

The Hammond Common Council held a PUBLIC HEARING(S) at 5 p.m. on the 24th day of June, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Hammond City Hall, 5925 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN on the following matter:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 24-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND ADOPTING A 1% MUNICIPAL
FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX

Council President Rakos -The public now has a opportunity to speak on this issue, and this issue alone. Anybody from the public like to speak?

George Stoya - George Stoya, Robertsdale. Umm, in and of itself, I guess the tax isn't a whole lot, but uh, what I'm worried about is the future. I mean right now, It's a food and beverage tax. Y know, what about in the future, Are we gonna get a wheel tax if we need more money? The mayor has already foreshadowed the need for addressing waste water piping and I guess the infrastructure throughout the city. That's gonna be a big, another big bond. Are we looking at you know, income tax? City income tax? You could say well no that's been preempted by the state. Well, we we're talking about a relationship with Fast Eddie Soliday of Valparaiso, and trust me, nothings impossible to this guy. This is the guy who maybe 5, 6, 7 years ago, stripped medicaid funding from the gasoline tax and transferred those funds over to the road tax and then shifted funding for medicaid funds to the cigarette tax. And think about it, you've got this campaign going on in this state, where umm, people are being encouraged to stop smoking and stuff like that, and yet he's gonna, he's gonna use it as a funding mechanism, for something that's only increasing, so I thought it was kind of odd but uh not to worry because, Govenor Holcomb gave him the Sagamore of the Wabash for his efforts on that, so here were talking about, again it sound far fetched. But this tax would have sounded far fetched to me, and uh what I worry about is Mayor McDermott's relationship to the guy. I mean how simple is it? What bothers me also about this tax is it was too damn easy. I mean what about in the future, I mean, what's it gonna be? Ya know, is the Mayor gonna call up, Ed? Yeah, Ed, Tom here. You got a minute? Yeah sure Tom. How's the wife and the kids? And next thing you know, there's gonna be uh, well listen, ya know, I need some funds and I need some legislation, some special interest legislation. That you know goes through the regular, all counties with population with no less than 70,000, and no more than 80,000 and if you're in that little sliver there, well you qualify for it. That makes it all objective and impartial, and non discriminatory etcetera, etcetera, uh, and then he'll have his tax. Because Ed Soliday is not above having democratic domains being taxed. And uh castigating em and making us in his eyes making em look stupid, so I'm a little worried about that, im a little worried about fast Eddie, and I don't uh, you know we already pay gratuities for fast food, and uh when were outdoors at restaurants and stuff like that for food and drink, now this is gonna be a tax on top of that. I wonder, I'm surprised that there's nobody here really. We don't have any waitresses her? We don't have any bartenders here? We don't have any restauranteurs here? There's just little old me here. And ya know, if they don't give a damn, well, I'll let it go at that, but uh, you know what they say, There's nothing more dangerous than when the legislature is in session. I'll leave you with that.

Council President Rakos- Thank you George. Anybody else from the public like to speak on 24-13, the 1% Municipal Food and Beverage Tax. Anybody else from the public? Anybody else from the public? Public Hearing is now closed.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

2024 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jun
	24
Katrina Alexander	E
Dan Spitale	P
Janet Venecz	P
Mark Kalwinski	A
Alfonso Salinas III	P
Barry Tyler	E
Bill Emerson	P
Dave Woerpel	P
Scott Rakos	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 Rakos, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 5:10 p.m.

cb

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Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk