

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 10, 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.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Invocation by Councilwoman Katrina 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

Mayor McDermott - Thanks. For my update of October 10th, to describe over the last couple of weeks, some of the meetings we've had. I've met with attorneys in the law suit of Batistatos vs the City of Hammond. Most of the defendants have been dropped from this suit, outside of myself. The City of Hammond did file a countersuit against Batistatos seeking damages in attorneys fees for the cost of defending this frivolous law suit. I'll have more on that in future meetings, I'm sure. I've had multiple meetings with the Controller's Office over the last couple of weeks regarding the 2024 Municipal City Budget, that's in your hands now. Multiple meetings with the Economic Development team in regards to I talked to Councilman Emerson about this today, about the old haunted house, as I call it, as well as the Ted Muta property located just south of 80/94 on Calumet. We're looking at possibly doing a project in that part of town. Met with Mayor Dave Uran, but he's the head of the South Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau in regards to the sponsorship of upcoming events at the South Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau. Met with Purdue Northwest Chancellor Keon and his team regarding development in Downtown Hammond and PNW's roll in that development Downtown. Met with executives and consultants from Hammond Sanitary District regarding the 2023 storms and any possible relief that may be offered to our residents form the State of Indiana. Held Mayor's Night Out in the 5th District. That was Jefferson Elementary School. Thank you to Councilman Woerpel for hosting. Attended and spoke to the Realtors at the Realtor's breakfast at the Lost Marsh Golf Course. Attended by over a hundred Realtors from across Northwest Indiana. A lot of them got to golf for free on our course. Very informative. A lot of my team were speaking as well. We held employee Olympics. It's a good team building event. Sand volleyball was the sport this year on the new courts at the Sportsplex. Hammond Fire Department, for the third straight year, wins Hammond City Olympics again. So, congratulations to Hammond Fire Department. Did an open house for a new engineering company that broke ground in Oxbow Landing. HWC Engineering Company, 2929 Carlson Drive. Good to see a new business in town. Met with consultants for the Parks, and the Engineer's Office, and the Law Department to go over the bid parameters for the Pulaski Park Pool, that came back over 100% over budget. Tried to determine why and what went wrong with that bid, to see if we're doing anything wrong. Met with Captains and the Chief's from the Hammond Police Department. We have monthly meetings so that's not out of the

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - ordinary. I met with the business agent for the Northwest Indiana Building and Constructions Trade Council's regarding Union issues in regards to the lack of bids that we're getting, the lack of qualified bids that we're getting for the bids that we put out. I have an update on the gas station ordinance. There's been a lot of movement since we last spoke. As you all know, the Hammond City Council passed a gas station ordinance, 9605A, by 7 to 2 vote on August 16, 2023. You all know that it mandates that all gas stations in the City of Hammond close from midnight to 5 a.m. They do have exceptions being heard before the Hammond Board of Public Works and Safety. Right now thirteen gas stations have requested exemptions. Seven of them are from the 1st District, four of them are from the 2nd District, and two of them are from the 5th District. Three hearings have been held to date so far. The three hearings of 3350 Calumet Avenue, that's a Gas a Roo, located in the 1st District. 7452 Indianapolis Blvd, that's a Save a Stop located on the boulevard. On the west side of the boulevard. 7305 Kennedy Avenue, that's a CITGO, on Kennedy on the east side. Ten hearings are scheduled between now and the end of the month. Including the Board of Public Works and Safety decided to set two extra days, entirely, for fuel station exemption hearings. We've been working real hard. Obviously, with a November 1st deadline, that was very wise of the Council to implement because it's giving us the opportunity to take care of all the business before the implementation date. Types of evidence that we're hearing before the Board of Public Works and Safety, all police calls, so this is the type of evidence they are looking at to determine whether or not to grant exceptions, all police calls at that location for the last five years between midnight and 5 a.m. We work with Sgt. Chris Gootee who works with the FBI, and he's our liaison who meets between the Federal Government. He is assigned to our task force, actually, but he is a Hammond Police Officer. He's also our liaison between the Hammond Police Department and the gas station owners, and he tries to persuade them, nicely, to join the FUSIS Program and he's been very effective at that and that's huge for us because when these gas stations join FUSIS we get access to their cameras and the gas station. So if there is a crime committed we don't have to beg for the owner who lives in Florida to fly back to Hammond and get us access. This is access that we're granted automatically now. Which is wonderful for the police department. Also, other types of evidence we hear, comprehensive zoning review from Assistant Planner Tom Novak. Which is mostly resulting in signage violations, which are a pain in everybody's butt. They're not supposed to block windows and they do it all the time. So, a lot of these violations are being taken care of before the Board of Public Works and Safety, which we didn't have that type of bite before that we have now. As well as a review and a report by the Controller's Office and the Inspection Department of all business license status and the history of the entity requesting the exemption. Right now we've approved one exception, and that's the one, 3350 Calumet Avenue, the Gas a Roo. And it's issuing it's findings on two more this week. So 7452 Indianapolis and 7305 Kennedy will be issued shortly. So, as of, since we've implemented this new system, three of the three gas stations are now on FUSIS, which we didn't have before. Before we passed this ordinance, zero of FUSIS. Three out of three are on FUSIS and I have a feeling that number is going to go up greatly, which gives the Hammond Police Department greater ability to catch bad guys. Which is what I consider our number one job, that's disputed amongst several members though. \$21 hundred dollars in past due business license fees have been recovered. Numerous zoning violations are being fixed, including removing of signage, repairing of broken glass, removal of graffiti, tattered signs, LED signs, junk, stuff like that is being taken care of. So, I think the gas station ordinance is going very well considering it's only been in effect for one month. So thank you to the five members of the Council that voted with us on that. The Hammond Municipal Budget is before you. The total City Budget Proposal is \$155.4 million across all funds. Three percent raise to all non-contractual salaried employees. Contractual employees receive either one or two percent pay raise as stipulated

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - by their respective contracts. It's an unusual year where everybody is getting different pay raises. We usually come to you where everybody is on the same page, but this year there's some people getting three, there's some people getting two, there's some people getting one, it's all because of union contracts. So, we don't like to interfere in those, obviously. New debts are incorporated into this budget as well. The Fire Station NO. 2 BOT leases incorporated into this budget and the 2023 judgement bond for the recent settlement we made. Public Safety expenses throughout all budgeted funds total \$61 million dollars for Police and Fire. Police is a \$37 million operation. Fire is a \$24 million operation. Last, but not least, of course not least, North Hammond, East Hammond flood update. Coordinated I had a meeting with State Rep Carolyn Jackson who coordinated with Gov. Holcomb's Office. We've been in talks with Gov. Holcomb's Office as well. Gov. Holcomb's Office let Rep. Jackson know that because Hammond collected and verified the 500 plus homes, including the homes that we verified during the East Hammond storm, they wanted us to submit all that information to the Governor's Office. Rep. Jackson was quoted as saying, she's unsure at this time what the Governor's Office is able to do with all these addresses, if anything, but any assistance from them would be greatly appreciated. Of course we welcome Rep. Jackson's help in this matter. And I do want to remind everybody that the back flow preventer is the best way to protect your home if you're on a combined system like many of are, including your Mayor. I'm on a combined system. I do not have a back flow preventer. I know that at any time my house could have the same unfortunate effects that North Hammond homes had. So, unfortunate that 526 homes had a back up during this storm. It's unfortunate that a couple months before that, Councilman Barry in the 3rd District dealt with the same thing. We do you know, there are ways to deal with this. You know, obviously, your typical homeowners insurance doesn't cover damage covered by these types of backups so you need an additional writer if you want to protect yourself from backups from sewage backups from floods and thing of that nature. Your homeowner's and your renter's policy doesn't do it unless you specifically pay for it. So that's a good public service to remind everybody of that, and secondly if you really want to stop at the back flow preventer is the way you're gonna do it. It is an investment though. It will cost you probably about five grand when all said and done. Hammond Sanitary District has rebates available for about two grand of the five grand. But, it is an investment into your home and it will prevent you from having this problem again. That's my summary for the past two weeks. I'm not sure if you have any more questions, but sorry about the long one.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, just to echo your point, in terms of the back flow preventer, do we know if any of the homes that flooded had the preventer?

Mayor McDermott - Good question, I don't believe so, Councilman. I'm not positive. But, interesting and sad stat about this latest flood, 40% of the people that were reported flooded in this last event had experienced previous floods before. Because every time we have a flood we treat it like a murder. The sewage department literally goes into homes. We don't do that very often. But during a flood event we go into homes to verify with our own eyes that there's been a flood there. Unfortunately, 40% of the people were repeat customers, which is horrible and unfortunately, you know. So, I think the best thing I could do from where I'm sitting is remind everybody that my home could flood tomorrow. Any of our homes can flood tomorrow, that this stuff, I mean it's a horrible tragedy, I hate that it happened but there's nothing I could do to say it's not gonna happen again. There's nothing you could do. I'd be lying if I told you that. It could happen in the 5th District tomorrow. In my district tomorrow. It could happen in the 6th District tomorrow. The best way you could protect your home is to

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - take action to get the back flow preventer like I haven't done. So I'm preaching and I haven't even followed my own advise, Councilman. Also to call your insurance company and get a writer attached to your insurance proposal and obviously the more you have attached to that writer, the more it's gonna cost. So, last time I flooded in my basement, Councilman Barry, I did didn't fix it. It's still pretty much in the same condition. So I don't think it would cost me a lot but there's people with beautiful basements and if you have a beautiful basement, if you want to protect it call your insurance agent. It's not super expensive, but it's in addition to what you're already paying. So, thank you, Councilman, for bringing that up. Bu the back flow preventer, I'm sure Marty could answer that question right off the top of his head. It's a check valve and I know enough about engineering to know that water can't go backwards in that. So if you put it in the bottom, if it's operating the way it's supposed to, the sewage can leave but it can't come back in which is the purpose. So, thank you.

Councilman Emerson - I do have a question. Of the ten gas stations that have requested a Board of Works hearing, is that in the next month?

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir.

Mayor McDermott - Councilman, we have to get this done before November 1st, which is why the Board of Public Works and Safety set up extra hearing dates. They're literally meeting extra times just to cover gas station hearings. We want to have them done. And, obviously, we let the Council person know when they have them in their district. Obviously, the local Council Person means a lot to us. We notify all the houses within three hundred feet. So there's a couple we talked about right now, 7452 Indianapolis is going right now. 7305 Kennedy is going right now. Those are close to residential areas. So the homeowners in those areas got notice and if the homeowner's show up to Board of Public Works and Safety and they present evidence, it's gonna be considered. I think that's important evidence personally. Talk about bars, I'll tell ya, some of the best compelling evidence that we could give to the State of Indian, in trying to shut down a bar is the neighbors that live close to the bars. Giving us the horror stories about the bar owner not caring about the local neighbors. This is, if you have a gas station in your neighborhood, this is what we need to hear and if we can't hear it, if nobody shows up and says, "I don't mind if that gas station's open all night". We're gonna leave it open all night. But we need to hear form the neighbors. We need to hear from the local Council people, if you want it shut down between those hours, if not we'll just probably ... you know, if they get on FUSIS and they follow our rules we'll probably give them the exception. But I think we're making real good progress with this ordinance. I think it's gonna make our city safer and we're taking care of Code Enforcement issues, and we're taking care of crime fighting issues that they were ignoring before we passed this ordinance. So, thank you for doing that Council.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, I know that there was another incident recently at another gas station in the middle of the afternoon or something like that. I'm not sure about what happened, but I know that part of the reason we passed the ordinance was to make sure that we did get more of these businesses on FUSIS. Couldn't we, and maybe we should have this conversation as a Council, but couldn't we just pass an ordinance requesting, or mandating, that all those businesses get on FUSIS?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott - I imagine. I don't see why, I mean, obviously I'd want to look at it with the Law Department even closer but if you passed an ordinance and said, "A condition of having a business license issued by the City of Hammond is you have to be on this system. I don't think I'd be illegal from the top of my head, sir.

Councilman Tyler - Just something to think about.

Mayor McDermott - I agree with you. I don't see what the big deal is. Like I said, I own a commercial building in the City of Hammond. I was Hammond P.D.'s first customer. Hammond P.D. could literally watch Schoops make a burger right now. It doesn't bother me. It doesn't bother Schoops. It's about fighting crime. So, it was maybe now we're having more of an impact, we talked to these businesses now that this ordinance has passed, but we're having great luck with the gas stations joining FUSIS and that gives the P.D. all the tools they need. They could sit in their car and look at the cameras all around the 7300 block of Indianapolis Boulevard right now.

Councilman Woerpel - Councilman Kalwinski was at that hearing of that first gas station that went on and I was very impressed at just from what I saw from the owner's perspective, he was made aware of stuff that I don't think he was necessarily made aware of, just like the city was. I mean, at the end of it I actually called ... I had to leave after an hour I actually called and said was the guy given the chair or not? It was like watching a court case was my point of it. I was very impressed with the way and the fairness of the process. There were some issues that I know I was told later on that the city went out there and addressed immediately with the owner and if you want to see what that's ... the effectiveness of that ordinance, come to one of them Board of Public Works meetings and watch it.

Mayor McDermott - Thank you, Councilman. You know, we're anticipating a law suit. Okay, so, this is how we expect to conduct business under this ordinance from here forward. So, we're making sure we're dotting our I's and crossing our T's. And this is how it's gonna work. It's fair, it's factual, it's about safety. That's our job. It's fair, it's factual, it's about safety. If we get sued we are going to win. And if we don't win, I'm glad I went down on that ship. Trying to make the city safer. I'm glad I went down on that ship. If we don't win. We're gonna win if we get sued. Okay? I'm confident, but I appreciate that, Councilman, I agree. I think it's very fair. I think it's very court like, which is how it should be. We're not just talking something indiscriminately, there's factual basis for everything we do. Which is exactly what we were telling the Council we were gonna do if it was passed.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

23-20 2024 City of Hammond Budget Proposal
 Sponsored by Thomas M. McDermott

Councilman Woerpel, 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 October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

23-21 2024 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal
 Sponsored by Dan Spitale & Janet Venecz

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 October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

23-22 2024 Sanitary District of Hammond Budget Proposal
 Sponsored by Janet Venecz & Dan Spitale

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 October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

23-23 Civil City Salary Ordinance
 Sponsored by Thomas M. McDermott

Councilman Woerpel, 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 October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

23-24 Police & Fire Salary Ordinance
 Sponsored by Thomas M. McDermott

Councilman Woerpel, 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 October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

23-25 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Funds #2477, #2478, #2479 and #2480)
 for FY2024 Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP)
 Grant Funds
 Sponsored by Dan Spitale

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 meeting on October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

23-26 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Funds 2481 and #2482) for Justice Assistance
 Grant (JAG) Program Funds Awarded to the City of Hammond Police Department
 Sponsored by Dan Spitale

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 October 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st & 2nd reading & CAW)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

23-19 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2023 Gaming Fund
Sponsored by Janet Venecz & Dan Spitale

23-20 2024 City of Hammond Budget Proposal
Sponsored by Tom McDermott

23-21 2024 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal
Sponsored by Dan Spitale & Janet Venecz

23-22 2024 Sanitary District of Hammond Budget Proposal
Sponsored by Janet Venecz & Dan Spitale

No one spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rakos - Hessville Commerce and Community Creative, also know as HC3, a 501C organization, is holding their Hessville Fall Clean up this Saturday, October 14. We meet at 9 a.m. at the building on Martha right behind restaurant there. We invite all adults and teenagers, kids. I'm sure we'll have a good turn out from Scott Middle and Morton High School.

Councilman Kalwinski - On Tuesday, September 27, the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association held a meeting after the flooding in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Districts. I want to thank a few people for making that possible. I had contacted Marty Wielgos from the Sanitary District who was gracious enough to come under fire in front of two to three hundred residents. I also want to thank Senator Lonnie Randolph and State Rep Carolyn Jackson who I invited and asked for assistance to see if they could see down state if there was any help to be had. Senator Randolph did attend. Rep Jackson was at Indianapolis and went to the Governor's Office to discuss if there was a way to get assistance for flooding victims. I want to also thank Lake County Councilwoman Christine Cid who attended and offered her support as well as Mike Repay, Lake County Commissioner, who was out of town but offered support through County if there was any way to do that. I want to thank Adrian Santos from the North Township Trustees Office who brought two of his staff, and paperwork, and bilingual staff as well, to help with the voucher program. I would be remiss to not mention that the Sanitary District also brought bilingual people and paperwork for their back flow valve preventer program which can garner up to \$2

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski cont. - thousand per resident to put in a back flow preventer valve in their basement. I want to thank the Mohawks for splitting, holding more people than probably they should have, as well as the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association for taking this undergoing and providing a place for support and information for a lot of angry people who are out \$5 to \$10 thousand dollars for what happened to their basements, regarding furnaces, water tanks, washers, dryers, carpeting, furniture and the grief to having to clean it up. My sympathies to all. I know what that's like. I flooded twice in two different houses in the 1st District. But thank you to the Sanitary District for a quick response and for increasing the amount of support and money for the back flow preventer program. We appreciate it.

Councilwoman Alexander - On October 14th will be the Season's Splendor Craft and Vendor Show at the Civic Center from 10 to 5 p.m. Also there will be a Fall Festival at the Hammond Area Career Center that's sponsored by Silver Birch of Hammond and the City of Hammond Community Development on Friday, October 20th from 1 to 5 p.m. in the parking lot of the Hammond Career Center.

Councilman Tyler - I just want to announce that they will be having a celebration for Captain Kelvin Alcox who after 39 years as a Hammond Police Officer is finally retiring. I can say that because I have known him my entire life, literally, he's been a police officer my entire life and we grew up in the ... well, I grew up in the church that he was attending as an adult, of course. But, I just want to say congratulations to him and invite the community to come out to help celebrate his retirement on Tuesday, October 17th at the Ophelia Steen Center at 6 p.m. It will take place during the regular Crime Watch meeting of the Pullman Area. I know it's a bit early too but I think we just got notification about the Hammond Holiday Parade, so I just wanted to announce that will take place on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board - Councilman Woerpel - CIB met on October 2nd, 2023. Items that were approved. The Funding Allocation Invoice No. 5 NICTD accommodate new Downtown Hammond Station grade correction in the amount of \$143,126.77. Another Funding Allocation Was approved for General GO Technical Engineering Services- Advanced Engineering Services in the amount of \$50 thousand. Finally, an appropriation was approved to the Loch Mueller Group for the Kennedy Avenue Reconstruction. Attached please find the Funding Allocation for the subject with the Loch Mueller Group in the amount of \$90,500. The project was extended approximately 12 months longer than anticipated. Primarily related to NIPSCO pole line relocation that required the contracted to suspend work late in 2022. The overage amount is a 14% increase in the original contract. The consultant took proper steps to work and commiserate with the contractors work plan.

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

- East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues., Oct. 17; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
- Edison Community Watch; Wed., Nov. 1; 6:30 p.m.; Edison School
- Harrison Park Crime Watch will not meet until Tues., Dec 5th; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman
- Hessville Crime Watch; Thur., Oct. 18; 6 p.m.; Jean Shepherd Center
- Irving Community Watch; Fri.; 9:30 a.m.; Nov. 3; Irving School
- South Hohman Avenue Neighborhood Watch; Oct. 12; 7 p.m.; Trinity Lutheran Church
- Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., Oct. 12; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

23-19 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2023 Gaming Fund

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved for passage.

Councilwoman Venecz - This simply appropriates monies from 2022 to 2023. It is Park Improvements for each of the Districts and Capital Improvements that is being appropriated to 2023, in the amount of \$3,576,614.25.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9608 PASSED

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel - Recently Juan Moreno invited me to go tour some of the older buildings in Downtown Hammond. One of them was the State Bank Building, another was the construction going on at the Calumet National Building, and the third thing we got to take a look at was the Dan Rabin Plaza. It's just me, and I like looking at old things besides looking in the mirror. While we were at the Rabin Plaza, Mr. Salinas happened to drive by and he asked, "What's going on over there?" I told him we got to take a little tour of the Rabin Plaza and he's like, "Oh, really?" I said, "Man, that place is a garbage dump." He said, "Let's clean it up." So, he wanted me to announce tonight that on Oct. 14, after your clean up in the 6th District, what time was it, 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock? He's gonna get the (unclear) to go out there and help too, but I think we're gonna get a group together and go over there and clean up the garbage over at Rabin Plaza too. So, I wanted to make that announcement tonight.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Queen Alexander - You know the St. Franciscans they closed on Hohman? Is there any work being done down there for them to completely tear down that building? Because it just sits there. They're not doing anything on it. I would like you guys to look into that.

Ken Rosek - The name of the building behind the Hessville Restaurant is the Hessville Hanson Public Library. It's a beautiful building. The city de-funded it a number of years ago. It was built in 1925 along with one of the Rosek homes, that's on Arizona Street, that my great uncles built. It's being sold. The community got together and rehabbed that place. Unions donated time and money. So did contractors, they re-roofed it. So the equity went up. The community saved it and now it's being sold to a private person. That's a travesty. Thanked the people that volunteered to clean the Briar East Woodlands in Hessville.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Anthony Diaz - Taxes have gone up for our Veterans. Something is not in place now and it has increased. It seems weird that we have the Mayor's brother, his realty company, making a profit on it. Same thing happened on Hohman Avenue with the fire house. It was damaged, they condemned it, but then they sold it for a couple thousand dollars. It's odd they are sold to people that are connected with the city. There was a shooting at a gas station. So the criminals must be moving to the 3 to 11 shift. If we're just expecting a law suit then it will be more money for his lawyer friends. We're missing signs from Hammond High, the World War I sign was gone. I guess they found it and are going to put it in a proper place. The sign for the Hammond Tech basketball team is also missing. We're losing our history. Marty was preaching about global warming, well feces. Condoms and Kotex don't come from the rain. It might have been the flood in Clark Field that backed up the system. It seems like the city just let that water go because they knew that they have lawyers and figured they'd get some money out of the construction company. They got \$500 thousand. That money should be going to the community citizens that got the damage.

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

AYES: ALL

2023 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

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

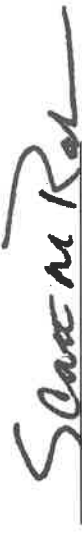
ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:55 p.m.
cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk



Scott Rakos, President
Hammond Common Council