					
	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	10	24	14	28	12	26	
Katrina Alexander	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P															
Dan Spitale	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P															
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P															
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E															
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P															
Barry Tyler	E	P	P	P	E	E	E	E	P	P	E	P	E	E	P	E	P	E															
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P															
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P															
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	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	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: 7:10 p.m.
cb/dw

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk