

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on December 13, 2021 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.

Council Coordinator Carmen I. Balboa facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - Good evening. Mayor couldn't be here so I'm here to give his report. Not that long ago I reported to you that the city was making an insurance change. So, I'm happy to report that all the employees in the city have now gone through the open enrollment process and we're told that there were no issues with that. So it went very well. Every employee should be expecting to get their insurance cards by the end of next week and as you probably are aware from what we've talked about in the past, we're expecting that this change could save the city a minimum of \$500 thousand, and hopefully if things go well, it actually should be quite a bit more than that and should have very little impact on any employees coverage, in fact, the impact that it does have should be all positive from what we've seen so far. So, we're excited about that. We do want to encourage employees to download the United Healthcare App so they can also have an electronic version of their card as well. So, just want to get that out in public record for everybody. I want to talk briefly about two of the resolutions that you have in front of you today in regards to the vaccination policy for the city. These resolutions essentially do two things, and I'm gonna keep this very short, the short version of it. I know everybody's familiar with the resolutions, you have them in your packet and I'm sure you've read through them. But they essentially do two things, they require all new employees for the city of Hammond to be fully vaccinated and all employees that are trying for a departmental transfer or a promotion to be fully vaccinated. Despite lots of different information that is given out there, the fact is this, fully vaccinated people are less likely to get Covid, they are less likely to spread the virus, and they are also less likely to have severe effects from Covid if they are vaccinated. Those are facts despite all the information that's thrown out there by a lot of people. So really, what this resolution is really doing is trying to protect city employees, city residents and our entire community. Because our employees interact with the residents of the city of Hammond in lots of different ways. So if they are better protected, the community is better protected as well. That is the very quick and short version of those resolutions but I just wanted to say that briefly. We had the Mayor's Night Out last week and we talked about the train results and heard lots of different opinions from different people in regards to the survey that we did. I'm not here to necessarily rehash everything that was talked about at that meeting. I just

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon cont. - want to be publicly read the results of the survey that we had as of Mayor's Night Out. We had 630 responses from the residents in that area. So I'm going to give the results of that relatively quickly. The first question on the survey was. "How often are you impacted by a stopped train in Hessville?" Never was 3%; monthly was 8%; weekly was 29%; daily was 38%; and more than once a day was 22%, and I am rounding if it was 5 or higher or 4 and lower. So that gives you that most people, in this case, about 59% are daily or more than once a day, impacted by. "How strongly do you believe the stopped trains in Hessville that you would like your city government to address and solve?" Very strong is 73%; somewhat strong was 11%; neutral was 4%; not that strong was 4%; not strong at all was 8%. So again, "How strongly do you believe that stopped trains in Hessville are an issue?" About 85% either said somewhat strong or very strong. "Are you in favor of the city partnering with the State of Indiana and the Railroad Companies to build a bridge to help eliminate on the street crossings and to help solve trains blocking intersections in Hessville?" Yes at 81%; No at 19%. That's it. So quite a few people said "Yes, they're in favor." "How strongly are you in favor of the bridge being built?" Very strongly in favor, 64%; Somewhat in favor, 12%; Neutral, 3%; Not that much in favor, 3%; Not that much in favor, 3%; Not at all in favor, 18%. So how strongly? 76% are either somewhat in favor or very strongly in favor of the bridge being built. "The proposed pathway to the bridge is through the undisturbed wooded area sometimes referred to as Briar East Woods that will result in hundreds of trees being cut down and habitat disturbed. Knowing this, how strongly are you in favor of the bridge being built?" Very strongly in favor, 47%; Somewhat in favor, 16%; Neutral, 5%; Not that much in favor, 5%; Not at all in favor, 26%. Lastly, "Do you believe that building the bridge is a good investment by the city and that it will positively impact the quality of life in Hessville?" Yes, 75%; No 25%. Those are the results from the survey. Those are numbers. It's not opinions. Those are the people who responded, and obviously in the area that we chose specifically that we thought had the greatest impact by this specific bridge being built and by the train crossings in that area. So, again, I know many of you attended the Mayor's Night Out and lots of information was passed back and forth. Lots of opinions were given back and forth. But those are the specific results from the train survey that we did. Last two points I want to make, ending on positive nature, Indiana created a program that they called READY, which is the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative, it was created specifically by the State to promote strategic investments that will make Indiana a magnet for talent in economic growth, and with that the State of Indiana allocated \$500 million towards that program. I just wanted to report to you that Anne Anderson, our Director of Economic Development, and myself, attended on Hammond's behalf, the Northwest Indiana Forum's presentation to Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Part of the reason we did that, not just because we support the region, obviously, but because if it is approved we will receive millions of dollars for our future Downtown Hammond Station. Not the Gateway Station, not the South Station, but the actual station in Downtown Hammond. Also there will be other projects in Hammond that could receive money if the forums application is approved. I believe there were seventeen regions that applied for these dollars and there's \$500 million, so we'll see how they end up approving and divvying up the money and we'll report back to you when we do find out the response to our submission. But I do want to thank, publically, the Northwest Indiana Forum for putting together that presentation and including Hammond as part of it. Lastly, I'm happy to report that last week the Board of Public Works and Safety awarded to the low bidder, Rieth-Riley, the Downtown Hammond Hohman Avenue Redesign Project. It's exciting to know that the first steps of what we've been talking about it seems like forever at this point for the changes that we're gonna make in Downtown Hammond per the plan that we had put together by Jeff Speck and our city team. The first steps are actually

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon cont. - moving forward. The low bid was awarded, which means when the weather changes, it gets a little warmer and you can start seeing some of the development occur, you're gonna start seeing some of the construction in Downtown Hammond, and that's one of the first steps for the entire Downtown Hammond Revitalization Plan that we've been talking about for quite a while. That's all I have and if there's any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

Councilman Kalwinski - Going back to the insurance, previous years we've done blood tests around this time of the year. Is the city gonna be asking ... are we doing that again, I guess, is the question?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon cont. - That is a good question. I'm gonna ask if Megan, our City Controller, can come up and answer that for you.

City Controller Flores - Yes, Councilman, as a part of the Wellness Discount for your insurance, we will be offering that through Comp Care if you weren't able to go to your regular doctor during the year and have bloodwork done. Amy usually send that email out in January and we usually offer dates through February and into March as well. So we will be doing that again for 2022.

Councilman Kalwinski - Same sort of panel as previously, regarding what they want to test?

City Controller Flores - No changes from our end. If there are any changes it's on Comp Care side.

Councilman Kalwinski - Thanks.

Councilman Tyler - Can you give us an update on the Columbia Avenue fence?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - Yes. Thank you for bringing that up, Councilman Tyler. So we have decided to, I believe everybody is aware of this but just to give the short version for people that don't recall. Obviously, the Columbia Avenue fence is in disrepair, it's been this way for quite a while. The reason it's a complicated project is a long time ago, prior to Mayor Tom being the Mayor, I think it was under Mayor Dedelow, somehow it was approved that a fence could be built on residents property, meaning the city does not own the property that the fence was built on. However, the city paid for the fence. I assume that was done appropriately and the right way, however, it makes it very complicated when it goes into disrepair if the residents aren't able to repair the fence, we have what we have now. Which is an eyesore along Columbia Avenue. So we decided, as a city, working in conjunction with Councilman Tyler and Mayor McDermott, that the fence is going to be replaced. We went door to door, and I shouldn't say we as in me personally, but I know Councilman Tyler, I know Africa Tarver, our Executive Director of Planning and Development was heavily involved. We went door to door with paperwork asking them to sign off on giving us permission to replace this fence and put a new fence in its place. Every resident has signed that paper except for one. So what we decided at this point is to go forward with the project. We will replace the fence for all the residents that have signed off. The one resident who has not signed off, I believe our Corporation Council has sent a letter to them letting them know that if necessary we will

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon cont. - eminent domain a certain portion of the property where the fence needs to be placed, otherwise you will notice one hole along the fence, but the money has been allocated. I know Councilman Tyler is paying for a significant portion of that. Mayor Tom is also going to. The last I heard, the supply, the fence was actually ordered and Hammond Fence, who is going to do the job, said in about five weeks, as long as the weather doesn't stop them. And we were told they can do it in winter time, you know, in cold weather, the fence construction should begin. Now that is contingent on getting the fence supplied, the reason we're waiting five weeks, we're waiting for the fence to actually be delivered to Hammond Fence and as we all know with Covid there's been supply issues throughout the country, so that's why. We should be about five weeks away from that project starting, which we're very excited to see happen.

Councilwoman Alexander - Is it going to be the same type of fence or is it a different fence for the properties over there?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - It is a different fence. So, that fence that was put in a long time ago was also the same fence that was done at Parrish View in property that we did own and what we found after time is the slats come out quite a bit. It doesn't take much to knock them out. So the new fence is going to be ... it's gonna look a lot more modern. It's a lot more sturdy. There won't be slats that could be knocked out. So I think ... I don't know how to describe it to you without having a picture of it. But it's a nicer looking fence. It almost gives the look of like a brick type facade even though it's not, obviously. I think one of the places that we took it from, and if you really want to see it, I think in Munster right off of Fischer Street there a development there where they have the same fence. I think we kind of stole their concept because we thought it looked really nice.

Councilman Tyler - Along with that, I know a part of the new agreement is that when there are issues with the fence, like if something does break or if a piece is missing then Hammond Fence is able to come in and repair that at no cost to the resident. So we won't run into the same issue that we're in now. The last thing that I'll add is that before the end of the year we were assured that Hammond Fence would go and repair any areas where the fence is missing. So that right now what we have is issues where people are kind of walking through people's backyards and using any spots where the fence is missing as a cut through. So Hammond Fence is going to repair that until they are able to go in and install the brand new fence.

Councilman Kalwinski - That's a long run of fence, is any of that fence salvageable or gonna be used anywhere else by the city?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - I don't think it could be repurposed. I think it's in too much of disrepair at this point. I would hope that it's recyclable at the very least but I don't know the answer to that. I'm assuming Hammond Fence would remove the fence and make sure it gets to the appropriate place.

Councilman Kalwinski - Do you know the total cost of the fence between both shared amounts?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - Off the top of my head I don't. I don't know if, Councilman Tyler, you're aware?

Councilman Tyler - It's about \$180 thousand.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - How are we going to defend this if the State Board of Accounts wants to look at that or the Feds want to look at that because in the past we were told there's no paperwork substantiating that we actually put that fence up initially. So does this put us in any jeopardy as a city?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - What I would tell you is that we had our attorneys look at it prior to going forward with the project and we were told by our attorneys that what we're doing is the legal, correct way of replacing the fence based on getting to this juncture and how it was done twenty plus years ago. So, the answer, as I understand it from our attorneys is, we are doing this legally and safely as far as from a city perspective of making sure we're not doing something that, you know, we're not able to do.

Councilman Kalwinski - I only bring it up because, as you know, Councilmen spent money inappropriately on private property and went to jail for that.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - No, it's a fair question and, you know, knowing that we don't have some of the paperwork from, you know, like I'm saying twenty years. But whatever it is, I think it's twenty plus years. It is kind of interesting to find out how they put the fence in in the first place but again, I have been assured and our attorneys looked at it and we are doing it the appropriate legal way. Without trying to have a scandal that other communities have had in the past. We obviously don't do that. We're gonna make sure that we're doing this the right way. If you drive down Columbia, anybody that goes down Columbia that goes past that fence, if you're not disgusted at what you see, then there's something wrong. We had to figure this out and make changes to that fence to improve the entire area. I think I talked about this the last time I was here. Down Columbia, with the water tower finally being repaired, with the old Stardust Bowling Alley finally being repaired and repurposed, Legends has been fixed up, there was an old building there right next to First Midwest Bank that has just been renovated and repaired. We're finally seeing what I would consider a more attractive, clean looking environment and area for commercial and retail. If anything this fence is one of the final hurdles that needs to be addressed for the entire area to just look better.

Councilman Kalwinski - I just raised that because of concern for my colleagues. I don't want them to be in any jeopardy for spending dollars.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - Fair point.

Council President Woerpel - Phil, it's my understanding, because I actually asked one of the residents that was there when the fence was put up and it was my understanding, and I'm not swearing by this, but it was my understanding the way it was put up is when the sidewalk got moved to the curb, that was still part of the right of way. That's what the person I talked to said that she recalled is all.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - Yeah, I can't speak to it but that would make sense if that was the case.

Council President Woerpel - Don't quote me on it but I was told that by one of the residents that the way that it was put up again is that was still part of the parkway, I think it's called, but no, it's not Brian. That's just what the person told me.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Brian Poland, Director of City Planning - By the way, I'm not insinuating that any administration in the past did something the wrong way. It's just because we don't necessarily have paperwork in front of us to show us. We're just going forward the best way that we can in this situation that we're in.

Council President Woerpel - The other question that I had, when you say Rieth-Riley, in the Downtown, are they gonna re-pave the street or are you talking about like underground stuff too?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - It's both. So it's a complete reconstruction of Hohman Avenue but it's also a complete water main reconstruction or is being replaced as well. So this is ... if you've gone to any of the Planning meeting's we've had with Jeff Speck, when we put the new pictures up showing all new landscaping and the extended sidewalks and, you know, the new signage and everything else that comes along, the new parking, obviously. This project is exactly what you saw in some of those visuals when we were presenting throughout the city. So, yeah, it's a complete reconstruction of Hohman Avenue.

Councilman Kalwinski - Are the curbs moving or are they gonna remain where they're at?

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - I believe some of the curbs are moving. I don't think it's every single curb, maybe Brian may know that. But I believe some of the curbs are moving.

Director of City Planning, Brian Poland spoke from audience.

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - So, yes. There will be some bump outs at some of the intersections, some of it will remain the same. But it's definitely gonna put Downtown, that Downtown corridor in a position where, let's say, a restaurant wanted to locate there. They would have additional space to have like an outdoor seating area for example, which you see throughout other downtown's in other communities throughout the region.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021 and place on file.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approval)

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 November 17, 2021 through December 8, 2021. Claim #5992 through claim #6499, inclusive.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARING

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Kalwinski- Just a public announcement that I received communication that there will be no meeting in December for Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association. Just want that on the record. Thank you.

Councilwoman Alexander-Recently we opened up the registration for the Holiday Treats Giveaway. We just recently closed that registration as we've met our capacity. We want to thank all of those that have sponsored from the council to make donations. We are also still accepting donations for new and unwrapped toys that can be dropped off here at the Council Office, the Civic Center, or First Tee. The giveaway will be on December 16th at the Hammond Civic Center and it's for Hammond residents that have already signed up and they must have their ID's and wear a mask and have the children present when they show up on December 16th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Kalwinski - Brought out 21-48.

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Brought out 21-46 and 21-47.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - We met on December 6th. We approved:

- \$16,440 for Speed Calming Signs on 173rd near Purdue Northwest;
- \$104,000 redesign of Hohman Avenue North approach at Sibley;
- \$181,132 for Dowling Park and Hessville draining, drainage analysis;
- \$264,000 for Hessville drainage phase one;
- \$538,191.49 for the Capital Improvement Board portion of Hohman Avenue phase one reconstruction;
- \$300,000 for improvements to Tapper between Lyons and Highland;

and just an FYI Alexander is close to going to bid. I know there are a couple of gentlemen who are very interested in that. That will probably be January or February and look for construction to begin in April or May. The next meeting for the Capital Improvement Boards will be December 20th. Work study session begins at 4pm here in the Council Chambers.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - There are no meetings for the remainder of December. The first meeting will be in January will be Harrison Park Crime Watch, meets at the VFW on Hohman Avenue, providing we don't get some snow that would prohibit us from traveling safely. So just watch Facebook for that announcement. And as usual, just with this holiday season, please be aware of your surroundings and always call 911. If you see anything suspicious that just kind of hits you in the guy. Because community is not just about me, it's about us. And Merry Christmas to everyone from Crime Watch Hammond. Thank you.

ORDINANCE 3RD READING FINAL PASSAGE

21-46 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Elected City Officials for the City of Hammond, Indiana Commencing January 1, 2022 Be it Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana

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

Councilwoman Venecz - As we discussed in the caucus, I'd like to read about the salaries of elected officials that this ordinance addresses. The Mayor from the Civil City receives \$100,057 from the Water Department, Sanitary District and Port Authority \$16,562. The Clerk receives \$90,450. And the Council people will receive \$33,784. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 21-46)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9532 PASSED

21-47 An Ordinance Authoring the City Controller to Transfer Funds from One Line Item to another within various city 2021 Budgets

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

Councilwoman Venecz- This is an ordinance that we do at the end of every year. It's a cleanup ordinance moving funds from one line item to another.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 21-47)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9533 PASSED

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE cont.

21-48 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: 2350 White Oak Ave.

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

Councilman Kalwinski-This property was known as Dusty’s Tap for many years. And when it was purchased by the new owner, they took out the bar, and are putting in one more rental unit in the building so that it will go from four units to five units and no bar. And so requires to be reclassified from a C-1 local commercial district to an R-2 family residential district. So that’s what we’re approving tonight. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage of 21-48)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 ORDINANCE NO. 9534 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

21R-31 A Resolution Supporting Executive Order 21-45 Respecting New Employee Covid-19 Vaccination Policy

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

Councilwoman Venecz- This is a resolution simply in support of the Mayor’s Executive Order stating that any new employee must be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Councilwoman Alexander- This might be a question for Phil regarding this. Understanding that they are going to be needing to be vaccinated, new employees and transfer promotions, are they still hired into those positions and given a window of time? Or are they not allowed to be hired or transfer or promote?

