

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on March 11, 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.

Invocation by Councilwoman Alexander

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Nice to see you, Councilmen. Good to see the City Council. I know that Megan, with the recent upgrade to our computer system we were finally allowed access to our data and I know she updated the 4th Quarter 2023 Gaming and Revenue Report and I believe the 1st Quarter of no, excuse me, we're still in the 1st Quarter. So you have that information available. As you'll notice, we've been doing reports on Gaming Revenue in the City of Hammond, Gaming Revenue's down 28% from our high point to where we are currently. That's about \$10 million a year loss the City suffered because of our competition, Hard Rock Casino. Plus the competition current and as everybody knows, Homewood is about to open a very large casino with an extremely large hotel. I imagine they are going to compete very well with Hard Rock. Downtown Chicago is opening a casino. They're in a temporary location, had a really big month and they're expecting to get bigger and bigger. So, I think the glory days of the casino are behind us, being honest. So we're preparing as if though that's the case. But right now, currently, we're \$10 million down in our Gaming Revenue. Good news is Water Revenue is doing really well and that grows, but it grows slowly. The losses we're experiencing in Gaming is happening faster than the growth in the Water. The Water is doing well though but not as fast as the Gaming is dropping. So, that's concerning. Start off with that and you guys can see that with your own eyes and that affects everything we do. Mayor's activity log, read a lot to classes lately. Read to Ms. Wheeler's kindergarten class at Morton Elementary School. Prepared and presented a resolution to Tri Kappa of Northwest Indiana. Celebrated Tri Kappa month. Read to a 2nd grade class at Kenwood Elementary School. Met with Councilman Rakos and a resident from St. John who is interested in helping us maintain the Little Red School House. We had a meeting with that gentleman. Met with Lisa Miller, School Trustee from the City of Hammond, received an update about what's going on in the School City. Which is bleak, being honest. I had my normal monthly meeting with the Captains and the Chiefs of the Hammond Police Department. Met with the Crown Point Mayor regarding Hammond water, interesting meeting with the Crown Point Mayor. Met with employees and the contractors looking at the overall development plan for the area surrounding the Hammond Sportsplex. I'm gonna loop in Councilman Barry to that at probably one or two At Large Council people as well as, probably, Councilman Woerpel, into what's going on there. We're taking an overall look at that entire area with the traffic issues that

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - we've experienced with the larger tournaments we're running, along with the Economic Development, challenges that we have. Meaning the Y needs to expand and we need more options for Economic Development there. With these challenges we're looking at a comprehensive look at the entire area. So, I will be reaching out to the Council people about that. I can only meet with four of you at a time, as you all know, so. All the County Clerks in the State of Indiana, all ninety two of them came to Hammond Indiana last week and I spoke to all the County Clerks. I want to thank our County Clerk, Mike Brown, for bringing this conference to Hammond. They stayed in the Hotels on the South side of the City. They were based right around the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and I met up with them at Byway Brewing. So it was good to see all ninety two of the County Clerk's in Hammond, Indiana. I had lunch with former Town Manager of Munster, Dustin Anderson at La Hacienda Azteca regarding Hammond water and the Hammond Sanitary District. Read to Ms. Heintz 2nd grade class at St. Casimir School. Meeting with staff analyzing garbage and recycling rates charged by municipalities across Indiana as well as the City of Hammond. I want to remind the Council that our garbage and our recycling contracts are coming due very shortly and I've been seeing what's going on with other cities and towns across Northwest Indiana and all these rates are going up fairly significantly and currently we're running in the red. We have information available. I don't think we've made it public to you all yet but we will get it to you by the next meeting. It shows what's going on with our business unit. Garbage and recycling, if we're not charging enough on garbage and recycling in the monthly rates what happens is the overages get paid anyway and they get paid through, basically gaming revenue. So, if we don't do our job keeping up with rates, ultimately it costs us at the end of the day anyway. So, we're gonna approach you with some ideas we have about getting right with our garbage rates and our contracts will be due very soon and we're gonna know exactly what kind of increases we're looking at. Met with the Executive Staff and the Chancellor at Purdue Northwest, talking about three big projects Purdue is working on in the City. The Impact Lab in Downtown Hammond in the 2nd District. Purdue Northwest is gonna open their presence in the 2nd District, I don't think they're there yet and it's a really massive project they're talking about in the 2nd District, right at the old St. Margaret Mercy. Dowling Park and the Jean Shepherd Center, Purdue has always been talking about that, we've been talking for six years or so about Purdue's interest in that area over there. We were just more formalizing their interest in the area. Nothing really more than that, obviously, I'll keep Council people involved in that. Gavit High School, Purdue's interest in Gavit High School has never waned either and they're still interested in that property and with the new Chancellor on board now, hopefully we could start moving on those three issues and everywhere Purdue invests is usually a good thing for the City because Purdue has money and they have a Police Force and they take care of their investments. So, I think if they are investing in the 2nd District, I think it's a real positive for the 2nd District for Downtown Hammond, so. Good news, the Food and Beverage Proposal that we floated to the Indiana General Assembly passed yesterday. They passed a bill which now enables the City of Hammond to enact a Food and Beverage Tax of up to 1% with a sunset period of twenty years. The bill is now waiting for the Governor's signature. If the Governor signs it, it's up to us at that point. If the Governor veto's it, it'll go back for a veto session. But, we're at a point we've never been before. I didn't anticipate us being at this point and here we are. So, if we all approve this Food and Beverage Tax it'll tack on 1% to all Food and Beverage Purchases at restaurants. Like drive throughs and things like that, not for groceries, okay? Only three projects we could use that money for. They are as follows, the construction of a Downtown Hammond Train Station, anything around that area. We could also talk about, you know, property acquisitions and stuff like that to help develop the Downtown Hammond Train Station. So that's good news. The expansion of the Hammond Sportsplex and acquisition that goes into that, and also the expansion of the pavilion. Those three projects are

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - tourism related, signed off by the General Assembly and those are the only three projects that those monies can be used on, if we approve it. I want to give thank you to a lot of people that worked hard for the City of Hammond, Republicans and Democrats alike, let's start off with our locals, Representative Carolyn Jackson was a superstar for us as she always is. Representative Mike Andrade always does a great job. He's not even our Rep anymore and he still acts like he's our Rep, which is wonderful. Technically he represents Griffith but he's always out there for Hammond. He grew up here, so. We had Republicans galore helping this goal. It was amazing. Representative Ed Soliday from Valpo, Senator Niemeyer from Cedar Lake, Senator Dernulc from Highland, and our lobbyist Joe Smith from Fagre Drinker, and Andy Miller from Bose, did a great job and this is a bill that could generate \$30 million, conservatively, for us, so. Towards those three projects that's a big deal, so. Obviously, before we get serious about this we are gonna have all of our ducks in row and I'm gonna approach the Council with ideas and thoughts and prices and all that stuff, so. I know that something I didn't think would cause much controversy, caused controversy in Executive Session today, about resolution that has been sent to us by the Department of Transportation. This is no sneaky plan by the administration to get you to approve something. This was sent to us by the DOT, Pete Buttigieg. We get millions of dollars every year from the DOT and this is a goal that they set and if we don't go along with that goal it would be serious ramifications, let's just say that. Millions of dollars we're talking about, so. This isn't exactly a negotiation and if you guys choose not to pass this, you choose not to pass this. But we're not really negotiating. I didn't write this. This was given to us saying, "Pass this Hammond". If you guys want to fight with Washington, D.C., I don't think that's wise personally. But basically the resolution setting goals for reducing serious injuries and fatalities on our streets as a requirement to obtain future funding. So if we say, "no", we could live on our own over here or we could try to continue to try to get future funding and it's very competitive, by the way. Like we compete with other municipalities to get this funding and if we give the finger to the DOT saying we don't care about his, they'll give us the finger back, I promise, and we'll suffer the consequences locally. This isn't a game. So, if you guys want to play games with Washington, D.C. there will be consequences. That's all I got to say. If you have questions, I'm willing to answer them but I don't think we should mess around with DOT, personally. I don't think it's worth it, so.

Councilwoman Alexander - The question that was asked, Mayor, is, is there a copy of the Vision Policy and ...

Mayor McDermott - I imagine there is, Councilwoman.

Councilwoman Alexander - But, what ... so, what made it hard for me going through, when I got to Executive Session, is not having that made it hard because having just the wording, you're saying it's for, like, to apply for different things. The wording doesn't say that so that's what's making it harder. That we're hearing one thing but we're reading one thing. So if there is a policy, I would love to have a copy of that to help me out with this, if there is one. I don't know.

Mayor McDermott - I haven't seen it.

Councilwoman Alexander - So that's why it says there's a Vision Zero Policy, so whatever that policy is having that to back this up makes it understandable, is the wording that I'm going to look for. To say that there is a grant, it doesn't say we can apply for a grant or things like that and that was the wording that was used in the

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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilwoman Alexander cont. - Executive Session and it wasn't listed here, so a bunch of questions just came up.

Mayor McDermott - Okay.

Mayor McDermott - I haven't seen anything, Councilwoman. I just ... I didn't draw this. I just want to pass it so we can get money. That's where I'm coming from. But saying to get money, it goes back to it's not here so it makes it a little bit, like where's the wording for that to say that this is what this resolution does.

Councilman Woerpel - Being the sponsor of this, I actually went into the Engineering Department and talked to Dean and like anything else that's Federal, there is a policy of Vision Zero. It's a book about that thick.

Mayor McDermott - Right

Councilman Woerpel cont. - And basically what I was told is this allows us to apply for Department of Transportation Grants. It can be anything, it's my understanding it can be anything that we've done since 2022 that we might be able to recover some of the funds for, from what I was told, or it could be future projects.

Mayor McDermott - Right.

Councilman Woerpel - But, to say, like, okay, what is this specifically? Well, it's like Community Crossings, and that is, there's a policy that. For instance, I call it Oxbow Road, when it was redone, we tried it once with gaming money and we didn't have the funding, so Dean says, "Hey, let me try Community Crossings", and I don't know what he filled out. But it qualified, and we got the grant for that. And it saved the City and the 5th District a lot of money. So, yeah, there's a Vision Zero Policy and it's my understanding it's a book about that thick.

Mayor McDermott - Right.

Councilman Woerpel - And its got a bunch of what you can do and what you can't dos in it.

Mayor McDermott - You guys can approach this anyway you want. If you want to do it two weeks from now. I don't think there's a deadline, Councilwoman, so. I didn't give this two seconds of thought being honest. The Engineer says, "Mayor, we need to pass this or else we won't get future funding." I said, "Where is it?" Like, it's DOT, I'm not really negotiating with them over this, so if you guys want to hold off and debate it, knock yourselves out. But, we just need it passed. That's where I'm coming from.

Councilwoman Alexander - I don't think it's a debate. I think it's just the questions. It's asking the questions to get more clarity. So it's not so much that. Okay, we don't think things should happen. It's just those are the questions that they said in the meeting. Since you weren't in our Executive Session, to ask you then, to go ahead and ask you now.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott - Well no, I don't know anything about this. I just know we won't get money if we don't pass this. I don't really care that much about this, being honest with you. It doesn't phase me at all. I just want to sign it and move on with my life. This is stuff that, honestly, if I spent more than two minutes on I'd be committing Mayor malpractice. This is something that's automatic. They're not negotiating with us. So, like you guys want to spend hours on this, knock yourselves out. I'm not going to. Just tell me when you're done debating and I'll sign it so we can get our money, okay. This is silly.

Councilman Woerpel - Just to make the point that was, kind of, made to me, if I understood him correctly, we possibly could apply for this grant for money that we've done work on Kennedy Avenue because if took it down from four lanes to one lane and it made the street safer. Or where we re-stripped 173rd, and that doesn't mean that that's what we're gonna do but, I mean, if we're applying for grants for projects we done anywhere from 2022 to 2026. So, I mean, it's a no brainer. Hey, you want some free money, pass this Vision Zero.

Mayor McDermott - If there's concerns on the Council, knock yourselves out, debate it, just let me know when you're done, okay? I just need to sign it so we can send it to Buttigieg so we can keep getting money.

Councilman Kalwinski - I think the devil's just in the details. It sounds like a wonderful program. From what I read on Google it's \$5 to \$6 billion dollars to spend across the country from 2022 to 2026. And just last year in Indiana a total of \$10 million plus was spent on various projects. So, it also said, from what I read, that projects range from, when you finally get to the action plan, \$2.5 million to like \$25 million for projects in your town. It's a big deal, you're right.

Mayor McDermott - Thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski - We just didn't have any information.

Mayor McDermott - No problem, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski - No information except this.

Mayor McDermott - I'm sorry. Honestly, maybe I make it too easy on Dean because something like this, I'm like, no problem Dean. "Mayor, we need this signed." I'm like, okay. I trusted the Engineer, but if you guys need more details I don't think it's a big deal. I don't think this has a deadline. Megan, do you know it this is ... So, delay it another meeting. I don't have a problem with it. Sometimes I come to you and it's burning and we need it done. This isn't, I don't think this is burning.

Councilman Kalwinski - And where it says, "Be it resolved", the second item says that any prior action taken by the Mayor or any staff necessary in connection with the items approved here and it's hereby ratified and adopted as actions on behalf of the City. So, if that's the case, we should know what those things were done.

Councilman Woerpel - That's exactly what the Engineer was referring to me. Prior action, Kennedy Avenue, 173rd, Hohman Avenue. So, if we're not gonna get any of that money back unless we pass this first. What is

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Woerpel cont. - this? What we got to pass in order to get, possibly, get some money back or funding for future projects.

Mayor McDermott - I'm sure Dean would be here to talk about this. He lost his mother this week, guys. I'm sure he'd be here to talk about this in person and it probably would be a lot easier if Dean was here because I have no freaking clue. Alright, I'm just ... my Engineer says, "Mayor, we jeopardize millions of dollars in funding if we don't pass this." I'm like, send it to the Council. That's where I'm coming from. So, like, if you guys have any questions, I don't care, let's knock it out. But Dean would be here, because he has something on the agenda and they're supposed to be. But he lost his mom this week. So he's not here and I'm flying blind.

Councilman Kalwinski - It would make sense to wait and just ask him. What's he referring to.

Mayor McDermott - No problem. It's not burning.

Councilman Kalwinski - I think we all want this, we just don't have the information.

Mayor McDermott - Sometimes I'm in here and I'm being a jerk because we got to get it going. This is not one of those things. It needs to be passed though. That's all I'm saying. So if you guys have questions then hold it off. I don't care. Okay? I'm not trying, believe me, I just don't want D.C. pissed off at us. So, that's where I'm coming from.

Councilman Kalwinski - We want the money. It's a 20% local match. So, if we can get it.

Mayor McDermott - If you have questions, we'll knock it out. Dean will be at the next meeting. Okay, Councilman? Is that fine?

Councilman Kalwinski - Yes. So we can wait two weeks?

Councilman Woerpel - I'm gonna go ahead and bring it out tonight anyway.

Mayor McDermott - I'm not trying to get in trouble with the Council. I'm not getting in the middle. I'm just saying this isn't burning. So, God bless you all. Thank you guys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to approve the claims from February 21, 2024 through March 6, 2024. Claim #1952 through #2471, inclusive. In the amount of \$34,637,192.87.

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

24-05 To Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for the Hammond Park Department (\$16,128.81)

24-06 To Appropriate Funds from the Operating Balance for the Hammond Park Department (\$446,000)

George Stoya - I wish I knew what we were debating here. We're talking about a half million bucks. Appropriating funds from an operating balance. What fund is that being appropriated from? It's just one abstract here. None of the bills are ever online. We don't know what the hell is going on in this city. We just come here and what? It's just all this secret squirrel kafkaesque. Nobody knows what's going on. How can anybody intelligently come up here and even ask a question? Let alone a comment. I just don't understand, a half a million bucks and nobody says anything about it. Nothing.

Councilman Woerpel - Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe this is money we get from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for tourism and that's why it goes to the Park Department. Is that true?

Controller Megan Moore - No, that's one of the ordinances that are coming out tonight. This ordinance is specifically the Park Activities Fund. So these are all revenues that were brought in for those various line items last year so those are those remaining balances and being appropriated into this year.

Councilman Woerpel - So this is like concession stand, fees ...

Controller Megan Moore - Yeah, all the baseball fields, a few of the, like, Cinco de Mayo, 219 Day, things like that. I think a lot of the line items are pretty self explanatory.

Councilman Woerpel - Both of these we appropriate that money back to Parks, correct?

Controller Megan Moore - That's correct, yeah. So it's just we're trying to take whatever we didn't use last year and spend it this year and this is just the formal way to get that done.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Rakos - This Saturday at 2 o'clock, HC3 is having their St. Patrick's Day Parade. It starts at 2 o'clock from Hessville Park down Kennedy Avenue, goes to 161st. It looks like good weather, about 55 degrees. I hope everybody can make it.

Councilman Salinas - I wanted to make an announcement, on Saturday, March 30th I'll be hosting my 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt. That will be taking place at Columbia Park. The event will start at noon, 12 o'clock, sharp and it's targeted for all children ages 12 and under. There'll be free photos with the Easter Bunny. It'll be golden eggs distributed for Easter baskets as well. We have several sponsors of the event, the Hacienda Azteca, McCoy & Sons Towing, Walmart Supercenter and El Taco Real. Again, that event is on March 30th at noon sharp, we will be starting at Columbia Park, Easter Egg Hunt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board - Councilman Emerson - Met on March 4th, 2024. Number one, we did \$190,437.87 for change in the grade slope between Douglas and Fayette Street as well as a pedestrian tunnel under the new Westlake Line at Russell Street and that was in the 2nd District. Number two, we voted on \$60 thousand to Nies and their engineering for solutions to drainage problems throughout the city, including french drains and solutions to standing water among other assignments, and that was citywide and the first one was in the 2nd District.

Community and Crime Watch Meeting Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:
Wed., April 10; Edison Community Watch; 6:30 p.m.; Edison School
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues., April 2; VFW on Hohman; 6 p.m.
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur., March 21; 6 p.m., Jean Shepherd Center
Irving Community Watch; Fri., April 12; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School
South Hohman Avenue Neighborhood Watch; Thur., April 11; 7 p.m.; Trinity Lutheran Church
Whiting-Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur., March 14; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Councilwoman Venecz brought out 24-05 and 24-06. (No committee assigned)

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

24-05 To Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for the Hammond Park Department (\$16,128.81)

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

Councilwoman Venecz - This is funding, \$156,128.81 that will be appropriated from the Innkeepers Tax to the Hotel/Motel Fund, which is used for advertising for events, parades, 219 Day, Festival of the Lakes, etc.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9629 PASSED

24-06 To Appropriate Funds from the Operating Balance for the Hammond Park Department (\$446,000)

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved for final passage.

Councilwoman Venecz - As was explained by Megan earlier, this is \$446,000 from the Operating Balance that will be appropriated to Event Services. Again, parades, 219 Day, Key & Clean up refunds. That is for those who choose to rent our parks and they have to make a down payment and then be refunded, field rentals at Optimist, Irving soccer, concessions at Dowling and Riverside, overtime special events of \$20 thousand if we do need overtime for the events that we're funding, part time concessions, \$15 thousand, FICA Medical Employees share is all in there as well, that totals \$19 thousand.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9630 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

24R-05 A Resolution of the Hammond Common Council Adopting a Vision Zero Policy

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for final passage.

Councilman Kalwinski - I was hoping we'd wait a couple weeks so we could get some answers to a couple questions on the 2nd page of the resolution and the Engineer might be returning from funeral leave, however it doesn't look like that will happen. So, I don't know that I could vote for it without having my questions answered.

Councilman Tyler - Along with Councilman Kalwinski, I guess my only question is, it does talk about a specific policy and like many others have said, there's national guidelines that they encourage different cities and municipalities to adopt as part of their Vision Zero Policy. But each city or municipality is responsible for coming up with their own policy and if that is not included in this resolution then I'm not sure how I can support

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Tyler cont. - this without seeing it. It's just something, I know we can ratify it later, which is one way to go but would just prefer to have it in front of me and review it before moving forward.

Councilwoman Venecz - There is something on the gohammond facebook page that encourages, well, it explains what this is and it encourages those who read it to follow the link to answer questions. I have done that. I pointed out, they asked about problem intersections, bike lanes, things of that nature. I, personally, feel comfortable after reading through what was online and taking the survey. I feel comfortable in voting for this.

Councilwoman Alexander - Where on the website do you see such thing?

Councilwoman Venecz - gohammond

Councilwoman Alexander - I understand. But I'm asking where so that I can go and look for it really quick.

Councilwoman Venecz - I'm sorry, I can't understand what ...

Councilwoman Alexander - I'm asking exactly where on the website. You said you went to the website, so I'm asking where so that I can go and find it really quick.

Councilwoman Venecz - There was a link.

Councilman Salinas - I shared the link as well. I saw the link. I shared it with some friends and neighbors.

Councilwoman Alexander - On your page? I'll go to your page.

Councilman Tyler - I believe what Councilwoman Venecz is referring to was a survey asking for residential input in terms of the problem intersections. So they were, I think, the Engineer's Department was trying to collect information on what to prioritize in our Vision Zero Action Plan. Which I'm guessing they are still in the midst of crafting that Vision Zero Action Plan. Which is, I think the point that we're trying to make today is that we would like to see that Action Plan before we move forward with it. But it was a survey asking for input. It was a short 15 question survey that was shared via the gohammond facebook page and I think at one page it was on the website but I don't think it's on the website anymore.

Councilwoman Venecz - So, Councilman Woerpel, am I correct in understanding, I did not have a conversation with our Engineer given the circumstances in his life, am I correct in understanding that in order for us to apply for the Federal Department of Transportation dollars that are available to us that we do need to pass this resolution? Am I correct in understanding that?

Councilman Woerpel - Yeah, you're correct. We use Community Crossings all the time. Can anybody tell me what Community Crossings is all about?

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - We're not talking Community Crossings right now, we're talking about this plan. Some of us still have questions. So if you want to bring it out, some of us who don't have our answers to our questions will vote what we vote and you vote what we vote. But, you know, it seemed like we could wait two weeks and get our answers but apparently we're not gonna do that.

Councilman Woerpel - Call for the vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: Alexander, Kalwinski, Tyler

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 6/3/0 RESOLUTION R05 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Ken Rosek - I don't know what that last ordinance or bill or whatever it was just got passed. The Mayor said he didn't want to get into a discussion with the DOT. I have been writing Pete Buttigieg, the Secretary of Department of Transportation, and in response we got a reply and a telephone call from the Federal Railway Administration and they are upset. He is already involved with argument with the DOT. You guys designed a bridge that does not solve our problems. Pro Publica asked Pete Buttigieg why the issue hadn't been solved. It was being built too far away. The FRA recommended Grand Avenue to be the solution.

George Stoya - With regards to some of the highway stuff, Code of Federal Regulations is usually the best place to look for that kind of stuff. It would give you the breakdown of the program. I want to re-emphasize this everybody know this Council is not the cause of problems that we have with our schools. You guys are going to be saddled with being part of the solution because its not just hemorrhaging of students, it will also be teachers. We've worked hard for thirty years to stay afloat. You've got to help out the School. They need assistance and it's crucial to us.

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
Katrina Alexander	8 P	22 P	11 P									
Dan Spitale	P	P	P									
Janet Veneez	E	P	P									
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P									
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P									
Barry Tyler	P	P	E									
Bill Emerson	P	P	P									
Dave Woerpel	A	P	P									
Scott Rakos	P	P	P									
Initials	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



Scott Rakos, President
Hammond Common Council

Time: 6:45 p.m.
cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk