

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on July 22, 2024 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.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Venecz, Kalwinski, Salinas, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: None

TOTAL:9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of July 8, 2024 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from July 2, 2024 through July 17, 2024. Claim #6070 through #6487, inclusive. In the amount of \$9,205,851.26.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried 9/0/0 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board- Councilman Emerson-The capital improvement board met on July 15, 2024. We dealt with:

Item A- Hammond Housing Authority, Hubert Humphrey Building, pavement preservation site services in the amount of \$11,755.00.

Item B- 171st St. extension. Row Engineering & Lochmueller Group, in the amount of \$28,825.00. Supplemental engineering services agreement with Lochmueller, to dedicate the new right of way in the 6th district.

Item C- Dowling Park sewer improvements, supplemental laterals, and curb replacement. Grimmer Construction in the amount of \$181,200.00. That involved replacement of 15 sewer laterals on 176th Place that were not identified during the design and replacement of the corresponding curb. This is 100 percent locally funded because the federal grant amount has reached the maximum amount. Project is in the 6th district.

Item D- Hohman Avenue reconstruction. Change order #19, sewer repairs on Rimbach in the amount of \$13,156.00. Restoration of certain utilities damaged by AT&T's contractor on Rimbach St., the Law Department has filed a claim to recover these costs. The project was in the 2nd District.

Item E- Towle lot resurfacing. Change order #1, Dyer Construction in the amount of \$21,553.68. Supplemental work at 415 Sibley, formally the JC Penney building to accommodate parking in downtown Hammond in the 2nd district.

Item F- New signal at Sportsplex. Milestone Contractors North, in the amount of \$1,029,076.73. Install a new traffic signal to access the Sportsplex and future YMCA on Indianapolis Blvd. To make the roadway modifications to Indianapolis Blvd., SR 152, and 165th St. That has been approved by INDOT. In 2022 it was determined that a new traffic signal on Indianapolis Blvd., was necessary to improve access to these facilities and that was in the 3rd District. That completes my report.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Council Woman Venecz- I would like to announce the upcoming community and crime watch meetings. On Wednesday August 14th community watch at Mt. Zion will meet at 1pm. That's on Kenwood. The East Hammond Pullman crime watch will meet August 20th which is a Tuesday at 6pm at the Ophelia Steen Center. Edison community watch is off for the summer because school is closed. So is Irving community watch. Harrison Park will not meet in August. Hessville crime watch will meet at 6pm, Thursday August 15th at the Jean Shepard Center. Mark your calendar for sometime in October for the South Hohman Avenue neighborhood watch. They meet semi annually. The Whiting/Robertsdale crime watch will meet Thursday, August 8th, 6:30 P.M. at Calumet College. Also, up at the PAV on Tuesday August 6th is National Night Out. Last year we had a fabulous turnout. There were tons of Police and Fire vehicles. There was some kind of bubble thing for the kids to slide around. They had a blast in that. There are prizes that are going to be given away. So, please come out and support our first responders and get to know them, because community is not just about me, it's about us.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING- FINAL PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Alexander- I would just like to thank all of our employees that were working the Festival of the Lakes this week. Especially our Police and our Fire. They did a job well done with keeping everyone safe and everything like that. So kudos to everyone that had a part in the Fest. It was a great time.

Councilman Emerson-I wanna piggyback off of what Councilwoman Alexander said, to the Street Department for all the trees that were down with the storm, I wanna thank Felix Gonzalez the Street Commissioner, and Devin Wick for the removal of branches that were on the parkway and were blown down by the storm. Thank you.

Councilman Woerpel-I believe tomorrow at MLK is another picnic in the park with the police. It's from 11-1. And then to bring up an issue that Councilman Emerson brought up, about the stoplight on Indianapolis Blvd., and the cost of all that. It's my understanding if I'm not mistaken, there's some work that needs to be done so a turning lane can be added. Is that true?

Councilman Emerson- Correct

Councilman Woerpel- And that's part of the cost, but as far as I know, that will help alleviate some of the traffic on the 167th St., even though that light will remain for now. That affects a lot of the residents of the 5th district because people leaving there go down those residential streets and there's, I guess it's 166th St., right? It's a road that's being created that will run in between the Sportsplex and the Y? Am I?

Councilman Emerson-Correct

Councilman Woerpel-So, that's where the new street will also be a part of that project.

Councilman Emerson- Yeah, and that light at 167th will stay in effect as last I've heard.

Councilman Woerpel- You guys assured us that it will all be timed. So you're not going from stoplight to stoplight to stoplight every 600 feet?

Councilman Emerson-Right.

Councilman Woerpel- Thank you

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

Mr. Buck- Good Evening, I am back again to speak about all of the construction going on in the City of Hammond. There's not one person that looks like me on any of those jobs. We are being economically discriminated against. And you all, can change that. Indianapolis has it. South Bend has it. Some other cities and counties has it. It should be 21 percent minority when you're spending government money if I'm not mistaken. We're not getting a share of that money. All it takes, is for the council to make a motion and a 2nd and to vote that that be put in every contract in the city that we must be a part of those contracts. The way that you vote, is gonna tell us how to vote, because we want someone that's supporting our interests. We support you all when it comes election time. We want you all to support us when it comes contract time. Thank you.

George Stoya- Pass

Jana A.- Hello everyone, I have a short speech for you today. Last summer my family and I moved from a house to the Kennedy Crossing apartments. Soon after we moved in, I began exploring the area. After walking a short distance, The vibrant green trees caught my eye. I noticed an opening and found a trail. As I stepped in, I lit up with a golden light. The forest air refreshed me. I was amazed that I discovered a small lake. I embraced the natural beauty. Since the day I stepped into the woods, I have had so much gratitude for them. The Briar East Woods need to be saved. The truth is, The Governor's Parkway Bridge is not the only solution for the train issues. We have other more effective solutions that don't involve destroying our one and only sanctuary here in Hammond Indiana. So I'm asking you that if you ever have to make a decision about the Briar East Woods, you remember my speech and you consider, what you may be taking away from the community.

Natasha Vaughn- Hello, I'm Natasha Vaughn and this is my son Michael Vaughn. I'm a resident of the university apartments. They're across the street from Purdue where my son attends. I'm here to ask for your assistance in a critical issue that we are facing. I am a low income mother with a college aged son. We moved into university apartments specifically because it is across the street. Our apartment accepts a section 8 voucher which is crucial for us because I work part time and I have a pending disability case. Recently the building was sold to a new landlord and despite legal advice I received, stating the landlord is required to honor that contract, including my housing assistance payment contract. As of today we've been given a 30 day notice. He starts school in 3 weeks. Last month the housing authority sent the June payment to the previous landlord. When I informed them of the new ownership, I was informed that if the landlord does not change the ownership, that my son and I would have to move. This is despite the fact that the new landlord did accept my payment for June. Our situation is dire. My son starts school in less than a month, and I have to have surgery. I am seeking council support to help find a solution.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to Adjourn

AYES: ALL

2024 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	8	22	12	26	11	25	8	22	13	28	10	24	8	22										
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	PL									
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P									
Janet Venecz	E	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P									
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P									
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E									
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P									
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A									
Dave Woerpel	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P									
Scott Rakos	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										

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

ATTEST:

RJG

Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:20 p.m.
mg/cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk