

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on January 23, 2023 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Scott Rakos presided.

Assistant Council Coordinator Darrell White facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander.

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR’S ADDRESS

No One Spoke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of January 09, 2023 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from January 04, 2023 through January 18, 2023. Claim #129 through claim #487 in the amount of \$ 15,752,296.04

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to amend in claim:

#488	Greater Indiana Title Co.	Redevelopment	\$165,660.84
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ROLL CALL VOTE (amendment)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS AMENDED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (as amended)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED
(as amended)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- We recently received communication that the grant application submitted by the City, the Parks Department, and Nies Engineering was approved by the Lake Michigan Coastal Program, Coastal Advisory Board, in the amount of \$100k, it would now be passed along to the director of the DNR for his final review. Uh, but basically, we're in the running for \$100,000 with a \$100,000 match to go towards the improvements that we've been planning for Harrison Park Pond. Um, so, that's the case, if we are awarded after this final step, we have \$200,000 to move forward with those improvements which should be able to be completed later on this year.

Council President Rakos- The Saint Patty's Day Parade by HC3 is going to be happening on Saint Patrick's Day. It'll be a lighted parade on March 17, at 6:30 pm. And Slugfest 911 is making its return to the Hammond Civic Center on April 29th. That will start at 7 pm. Doors open at 5:30 and there'll be more information coming in the coming weeks.

Councilman Woerpel- Yeah, I received notice that the annual Park and Recreation Show in Chicago is this Thursday, is the session that we normally go to, and I plan on going and I would like to invite my colleagues... I think I talked to you about going and probably take the train like we always do at 10:15 in the morning and go on up there. So, either let me know or whatever, because we have to preregister online. So, thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Spitale - Brought out 23-01, 23-02

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Kalwinski - Brought out 22-58.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:
Wed., Feb 15th; Community Watch at Mt. Zion Pleasant View Plaza; 1:00p.m.
Thur., Feb 9th; Whiting Robertsdale; Calumet College; 6:30 p.m.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING FINAL PASSAGE

22-58 An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the City of Hammond for Zoning Purposes and Amending Ordinance No. 8514 for Property Commonly Known as 2512 New York Avenue

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

Councilman Kalwinski- This is a Hammond Redevelopment Commission property just south of the Cal College... it's a zoning change from C4 to S-2. So, that it will be corrected zoning for that area and be used (unclear)...

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-58)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9589 PASSED

23-01 Creating a New Fund (Fund #2472) for the City of Hammond Police Department for FY2023 Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (SAVE) Grant Funds

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

Councilman Spitale- The police will be targeting the stop arm violations and unsafe driving around school busses.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 23-01)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9590 PASSED

23-02 Creating a New Fund (Fund #2473) for FY2023 Lake County Drunk Driving Task Force Grant Funds

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

Councilman Spitale- This grant is for the purpose of preventing drunk driving injuries and fatalities.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 23-02)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9591 PASSED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, move to appoint Scott Rakos to the Gaming Advisory Board.

AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Venecz- On behalf of the City Council, um, I'd like to express our condolences to the Spitale and Cubit families at the loss of Councilman Spitale's brother- in- law, over the past week.

Councilman Spitale- Thank you.

Councilman Tyler- I just want to thank my colleagues who came together to support the Black Student Union at Morton High School to attend the upcoming Drumline Show at Governors State University. Um, because of your contributions, the \$200 that each one of you gave along with myself, they were able to secure over 20 tickets. I also worked with the Superintendent to secure transportation. So that the Black Student Union will be able to attend that performance free of charge to that group. Um, which is really exciting because they haven't done much fund-raising, but they plan on doing so. It's a newly formed group over the past couple of years. It's still trying to get their feet underneath them, but they were really appreciative of all of our support. So, thank you, everybody.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Mr. Buck- Good evening, Council. I'm here concerned about Summer Street, Sherman Street, flooding. It's been said year after year, uh, come spring, come spring. There's enough springs over there now to bounce it to the moon. It's a shame that those people have to continue to live in those conditions. Every time it rains it floods. People are getting 3 to 4 feet of water in their basements and the city's not doing anything about it but making promises.

Ken Rosek- Good evening. I just wanted to let you know that Hessville Dune Duster has just surpassed 800 members. Um, the Mayor said it would be all mayoral malpractice to not build the bridge. Then, he admitted, we do not solve the problem of kids getting... of the risk of getting kids killed. Two kids were killed a couple of decades ago in the same exact spot. The council cares more about getting free state money than it does solving our problems. They're closing two crossings just to get money from the Trax Program. Trax benefits the railroad not the community. We have a valid, viable option, but you refuse to look at it. Not examining the underpass option would be Council malpractice because you are the governing body now responsible. Hessville deserves a solution that services everyone.

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

AYES: ALL

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

2023 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec												
Katrina Alexander	9 E	23 P	13	27	13	27	10	24	8	22	12	26	10	24	14	28	11	25		23	13	27	4	
Dan Spitale	E	P																						
Janet Venecz	P	P																						
Mark Kalwinski	P	P																						
Pete Torres	P	P																						
Barry Tyler	E	P																						
Bill Emerson	P	P																						
Dave Woerpel	P	P																						
Scott Rakos	P	P																						
Initials																								

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

Scott M Rakos
Scott Rakos, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTENT:
Robert J. Golec
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:25
dw

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk