

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on December 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 Vice President Scott Rakos presided.

Council Coordinator Carmen I. Balboa facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

Invocation by Katrina Alexander.

ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: Woerpel

TOTAL: 8

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Hi, Mr President, good to see you. I hope Councilman Woerpel is feeling better. To the rest of the Council, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, and if you're atheist, Happy Tuesday. I wanted to talk about Public Works reorganization, update you, and then update you on the injunction filed against the Franciscan Alliance and I should be done in a couple minutes here. Last time I came before you I talked about the fact that we're doing a Public Works reorganization. While we expected, when we did the buyout, that Public Works would be the most affected department and we were correct in that. In addition to a number of drivers and mechanics that took the buyout, we had our entire leadership team at Public Works take the buyout. Gary Gleason took the buyout, he was the department head for forty years. We had Johnny Perez take the buyout, Johnny Perez has been with the City of Hammond for close to three decades. In addition to the number one and number two in the department, we had the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor of the Department of Public Works, Tim Woods, took the buyout. We had 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Clyde Stout, who took the buyout and unfortunately passed away right after he took the buyout. It's a tragedy. We also had the 6<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Joey Medwitz, take the buyout. Since that time, last time I spoke to you, I informed you that Felix Gonzalez is the new Department Head of Hammond Department of Public Works. We spoke with all the employees. We spoke with the bosses. We spoke with everybody on the department. Based on that and the twenty years of experience I have running the City of Hammond, I thought that Felix would be the right choice. I think he's the kind of person that could run Public Works for a long time. He is a great leader. He is very level headed. He's a hard worker. I think he's gonna do a great job. We promoted Rhonda Dowd, who has always been the Office Manager. She was Office Manager extra ordinaire. She was also a driver. Which is above and beyond the call of duty. Whenever it would snow a lot, Rhonda was kind of Office Manager that jumped in the truck and plowed snow. I thought that showed great leadership. She's done a great job. We promoted her to be Felix's Assistant. And since the last time we spoke, we've replaced three Supervisors. I wanted to get it done before the blizzard that hit. Tim Woods, as I indicated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, has been replaced by Ryan Woods, who is not related to Tim. But Ryan has been with the City of Hammond for a long time. He's an excellent employee and I think he's

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont, - gonna do a great job. In the 4<sup>th</sup> District, to replace Clyde Stout, we replaced him with Mike Cano. A lot of you know Mike by the name "peanut". He's been with the City of Hammond for I think around fifteen years. Great worker who's gonna do a great job in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Then in the 6<sup>th</sup> District we replaced Joey Medwitz with Scott Deangelo. Scott Deangelo has been with the City of Hammond for a long time. A long time volunteer for EMS. A lot of you may know him by that. He's an excellent employee. He's gonna do a great job. So, we went full steam into the blizzard. Gary Gleason is still, technically, the Department Head so Felix is getting good opportunity to work with Gary Gleason under fire. So, it's just how we wanted it to work. As you all know, we filed an injunction against the Franciscan Alliance to keep the ER open in Downtown Hammond. I'm just gonna read some findings and facts with you all, just so you how this all went down, if you don't mind. Findings and facts by the Judge; It was uncontested that the defendant, that's Franciscan Alliance has been losing money at the Downtown Hammond location for several years. It's also uncontested that on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with two hours notice, the plaintiff, that's us, the defendant announced that it was making changes at St. Margaret Mercy Hospital. The changes included downsizing the hospital, keeping the ER open, providing a limited number of beds, and a number of other services. Franciscan issued a press release that advised certain changes would take place at the hospital but that a full service Emergency Department at the Downtown Hammond location would continue to provide 24/7 care Downtown. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, which is one month after we received the notice, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I hosted Sister Jane Marie, who is the chair woman of the Franciscan Alliance, Kevin Leighy, who is the CEO of Franciscan Alliance, Franciscan Board Member, Cal Bellamy, we all know Cal Bellamy, Mr. Hammond, and Pat Maloney, CEO of Franciscan Health Hammond. I hosted them all at my office. At this time, these are uncontested findings by the Judge, everybody agrees on all these facts, the Mayor testified that on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 that meeting, the representatives promised the defendant that St. Margaret's would maintain a full service Emergency Department in Downtown Hammond. It was uncontested that on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting the Mayor was shown a powerpoint presentation which provided plans to keep the Emergency Department open with a new entrance. The Mayor testified that members of the defendant's leadership team assured them that we would keep accepting patients. This is all going on in June of 2021. It was clear to the court that the Mayor relied upon the statement, this has been written by the Judge by the way, it's clear to the court that the Mayor relied upon the statements of the defendants leadership team and took them as a reaffirmation of the defendants earlier promise to keep the Emergency Department open in Downtown Hammond. E-mail was sent to me confirming everything that was said in that meeting and then, basically, no talk for eighteen months. A year later, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 the defendant advised the city that it was closing Franciscan Health Hammond and it followed up shortly thereafter with an email to the Hammond Fire Chief, Chief Smith, it indicated that it would not accept ambulances at the Downtown Hammond Emergency Room effective December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Two days before Christmas. Mayor testified that had he been aware that the defendant would break its promise, he would have used that time period from May of 2021 until November of 2022 to find another Emergency Department provider. Conclusions of law; this is the Judge's conclusion, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Franciscan Alliance made promises to the Mayor, through the Mayor. That the Emergency Department would remain open. The promise regarding the Emergency Department was reaffirmed in a June 2021 e-mail from the CEO to the Mayor, and the Mayor relied on these promises made to the defendant to keep the Emergency Department open. Order of the Court; the Plaintiffs motion for a preliminary injunction was granted. The Court hereby enjoins the Defendant from closing the Emergency Department presently operated in Downtown Hammond. The Emergency Department is to remain open and the defendant is ordered to take all

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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - steps necessary to ensure that the facility in Downtown Hammond remains legally licensed and operational. The defendant is prohibited, until further order of the court from taking steps to diminish or in any way reduce the healthcare currently provided to patients in the Downtown Hammond facility for a period of nine months. I drove by right before I got here and it's open, well lit, lots of cars coming in and out. So, the fact that that meeting took place with the leaders of the hospital chain and the promises they made that were relied upon, through the legal team invoked something called promissory estoppel and we have nine months to find a replacement in Downtown Hammond. I'm already in communications with two providers that are interested in meeting with us and we're gonna do everything we can to keep an emergency room in Downtown Hammond. But this is good news. It gives us nine months to operate. I don't know if you have any questions. Sorry about the long address but I figured we might as well address this.

Councilman Spitale - Mayor, is that, the tearing down, they can do that kind of stuff?

Mayor McDermott - You know, thank you Councilman Spitale, the mistake they made was promising us the E.R. If they told us right off the bat, "we're tearing it all down, too bad Hammond", we couldn't of done anything. I would of had to get to work right then and there to find a replacement. But, because they kept on telling us for eighteen months that, "The E.R. is going to remain open, don't worry. We're tearing down the hospital but the E.R. is going to remain open." Then using the Judge's language, they reneged on their promises. Using the Judge's language, they lied. They changed their mind. But we're talking, it's not a McDonald's we're talking about. We're talking about an Emergency Room. Twenty seven thousand visits by the Hammond Fire Department for the previous five years. This is not a McDonald's we are talking about. You can't lie about an E.R. So what's the motivation? Why would they lie to us? Because they didn't want people. They didn't want a competitor in Hammond. I was told all along, being honest, I said this in court so I can say it here, I was told all along, the reason St. Margaret's was keeping the presence in Downtown Hammond was greedy. They wanted to keep people in the system. So if you get shot or if you get sick and you go to that location, they're gonna funnel you to another one of their campuses. So it's good business for them to keep it in Downtown Hammond. So all along I was like, okay, we got the E.R., thank God we got the E.R., but I wasn't really thinking it was a kind gesture on their part. I thought it was a greedy gesture. Then for them to turn around and say, "Hey, we changed our mind. We're out." That's a E.R., twenty seven thousand runs over the last five years in that location, We go there ten times a day. So, it's a big deal.

Councilman Spitale - Does the State pay them money also too?

Mayor McDermott - A lot of State money. And the problem with this location is, for them, a lot of their customers come from across the border. So I imagine Indiana is quick to reimburse an Indiana hospital but I don't know how quick Illinois is to reimburse an Indiana hospital. And when most of the patients are coming from Illinois, it's a major problem for anybody that's operating on the border. So, you know, I'm not trying to make excuses for Franciscan but they claim they're losing money but quite frankly, they have billions in the bank. They're not losing that much money. They could have kept it open. They just didn't want to. It stinks.

Councilman Kalwinski - The two healthcare providers that are interested, are they just interested in the E.R.?

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir. It's interesting, there's interest from the State of Illinois to keep this open, which is interesting. I may have to come back to you all. It's an interesting proposal. Because, let's say, I would be interested to see out of the total number of patients in the old St. Margaret's how many were actually Hoosiers. I have a feeling 70%, 65%, I don't know, are Illinois residents. So this hospital closing down has a dramatic affect on the State of Illinois. And they weren't represented at all in Court. I couldn't even say Illinois without the other side objecting. Because I was trying to make the argument for the Mayor of Cal City who wasn't a party in the case. But they wouldn't even let me talk about it. I'm sorry if I went on.

Councilman Kalwinski - It was good information. The other thing I wanted to ask about was, is their license up at the end of this year?

Mayor McDermott - That's a great question. They kept saying that during their hearing, Councilman, and I believe it is. But we also talked to some healthcare providers that are like, yeah, they could renew it. It's very simple. They've been operating for 100 plus years in the E.R. It's not like they're going to have to go through burdensome inspections. It's an E.R. they've been operating for years. So, I imagine, because of the Courts order, that they're gonna reapply and just keep it open. They're open wide now and, you know, it's past December 23<sup>rd</sup>. I don't know if they can still appeal this, by the way, and if they do, you know, we'll go to the Court of Appeals. But in the meantime they have to keep it open.

Councilman Kalwinski - And they can proceed with demo of the rest of the building?

Mayor McDermott - Yes, sir, absolutely, and they will, by the way, and they will. And, by the way, next time when we have an Executive Session where I can talk about confidential stuff I could update you a little bit more on that but I don't want to divulge any information publicly that could be stolen from the City of Hammond.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, what's the significance for the nine months, or which directional for the city to (unclear)

Mayor McDermott - We were arguing for a year and a half, Councilman. I wanted everything we could get. And our rational for a year and a half was that's how long they were lying to us. I hate using language like this when I'm talking about Catholic Officials in a Catholic Hospital but I am. They lied to us, and they lied to us for eighteen months. So we were seeking very specific, we wanted the E.R. to stay open under Judge's Order for eighteen months and the Judge compromised, I believe. I don't know. He didn't explain his rational but I believe that's probably what happened. We won but we didn't get everything that we were asking for. Right.

Councilman Torres - I don't know if it's confidential or not, any bidders? Is there a national search of some kind getting bidders to come out and bid for locating here in Hammond?

Mayor McDermott - Right now we're not going through any RFP's. It's not even our land. It's their land, you know. I mean think about it, we can't really bid property we don't own. We don't own it. It's owned by the Sisters and, I believe, they don't want to see any medical use there because they're greedy bankers, quite

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - frankly. I hate saying this but I'm gonna say it, they're like greedy bankers. And if we put another medical facility there, that threatens the Sisters, and the Franciscans and they don't want that. They would rather see houses or they would rather see, like they're proposing a group home. Something not threatening to the Sisters because they want to keep all the money for themselves. This is all about money, a nontaxable entity, by the way, that has billions of dollars that doesn't want to help Hammond residents anymore. It's a financial decision.

Councilman Torres - It doesn't have to be on that property location. Can the City find another location?

Mayor McDermott - Well, I'll be honest, we have great locations in the City in Downtown but right now this is the piece of property that's available and, obviously, we have powers of eminent domain that we could use for things like hospitals and we would have to consider that down the road. But we got nine months to breath which is great because the alternative was we were literally gonna have one ambulance out of the City for hours every day transporting patients to Community, transporting patients to Christ, staying with the patient until they're cleared, and then in the meantime, a gaping hole back in our districts. You know, if we send one of our ambulances from Central to Christ or to Munster and somebody in this neighborhood has a heart attack we got no ambulance here because our ambulance is in Munster instead of being in Downtown Hammond. That's a problem. This is the kind of stuff that we were bringing up to the Judge and the Judge was listening.

Councilman Kalwinski - Can Franciscan say no to any offers and still just tear it down at the end of nine months?

Mayor McDermott - Yes. But we have powers too, Councilman. We have powers of eminent domain and we have to use it for public use. If we had a user of the E.R. I would not be hesitant to use those powers. We would be able to do it. It's a public use. What you do is, the Court gives you, in a case like that, the Court gives you... if we said, "Hey, this piece of property we need it for an E.R.", the Court would give us the piece of property quick, within months. Then you would be haggling for years about the price. But they give you the property up front. Then you argue. Once they say yes it's a public use, they're gonna put an E.R. there, they give you the property quick and then the valuation is determined in litigation.

Councilman Kalwinski - Can the buildings remain up or will they get torn down?

Mayor McDermott - The hospital?

Councilman Kalwinski - The E.R.

Mayor McDermott - These are questions we're gonna have to evaluate. Maybe if somebody wants that piece of property, and maybe somebody wants to build something new, Councilman, who knows, you know. It's a big footprint, by the way. We could keep this one operating and maybe build another yard, another part of the footprint. We got a lot of work to do in nine months. A lot of work in nine months. It would have been better if we got the eighteen but it's better than the alternative. Sometimes the best deals are struck where everybody walks away a little unhappy. But in this case we weren't exactly unhappy and the Sisters, they were very unhappy. They lost and it's gonna cost them millions to keep it open for nine more months.

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MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Councilman Kalwinski - I appreciate you fighting for us.

Mayor McDermott - Thank you. I appreciate the support of the Council a lot. You guys always got my back and I got your back too. I think the residents .... you know, but we do have work to do. We can't high five too long, so. But I appreciate you all very much. Merry Christmas. Nice to see you all. Happy Hanukkah. Happy Holidays. Oh, I'm sorry, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, is there anything else we can do as a Council to support you all in this endeavor?

Mayor McDermott - Yeah, when the time comes we are gonna be talking, Councilman. You're going to be part in parcel, I promise. Because there's an interesting proposal coming from across the border and it involves government money from another state. It's interesting. I mean it's handy that this is right on the State Line. So, I'm gonna be coming back to talk to you, I promise. And I can't really talk about too much more on public record.

Councilwoman Alexander - Mayor, I know that you are working really hard with that and it's definitely and deeply a concern. Because we know that since that conversation has even happened with the hospitals, the other hospitals are being overflowed. Seeing that we are a larger city, I think it would be a great idea whatever we can do to figure out how to get another hospital or something in our city to protect our residents because we know that we have a fight on our hands and public safety and health is definitely a concern of, I believe, all of ours outside of like the trains and things like that. It's trying to make sure that we can get our residents quick (unclear) and so if that hospital closes, we know that there's a bigger issue going to happen and we might lose some residents in this process.

Mayor McDermott - You're right, absolutely right, Councilwoman. I appreciate it and I agree with you.

Councilman Spitale - Does anything have any effect (unclear) hospital they're putting in Crown Point?

Mayor McDermott - Yeah, it has a lot to do with it. Every time I drive by it I curse. Every time. And I drove by it a lot when I was running for Senate. I mean, it has everything to do with it, and if you look at the Franciscan's business model, this is what they do. They move out of city's like Hammond and move to places like Crown Point. That's what they do. They are dedicated to helping the poor, that's their mission. They just don't follow the mission. They did it in Chicago Heights, they moved from Chicago Heights to Olympia Fields. Now they're moving from Hammond to Crown Point. You know, they have a big beautiful hospital right off the highway in Michigan City. It's rotten. It's really rotten. I hate it. It shakes me in my foundation because it's not ... going in court and testifying and talking about a sister lied to you and the CEO of a Catholic Hospital lied straight to my face. I mean they did.

Councilman Spitale - Thank you for what you been doing.

Mayor McDermott - Thanks, guys.

MAYOR’S ADDRESS cont.

Councilwoman Venecz - I just wanted to say thank you, Mayor. Having had some experience at the E.R. recently over at Community, it is jam packed.

Mayor McDermott - Yes, ma’am.

Councilwoman Venecz - And they are understaffed. They do not have enough space over there to accommodate all the patients that are coming that would have gone to St. Margaret’s. Somebody is gonna die and that is what is going to happen because there just isn’t enough service. So, thank you on behalf of the residents of the City of Hammond even those, you know, who cross over the State Line healthcare is very important and I just appreciate everything that you’ve done.

Mayor McDermott - Thank you. Before I let go, I want to recognize our attorney’s that were litigating these for us. First off Mike Tolbert from Tolbert and Tolbert, awesome. He had an associate with him, I’m not sure if she was an associate or partner and I don’t recall her name. But they did awesome work. Mike was the main litigator. He opened and I believe he closed as well. The Corporate Council, Kevin Smith, this was his idea. It was his idea to use Promissory Estoppel. It was perfect. This is the kind of case that law students are gonna read about. It’s perfect for Promissory Estoppel. When I testified and I got done I was like, I don’t know how the Judge isn’t gonna side with us. Kevin Smith, Dave Westland, who represents the Redevelopment Commission, is also representing us on this. They did amazing job and we were up against the big law firms. So, we did a good job. You and Councilwoman made the same point about the other hospitals being totally over crowded, fact. We were silently being cheered on by CEO’s of the other hospital chains that are devastated right now. Once Franciscan stopped taking ambulances we had to take them to Community and Community is overrun right now. So I appreciate you guys assistance on this. Because without you having my back my job would be so much harder so thank you very much. Thanks guys, Merry Christmas, I’ll see you at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to accept the minutes of December 12, 2022 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to accept the claims from December 19, 2022 through December 20, 2022. Claim #7391 through claim #7698, inclusive.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Woerpel

Motion carried

8/0/1

CLAIMS APPROVED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Alexander - As we get ready to enter the holiday, I just want to remind residents to not shoot your guns up in the air at midnight. We don't want any casualties or any other issues that happen with bullets coming back down. We know that it's a celebratory time but this is one of those times that we want to be cautious. So, Happy New Year to everyone. Also, if you attended the Holiday Treats Giveaway please check your email. There was a special email sent out to you for another event for you. Other than that, Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Brought out 22-55, 22-56, 22-57

Community and Crime Watch - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

Hessville C.W.- Jan. 19, 2023; Jean Shepherd Center; 6:00 pm

As usual, if you see anything that just does not feel right, please do not hesitate to call 911.

Capital Improvement Board - Councilwoman Venecz - The Capital Improvement Board met on December 19<sup>th</sup>, we approved funding for Chicago Street Phase 2, Change Order 1-5, in the amount of \$5,092.74. We also approved \$14,032.69 for JF Mahoney Drive Reconstruction, Supplemental Construction, through Milestone Contractors North, Inc. We also approved \$152,600 for JF Mahoney Drive Reconstruction, Construction Engineering through Nies Engineering. We also approved \$350,000 as Hammond's contribution to Energy Savings Program Phase 3 with the Leopardo Group. We also approved \$361,160.60 for the Summer Street Reconstruction, the construction engineering company is American Structurepoint. The next meeting will be Tues., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Work Study Session will be at 5:30 pm and the meeting will be at 6:00 pm.

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

22-55            2023 Elected Officials Salary Ordinance  
Sponsored by Thomas M. McDermott

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

Councilwoman Venecz - As is done every year at this time, this approves the pay raises for the Mayor, Council people and Clerk.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Woerpel

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9586 PASSED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



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

22-56 An Ordinance Authorizing the City Controller to Transfer Funds from one line item to another within Various City 2022 Budgets  
Sponsored by Janet Venecz

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

Councilwoman Venecz - This moves savings that was realized from Street Lights Capital Outlay for Fire, CEDIT, Utilities, CCD Vehicles from the '21 to '22 budget in the Energy Savings line item to be used for the bonds and lease payment.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Woerpel

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9587 PASSED

22-57 An Ordinance to Amend and Replace Flood Hazard Area Ordinance 9344 by Establishing Provisions for Flood Damage Prevention in Accordance with the State of Indiana Model Ordinance for Flood Damage Protection  
Sponsored by Dan Spitale

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

Councilman Spitale - This is an ordinance update and amendment for the existing Flood Plain Ordinance. Also, too, this is presented by us by the State and this is not going to affect anybody's flood insurance or any other areas that have already been removed from the flood plain area.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Woerpel

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9588 PASSED

ORDINANCES

22-58 An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the City of Hammond for Zoning Purposes and Amending Ordinance No. 8514 for Property Commonly Known as 2512 New York Avenue  
Sponsored by Mark Kalwinski and Petitioned by Hammond Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, 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 January 9, 2023 at 5:15p.m.

Councilman Kalwinski - Just briefly, this is land that Redevelopment owns and they are petitioning for this change in zoning from Commercial to Institutional so that Calumet College can put up a field for practice or football, soccer, etc., next to their dorm and to lease that property therein.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Woerpel

Motion carried

8/0/1

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved to re-appoint Melissa Farrell to the Gaming Advisory Board for 2023.

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Venecz, moved to amend the motion to re-appoint the following people to the Gaming Advisory Board; Katrina Alexander, Janet Venecz, Melissa Farrell. AYES: ALL

Councilman Tyler, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, move to appoint Garrick Alexander to the Gaming Advisory Board. AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to appoint David Woerpel to the Capital Improvement Board. AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moved to re-appoint Barry Tyler and Dan Spitale to the Capital Improvement Board. AYES: ALL

Councilman Rakos - Mayor’s Night Out is January 4<sup>th</sup>, Jean Shepherd Center at 6:30 for the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Ken Rocek - The City needs to stop pursuing this inferior bridge option in Hessville that will not service the needs in our community and proceed with an underpass which meet the needs of all residents including our most vulnerable, children, elderly and handicapped. All residents will benefit from an underpass. The bridge was designed for drivers. It was not designed to service children walking to and from school. Kids would have to walk two miles. Public safety is ignored by locating the bridge a mile from where the City told INDOT was the most hazardous location and the purpose of the project. Kids are climbing the trains to get to school on time at the Grand Avenue Crossing where all three schools are located, not on Parrish Avenue. There is plenty of Federal money out there to solve the problem properly.

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Tyler moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

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	E	P	P	P	P	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	P	P	P
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Pete Torres	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Barry Tyler	E	P	P	P	E	E	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
Bill Emerson	P	P	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	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	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	P	A
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	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: 6:50 p.m.

cb

Prepared by  
**Robert J. Golec**  
Hammond City Clerk



Scott Rakos, Vice President  
Hammond Common Council