

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on June 27, 2022 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Dave Woerpel 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, Torres, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - A reminder, Festival of the Lakes is coming up. Right now, as of today, we have sold over a thousand tickets for Friday Night, which is Darius Rucker and Toby Keith. 710 were for Toby Keith and we are gonna give people that bought Toby Keith tickets the ability to refund if they want. A lot of those that bought Toby Keith tickets maybe just simply transferring them over to Darius Rucker. They work either way, so. But is somebody wants their money back after July 1<sup>st</sup> we're gonna go through that process. We're hoping there's not a lot of refunds. But right now Wednesday night is the biggest night with pre-sales. 415 Counting Crows tickets have been sold. 692 Lynard Skynard tickets have been sold, that's our second biggest night. Rick Ross, 369. Originales, 71. 452 parking passes have been sold. 23 carnival mega passes. So far we've sold over \$215 thousand worth of tickets, so we're off to a good start with the festival. As we indicated last time I was here, Darius Rucker accepted our offer with the city. He's playing in place of Toby Keith who had to cancel because of stomach cancer. Since we last spoke, I had two public meetings. One public meeting was held at the new Hammond Central High School. I want to thank the Superintendent of the schools, Scott Miller for allowing us to use Hammond Central for Mayor's Night Out. It was a very spirited meeting, about an hour and a half long. I also had a Clark High School Athletic Fields Community Meeting last week in the Clipper room at the Hammond Marina. Believe it or not, not just more people were at the community meeting, a lot more people were at the community meeting than were at the Mayor's Night Out that we had. Both of them aired live on gohammond.tv. We celebrated Juneteenth on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We had the next day off as a city as you all know. You passed the ordinance that allowed that. We had a nice ceremony and I want to thank the Council people who attended, I know Councilwoman Katrina was there, Councilman Barry was there, and I believe Councilman Spitale was there. So thank you for being there. We also cut the ribbon at Culver's. A brand new, \$5 million facility located right by Cabela's, 70 new jobs, and a quality of life issue. A lot of people are very happy to see Culver's come. Particularly one young man that lives in my house. I wanted to talk to you guys about the American Rescue Plan resolution that we passed and give you an update on where we are. I had a meeting today with the City Controller, City Engineer, about the Phase One projects and problems that we're having with

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - inflation. So this shouldn't be too much of a shock but I want to go through what we approved in Phase one and talk about what we anticipated for the costs and where the actual costs came in. So if you guys don't mind for a second, obviously with inflation, with the cost of gas and the supply chain issues that we're experiencing now that we didn't anticipate when we talked about Phase one of ARP, the American Rescue Plan resolution. If you remember we got \$51 million total dollars from the American Rescue Plan. We allocated \$38 million in Phase one, and \$13 million in phase two. So, 75% in Phase one and Phase two is the remaining 25%. We approved lots of projects in Phase one. We approved Robertsdale's lead remediation, we approved Fire House #2, Clark High School Infrastructure, Downtown Hohman Avenue reconstruction, the YMCA adjacent to the Sportsplex, I'm gonna go through these slower, okay, the Calumet Avenue pedestrian bridge, Oxbow Road, JF Mahoney Drive, storm sewer on the 7000 block of Schneider, single family home development in Hessville on Florida Avenue, Hessville bridge, \$3.6 million, Kennedy Avenue reconstruction, software upgrades and cyber security upgrades, Columbia Avenue water tank, \$1 million repairs and Hammond City Council Chamber updates. Those are all the projects we approved in round one. I'm gonna go through each of these and I'm gonna give you an idea where anticipated cost was and where it actually falls. So, this isn't wonderful news, but it's something we need to talk about. Robertsdale Lead Remediation was a \$4 million budget, obviously the cost has skyrocketed, projected costs right now are at \$5.5 million. Which leaves us \$1.5 million over budget. Phase one has already been paid for. We are currently in Phase two in that project. That's a project right around the north basin of George Lake where homes have lead contamination in excess of levels that we are comfortable with. Instead of going through the EPA, the City of Hammond, through ARP, decided to take this project upon ourselves and clean it free of charge to the home owners. We're doing the project right now, we'll need another \$1.5 to complete it. \$3.5 million was anticipated for Fire House #2, which is located in Robertsdale also, we figured Station #8 was \$4.2, so we figured Fire House #2, because it's very similar would come in right around that, it actually came in closer to \$6 million. So \$2.5 million over. \$3 million in new infrastructure at Clark High School, we're in good shape on that. That's good news. Downtown Hammond Hohman Avenue reconstruction project was supposed to come in at \$5 million. That's a \$1.6 million over run, \$6.6 is the number. YMCA project, adjacent to the Sportsplex, we anticipated \$5 million and we're still on track with that. \$3.5 million for new Calumet Avenue pedestrian bridge, between Hammond and Munster, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, we got \$1 million donated towards that from the Little Calumet River Basin Authority. So thank to our former colleague, Councilman Repay who is now in charge of the Little Cal Task Force. That project came in at \$5.3, we're \$1.8 million short on that. Oxbow Road, we're finding another source of funding for that project. JF Mahoney Drive, cost came in four times higher, \$1.7 million. We're gonna do that project with this. Because I know that was very important to the Councilman of that district. Storm sewer on 7000 block of Schneider, this project is nearly complete. It came in on budget, good news. Single family home development on Florida Avenue in Hessville, \$800 thousand for that. On track, on budget, good news. \$3.6 million for new Hessville bridge. To get residents over constantly stopped railroad traffic. Cost came in at \$4 million, which is \$400 thousand over budget. Not horrible, but we have to make up for it. \$5 million for Kennedy Avenue reconstruction project in downtown Hessville. Just like the downtown Hammond project, that project came in over budget plus we added to that project by extending it north to cover Freddy's Steakhouse. That cost came in \$1.5 million over budget. Software upgrades and cyber security, on track, on budget. \$1 million towards Columbia Avenue Water Tank repair, project is completed, on budget. Council Chamber technology upgrades, on track, on budget. That's the good news. So, we do have cost overruns. We have to discuss what we're doing

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - with those cost overruns with the Council. I just want to be transparent about where we are. The cost overruns are about \$9.6 million. So, I wanted to give you guys the latest update. We approved a lot of projects in round one. We expected them to come in at numbers that were reliable, at the time we passed it. However the world has changed and this is where we stand. So, we have some ideas I want to talk to you all about. I don't want to do it on the record. I'd rather do it privately between us all first and then hopefully we can reach some type of consensus on what to do. We still haven't spent a penny around (unclear). That's the good news. Anyways, that's my report. Nice to see you guys. I don't know if you have any questions. I'm obviously willing to answer them.

Councilman Kalwinski - Everything you just said, was that all phase one, or was that phase one and two?

Mayor McDermott - No, that was phase one. Phase two we didn't really ... we talked about Memorial Park in phase two. I know Councilman Barry's out there. We were hoping to get the South Hammond Fire Station done in phase two. I'm committed to the South Hammond Fire Station. I don't know if it's gonna be done with ARP money. I don't think we're gonna be able to afford to do the South Hammond Fire Station with ARP money. I'm committed to the South Hammond Fire Station. I want Councilman Emerson to know that and I want the Hammond Fire Department to know that. Especially because we are literally knocking down old Station #5 within the next couple of weeks. And the South Hammond Fire Station is the combined station that is gonna take over for the #5 and the #7's territories. But, yes, Councilman Mark, all the projects I mentioned were already approved by the Council and the Mayor during phase one. But we approved an amount that we thought was gonna be accurate and my report is, unfortunately, it's not as accurate as we'd hoped. Questions?

Councilman Kalwinski - The ARP dollars were intended to offset our losses during the pandemic, some of it. How much did we allocate toward the losses we incurred during the pandemic out of the ARP dollars? Do you know?

Mayor McDermott - So, are you talking about lost revenue from our budget, Councilman? You're talking budgetary losses?

Councilman Kalwinski - Yes.

Mayor McDermott - Yeah, none, so far. None.

Councilman Kalwinski - But we're supposed to take some of the ARP dollars into and put it in the General Fund to manage the losses we incurred, right?

Mayor McDermott - We could have done that. We chose not to. We did projects with it. You could do that. In fact, I know Gary, who's getting over 200% compared to what we're getting, they're using a decent amount of that towards their budget. You have to go through calculations, our Controller would have to prove the losses to do that, and we could do that, easily, if we had the money. So we would have to go through a lost revenue calculation and if we did that then we could prove to the government, if it was \$2 million of lost revenue and we could prove that, we could use \$2 million of ARP money for our General Fund budget. True. We didn't do that.