Chief of Staff Taillon- I’m sorry, can you repeat that. I missed the first part of that question.

Councilwoman Alexander- Yes, I’ll repeat it. I was saying as far as the vaccinations for the new employees or the transfer employees, are they still hired into those positions and given a window? Or are they not given a window at all to be a new hire or transfer or be promoted?

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTION cont.

Chief of Staff Taillon-They have an opportunity to provide proof to the city that they are fully vaccinated and it's outlined in the resolution. It states exactly what fully vaccinated means. Obviously, it's different depending on which company you're getting it from. So, I think at the time that they're being offered the position, they would need to provide our Human Resources Department, some sort of proof of their vaccination at that time.

Councilman Tyler- Does that mean that we're putting a guideline on any of the hiring documents so they know in advance if they want to apply that they will be asked to show verification?

Chief of Staff Taillon- It has been added to the application. So, when you apply, you will see it. I don't know the exact terminology, but there's something on the application that states that you have to supply or give us your vaccination record. I do want to bring this up because I know it came up in caucus that this does not apply to employees that through a contract receive a promotion based on how many years of service they've had. So, for example, if a police officer becomes a lieutenant after X amount of years, that still will occur. They do not in that situation have to provide any type of vaccination because that is through a contract that they have with the city. So, these are specifically for new hires and then also people that are looking to transfer to a different department or be promoted, you know, as stated in the resolution.

Councilman Kalwinski-And what record will the city accept?

Chief of Staff Taillon- Well, we can have our attorney, Corporation Counsel come up. I would, you know, based on anywhere you go now, there's a lot of places where they're asking you for your vaccination status. Typically, you're providing a vaccination card showing the dates that you've been vaccinated. I would assume that would be what we require. I would suppose that we could look at if a doctor provides a note for somebody that's saying this person is fully vaccinated and it's signed by a medical professional.

Councilman Kalwinski- I asked because, as you know, some of these cards are forged now. So, do we go to the state or do they... will you ask for the state's certification that you can get online or what will be valid here because it doesn't say right there.

Chief of Staff Taillon- Yeah, here's the five items listed in the Resolution and Executive Order: 1. The record of immunization from a health care provider or pharmacy. 2. A copy of the Covid-19 vaccination record card. 3. A copy of medical records documenting the vaccination. 4. A copy of immunization records from a public health state or tribal immunization system. 5. A copy of any other official documentation that contains the type of vaccine administered, date of administration, and the name of the health care professional or clinic site administering the vaccine.

Councilman Kalwinski- Anyone of those or a combination of two out of the five?

Chief of Staff Taillon- Any one of the five will work.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Council President Woerpel- I assume we're talking about both resolutions even though we're on the first one, because we brought up the promotion thing too. So, are there any more questions on one of these?

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R31 ADOPTED

21R-32 A Resolution Supporting Executive Order 21-47 Respecting Employee Transfer/Promotion Covid-19 Vaccination Policy

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

Councilwoman Venecz- Being that we had overlapping discussions between one resolution and another, I have nothing more to add on this one.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R32 ADOPTED

21R-33 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Kevin Clutter as a Commissioner of the Hammond Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption

Councilwoman Venecz- Yes, Kevin Clutter has served on the Historic Preservation Commission for several terms and he's looking to continue his service, and I ask for your consideration. Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R33 ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS cont.

21R-34 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Laurie Czulno as a Commissioner of the Hammond Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved for adoption

Councilman Emerson- Laurie Czulno has served on Historic Preservation Commission. And I talked to her yesterday, and Lori, specifically, we talked about some of the things that the Preservation Committee is working on, and she enjoys it. We talked about some architects and I did also talk to another person. So, I'll save a little bit of that, but she's been developing online presentations for Hammond High, Clark, Gavit, and in the future, the building we're sitting in, which is very, interesting to me. So, I will ask that you support her for another term.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R34 ADOPTED

21R-35 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Janet S. Evans as a Commissioner of the Hammond Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption

Councilman Emerson- I spoke with Janet Evans yesterday and she has worked with Lori and other members of the Preservation Committee, uh, preserving buildings in Hammond. We talked about the library in Hessville working on some bill boards. I talked about that earlier, and of course, they're working on preservation of Morton and the landmark around Calumet Park near the Data Center. Uh, the landmark that you know, I remember seeing so in addition to the online presentations, Ms. Evans shared with me that a lot of people working day to day are worried about putting food on the table and, you know, keeping the wolf from the door aren't concerned about the history of Hammond. But we have a rich history and the committee works very hard on discovery of things presenting, especially online, the workings of including the building we're sitting in. So, I would ask for ask for your support to reaffirm Janet Evans' second term.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R35 ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS cont.

21R-36 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Christopher P. Jones as a Commissioner of the Hammond Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption

Councilman Emerson- Chris Jones, has been on the Preservation Commission for quite awhile. Uh, he's a former business owner in the city and currently a realtor and I ask that you support him for another term.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R36 ADOPTED

21R-37 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Kristin Hill as a Commissioner of the Hammond Human Relations Commission of the City of Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Emerson, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption

Councilman Emerson- Kristin Hill has been with the Human Relations Commission. And I'm asking for your support in another term. And I thank all of the people that I've sponsored tonight for serving. You know, but before I do that, I would like to say that people go to Human Relations Commission for a variety of reasons and if they have trouble with their landlord and any other where they feel they're discriminated against and that's generally where they go. I think that having her on this committee is necessary, and I would ask that you support her for another term.

Councilman Kalwinski- Is this a paid position for Ms. Hill?

Councilman Emerson- I know that in general, there are some paid per meeting stipulations but on the whole, they're not very much.

Chief of Staff Taillon- Well, I was just told that it's supposedly \$25.00 a meeting that they get paid. So, they clear less than that. So, I don't know if that answers the question.

Councilman Kalwinski- That's what Ms. Hill would receive then?

Chief of Staff Taillon- I believe so.

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Chief of Staff Taillon- Mr. President, for clarification purposes, this is the Human Relations Commission, correct? So, according to this, it's actually \$200 per meeting. The \$25 a meeting is something else.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R37 ADOPTED

21R-38 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Ivonne Rocha as a Commissioner of the Hammond Human Relations Commission of the City of Hammond, Indiana

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

Councilman Torres- Ivonne has been a member of the Human Relations Commission 4 years and she contributes a lot to the Commission and is an asset to the city. I ask my colleagues to please support her reappointment.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 9/0/0 RESOLUTION NO. R38 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Tyler- I should have announced this earlier, but in connection to Councilwoman Alexander's announcement about the Holiday Treats Giveaway, the Food Bank confirmed late last week that they are going to partner with us, too. So, the first 100 families that attend that event will get a box of food for the holidays. So, once again, the Food Bank of NWI is providing food for the Holiday Treats Giveaway. And the first 100 families that are attending will get food for the holidays. Thank you.

Councilman Emerson- I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year, and by holidays, I want to include everyone that celebrates it at different times. So, thank you.

Councilwoman Venecz- From all of us, Happy Holidays.

Councilman Tyler- Also just want to acknowledge a special guest in the audience. Mr. William Godwin who is a councilman in Gary is here to visit and just kind of witness how we do things and would like to talk to some of our IT department individuals after the meeting to kind of get a sense of how we do the hybrid meetings as they try to figure out if they want to make a change. So, I just want to acknowledge him, and thank you for coming out.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

George Stoya- My main reason for coming up and mentioning this is more an alert, more so than a complaint, and we're used to having our trains run on time, and this particular train is Republic Recycling. Last week, with the high winds coming in, the problem is it was supposed to get picked up on Monday and nobody came. I called them, and then I called the city and they told me to call them back, and I called Recycling, they said, you're right it was scheduled for that day. Finally, I got it picked up on Wednesday, right before the storms hit.

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, 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

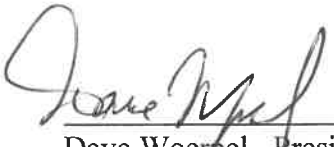
MEETING ADJOURNED


2021 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	May	June		July		Aug		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	24	14	28	12	26	9	23	13	27	12	25	8	22	13	27
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	A	P	P	
Dan Spitale		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Mark Kalwinski	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Barry Tyler	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	
Bill Emerson	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	
Dave Woerpel	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	No meeting

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: 7:00 pm
cb/dw

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk