

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on November 14, 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, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: Torres

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Good to see everybody. Obviously, I've been a little busy lately so this will probably be a shorter address than you guys are used to. I want to thank everybody for their hard work putting forth on the city budget. Megan and her staff worked real hard to put everything together, despite the fact that she was getting married and had a lot of things going on. I want to say thank you to City Controller Megan and the staff of the Controller's Office, as well as the City Council, for working real hard on the budget. I appreciate all your hard work. Sincerely, so thank you. I want to say thank you to Aileen, the Special Events Coordinator, for another Veteran's Day Parade. Great Veteran's Day Parade. We did get it in despite the weather. I want to remind everybody the Tree Lighting Ceremony is on next Friday. It's on the 25th of November. We're gonna have a real reindeer. Don't want to miss that. It's at 5:00 p.m. Both lanes are open in Downtown Hessville on Kennedy. We're meeting on confirming the truck route issues as we speak. I know there's been a lot of questions about that. We got a lot of comments back from Mayor's Night Out that helped us focus on these issues. So I want to thank the public for attending Mayor's Night Out. Even though it was not an easy one, I think we got a lot of good feedback and we use that feedback to help make things better. I know there was some confusion and I want to thank the City Engineer for jumping in on that issue. We had a potential no lane situation on Kennedy Avenue which was unacceptable and I want to thank Dean Button for jumping on that in a timely manner. I want to commit to Councilman Mark Kalwinski that before this term is over, 14 months, I'm gonna make sure that the Pulaski Park pool is financed, not completed, it's gonna take a while, as you know. But right now, Councilman Mark has offered to put a million dollars of his gaming money up towards the pool construction, which I appreciate very much, we still have about \$2million left over from the bond proceed and we still have a gap after that, I know you're aware of that but I want to say, on the record, that that's something I intend to do in the next fourteen months. So, it's something, it's the last park project that was not completed, for a number of reasons, and I'm gonna, in front of the Council, in front of Councilman Mark, guarantee that it's gonna be done before this term is up. So, it'll be financed before this term is up. That's one thing that's still hanging out there and I don't like things hanging out there. So, that's all I got.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of October 24, 2022 and place on file.

ROLL CALL VOTE (minutes)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Torres

Motion carried 8/0/1 MINUTES APPROVED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to approve claims dated 10/26/22 and ending with claims dated 11/9/22. Claim #6349 through claim #6757, in the amount of \$13,448,288.36.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Torres

Motion carried 8/0/1 MINUTES APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler - This weekend, Saturday, November 19th, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. we will be hosting a turkey giveaway. I just wanted to thank Councilwoman Alexander and Councilman Rakos and Clerk Golec for their support in helping this event. The Ophelia Steen Center is also supporting and sponsoring as well as the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and the Ministerial Alliance of Hammond and the Greater Vicinities. So I want to thank everybody for coming together. We're giving away 250 turkeys to families for Thanksgiving. Also supporting the Area Career Center who's having their community dinner that same night. And Hammond Central is having their community dinner later on this week.

Councilman Emerson - I am also donating to that. I had trouble hearing you on Zoom. I'm also donating to the turkey giveaway.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Kalwinski - Brought out 22-48.

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Brought out 22-47.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - We approved \$115,519.50 for supplemental resurfacing work to the resurfacing program. We also approved \$364,300 for a new traffic signal at the Sportsplex at 6600 Indianapolis Blvd. The next meeting will be Monday, November 21, with a work study session at 4:30 p.m. and a meeting at 5 p.m.

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

- Nov. 15; East Ham'd Pullman C.W.; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
- Edison Community Watch; Wed., Dec 7; Edison School; 6:30 p.m.
- Harrison Park C.W.; Tues., Nov. 6; VFW on Hohman; 6 p.m.
- Hessville C.W.; Thur. Nov. 17; 6 p.m.; Jean Shepherd Center
- Irving Community Watch; Fri., Dec. 2; Irving School; 9:15 a.m.
- Whiting-Robertsdale C.W.; Thur., Dec. 14; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

22-47 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Fund #2256 and Fund #2257) for the City of Hammond Opioid Settlement Funds

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

Councilwoman Venecz - As everyone knows, there was a \$26 million settlement made nationwide for the opioid crisis. Of the \$26 million of the national settlement, \$507 million will be coming to the City of Hammond and it will be a I'm sorry, that is incorrect. The City of Hammond will receive approximately \$2.4 million and it will be distributed over a period of several years. Our Controller has requested two new line items for these funds to be distributed from.

ROLL CALL VOTE (22-47)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Torres

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9578 PASSED

22-48 An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the City of Hammond for Zoning purposes and Amending Ordinance No. 8514 (an ordinance establishing a zoning plan for the City of Hammond, including the regulations and maps to administer the Zoning Plan in order to provide for orderly growth and development within the city, all in accordance with the Comprehensive land use plan, as amended) for Property Commonly known as 1051 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, Indiana

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

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - This ordinance has to do with rezoning the property known as Luke gas station on (unclear) Indianapolis Blvd. across from the overpass at the casino. (Unclear) it's going from an I-2 manufacturing district to a commercial district, which is (unclear) zoning for this kind of development. The gas station and the building will be torn down, as well as the pumps. The pumps will be reduced from twelve to eight pumps and the building site will be reconfigured to make room for a USR building, which is a quick service restaurant with a drive thru so that there'll be an addition to the property when the rebuilding and the new buildings go up.

ROLL CALL VOTE (22-48)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Torres

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9579 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

22R-18 A Resolution of the Hammond Common Council Approving the First Amendment to Development Agreement among the City of Hammond, Indiana, the City of Hammond, Hammond Redevelopment Commission and NWI Hohman, LLC regarding the Bank Calumet Building Project

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption.

Councilwoman Venecz - Being that Councilman Torres is not here this evening, he asked me to introduce the resolution. This is the information that I have on the ordinance. It is a resolution approving the first amendment to the Development Agreement between Hammond Redevelopment Commission and NWI Hohman LLC Developer. Initially there was a \$24 million investment amount as we discussed in caucus, due to inflation that is now approximately \$28 million. The developer is requesting an additional \$750 thousand due to inflation an supply chain issues. This amendment was approved by Redevelopment last week. The rehab started in September and is moving forward quickly. Around 100 market rate residential units in this nine story building.

Councilman Kalwinski - During the committee meeting, General Counsel Kevin Smith also let us know that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation also upped their funding from, I believe, \$5 million to \$8.5 million and the city was prudent in waiting for the response from the Indiana Economic Development Commission before we upped our amount. So they did, and so did we.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (22R-18)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Torres

Motion carried

8/0/1

RESOLUTION NO. R18 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Emerson - I'd just like to thank everybody that showed up to the Veteran's Day Parade, November 5th, and as well as the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial at Douglas and Lyman, on 11/11 at 11 a.m.

Councilwoman Venecz - I wanted to especially thank Ernie Dillon for all his hard work at the dedication on Friday. I know a lot of hard work went into that project and the only thing that happened was it was windy and cold. But other than that it was absolutely beautiful, so thank you to Ernie Dillon.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Ken Rocek - I'm here to discuss the Dunes Woodlands in Hessville again. Hessville is unique in Hammond and has always had a lot of woods there growing up. No lakes but plenty of woods. Morton's graduates and alumni benefitted from these woods growing up. A lot of us are botanists, biologists, landscape architects, writers and a lot of them were influenced by growing up in these woods. I distributed three stories to the Council from people from Hessville. There was a hill at 169th and Grand that was in the largest Dunes in all of Hammond. It was referred to as hill 99. The area was flattened and there's no trace of it left. It is now one giant asphalt parking lot with some stored in it now. Some could have been saved but that's not how this works out. Jean Shepherd described Hammond as desolate to become one of the ugliest pieces of real estate this side of the craters of the moon. He was talking about the utter destruction of the land that was going on in the '30's and '40's. There was a cleanup last weekend at 171st and Grand and we cleaned up the entire woods over there. People were complaining that it was dirty over there. It is surprising that some of the city officials complain about this area and they have the power to do something yet don't. They would rather demonize the area as for a reason to develop it.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to adjourn

ROLL CALL VOTE (adjourn)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Torres

Motion carried

8/0/1

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	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	P			
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P		
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		
Barry Tyler	E	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E		
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P		
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	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	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: 6:30 p.m.
cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk


Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council