MAYOR’S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - It wasn’t clear that (unclear)

Mayor McDermott - No, no, no, that’s true what you’re saying. We just haven’t done that yet. Phase one was all projects, sir.

Councilman Kalwinski - Okay.

Mayor McDermott - I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but when you think about it, I don’t think anybody’s too shocked because when you’re paying \$5 plus for gas, a lot of our projects, you know, the materials to get here are all sky rocketing in cost so everything is different. The good news is we were the first city to bid our projects out so I can only imagine other cities that are gonna be doing work next summer and the year after that. The world’s changed and everything’s more expensive and the money that we got, hopefully, is gonna go a longer way than some of the people that are in the future. But, anyway, I don’t know if you have any other questions. But, I hate to be the bearer of bad news but I just want to be transparent about where we are. I’ll be talking to you all about the proposals for round two, alright. If it matters to anybody, I went through and we did pretty well spacing it out across the city. If there’s any Councilman that could be salty, because there’s not a lot of projects in his district it’s Councilman Dave, quite frankly, and that’s my district as well. It’s getting projects, it’s just not nearly the high dollar projects that are going on in other parts of the city and it’s not because I don’t love the 5<sup>th</sup> District, that’s where I live. It’s just the projects seem to be a lot of them in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a lot of them in the 1<sup>st</sup>, a couple of them in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, you know, a couple of them in the 6<sup>th</sup>, but the projects in the 6<sup>th</sup>, like the bridge that’s expensive, is gonna help the residents in the 5<sup>th</sup> also because I’ll use that bridge every day of my life, probably. So, even though it may be in one district, or in Councilman Barry’s district, you know there’s a couple projects in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and even though it’s in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, it’s gonna help the 5<sup>th</sup> too. Because the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> intersect, you know. They’re real close. So, anyway, I didn’t mean to talk a lot. I apologize for the length. It’s just I went through this today with the Controller and I wanted to be transparent with the Council about where we stand, so. If there’s no other questions, I’ll say thank you and move on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE (minutes)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MINUTES APPROVED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to approve the claims from June 8, 2022 through June 22, 2022. Claim #3670 through claim #3940, in the amount of \$4,118,860.12.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approve claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

22-20 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for Economic Development Purposes in 2022

22-21 An Ordinance Vacating a 14-Foot-Wide Alley of the 5200 Block of Hohman Avenue Lying between Rimbach Street & Muenich Court in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

22-22 An Ordinance Vacating a Variable-Width Alley of the 100 Block Sibley St. lying between Sibley & Rimbach St. in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

No One Spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Kalwinski- Just a quick announcement, the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association will be meeting tomorrow at 6:30 at the Hammond Mohawks at 141<sup>st</sup> and Calumet Avenue at 6:30 until approximately 8pm. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Spitale - Brought out 22-20.

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Torres - Brought out 22-21 & 22-22.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - Met on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, we approved \$84,000 for the Highland and Lyons 800 block parking reconfiguration design. Uh, we also approved \$67,525 for Hohman Avenue Phase 1 Reconstruction Supplemental Utility Work with the Reith Riley Construction Company. We also approved \$41,380.62 for the Schneider Street Storm Water Project Change Order Number 2 for the light pole relocation, unanticipated concrete removal, and additional asphalt milling. The next meeting will be held July 5<sup>th</sup>. The work study session will be held at 5:15 and the meeting will follow at 5:30 pm. Thank you.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:  
Thur., July 14<sup>th</sup>; Whiting Robertsdale; Mascot Hall of Fame; 6:30pm

Councilwoman Venecz- I would like to thank everyone who filled out an application for the free security light program. Uh, we had about 120 people apply for the program that offers 60 lights. So it's a hugely successful program. I thank everyone for their interest and you will be receiving notification within the next week or so. Uh, whether or not you qualify for the light or not. It was on a first come, first-served basis and unfortunately, we can't serve, but there's always next year. So, thank you.

ORDINANCE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING-FINAL PASSAGE

22-20 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for Economic Development Purposes in 2022

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

Councilman Spitale- Yes, the Innkeepers Tax is for marketing purposes, this is for promotional events and advertising. Thank you

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-20)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9551 PASSED

22-21 An Ordinance Vacating a 14-Foot-Wide Alley of the 5200 Block of Hohman Avenue Lying between Rimbach Street & Muenich Court in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for final passage.

Councilman Torres-This is vacating a 14-Foot-Wide Alley west of the 5200 block of Hohman between Rimbach St. and Muenich Ct. and for the purpose of redevelopment and support of the Downtown project. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-21)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9552 PASSED

ORDINANCE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

22-22 An Ordinance Vacating a Variable-Width Alley of the 100 Block Sibley St. Lying between Sibley & Rimbach St. in the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for final passage.

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to amend ordinance 22-22 with ordinance 22-22A in its entirety.

Councilman Torres- On the first ordinance 22-22. Uh, there was a typo and that's why it's being replaced by 22-22A. The error has been corrected. And actually, the ordinance is to vacate a variable width alley in the 100 block of Sibley Street lying between Sibley and Rimbach Street. Also needed for the completion of the Downtown project. And the error was that the 100 block on one page was referred to as the 1100 block. That was corrected. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE ( amendment)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 AMENDMENT ADOPTED

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 22-22A as amended)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9553 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

22-23 An Ordinance Vacating an 89.63' foot Portion of the 100 Block of Sibley Street

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on July 11, 2022 at 5:15p.m. and a Public Hearing on July 11, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of 22-23)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

22-24 An Ordinance Vacating a 52 foot Portion of Rimbach St. lying between Hohman Ave. to the East and extending approximately 226.50 feet West

Councilman Torres, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee with a meeting on July 11, 2022 at 5:00p.m. and a Public Hearing on July 11, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of 22-24)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Venecz- Yes, I neglected under Committee Reports to announce that on July 11<sup>th</sup>, which is our next Council Meeting, the Animal Control Committee will be meeting at 4:30pm to discuss ordinance 22-19.

Councilwoman Alexander- I wanted to remind the class of 2022 that College Bound Applications are due this Friday, July 1st at City Hall. And then I also saw that our Fire Chief had put out about fireworks and just wanted residents to know between the hours of 5 pm and two hours after sunset from June 29th ,30th July 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th , 6th 7th 8th and 9th. And then on July 4th, from 10am to midnight for fireworks to be put off in the city. And just also be mindful of keeping everybody safe. Make sure you keep water, water hoses, buckets, and things like that to make sure that things do not catch fire throughout the city on the 4th. Thank you.

Councilwoman Venecz- Thank you, Councilwoman Alexander, for announcing those hours for fireworks. Uh, and my request to the neighborhoods is please be respectful of your neighbors. Um, you know, don't blow somebody out of their chair with these big booms. It's frightening for some of the seniors. It's frightening for some of the pets. Um, it's just all around frightening. So, please try and be respectful of your neighborhood. And speaking of fireworks, on the 4th of July, the City of Hammond will be celebrating the 4th beginning at 6:30 pm with the Bill Porter Orchestra followed by fireworks at 9:30 pm at the Pavilion. Please bring your chairs and blankets outside food and drinks is welcomed, and just enjoy our Independence. Thank you.

Councilman Emerson- I received a notice about the free Soccer Camp July 11-15 from 6pm to 8pm for boys and girls ages 5 to 13 years old at Edison Park in Hammond and that's located at Jackson and Mulberry, play for prizes, learn basics, soccer drills, online registration at CFC-Church.net or call 21-931-5177 for more information hurry and register space is limited. And this is sponsored by the Christian Fellowship Church. Thank you.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Ken Rosek- I would like to talk about a section of town called Hessville, and the Briar East Woods that are in the center of Hessville. I would like to point out that a person from the United States Department of Interior and Wildlife Service, Ms. Elizabeth McCluskey, did a report for the City of Hammond and Indiana Department of Transportation. She was astonished when she discovered that there were dunes in this area. I would like to say that we have numerous people against this project of building a bridge through this area. Hessville preserved our dunes during the early 1900s. When we were not a part of Hammond. Now, 100 years later, now that we are part of Hammond, looks like Hammond's going to be the one that finally does them in. Now, I think this is a tragedy. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE (adjourn meeting)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0


MEETING ADJOURNED


2022 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

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

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.

  
Dave Woerpel, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:  
  
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:45 p.m.  
cb/dw

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk