

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on January 9, 2023 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, Tyler, Emerson, Rakos, Woerpel

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

NOMINATIONS

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, nominated Councilman Scott Rakos as President.

AYES: ALL

Council President Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, nominated Councilman Barry Tyler as Vice President.

AYES: ALL

Council President Scott Rakos now presided.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Chief of Staff Phil Taillon - Good evening, Council. First, congratulations to Councilman Rakos and Councilman Tyler on your new appointments. I'm sure you will do an excellent job. Happy New Year to the entire Council. I think it's gonna be a great year in 2023 for the City of Hammond and look forward to working with all of you in lots of different capacities with all the great projects and things that we're working on already. It looks promising. I have a feeling I'll be in front of you quite a bit coming up, so get used to seeing me here I suppose. Mayor Tom couldn't be here, he's out of town right now so he asked me to give his report. I have a very short report. I just wanted to bring up that the MLK Candlelight March and Celebration is January 16th at 6:30 am at MLK Park Freedom Plaza, obviously, right by here. It's always a inspirational and bonding event where our community comes together to celebrate the history of Martin Luther King and, obviously, the influence he's had on all of us today, including our community. It's also always a very cold day. So when you come out, make sure you bundle up. Look forward to seeing most of you, if not all of you, at the event. But, that concludes my report and I'll be happy to anser any questions you have.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of December 27, 2022 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from January 3rd and ending on January 4th. Claim #1 through claim #128, inclusive. In the amount of \$7,121,432.20.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler - Just within the last couple of weeks there have been several families within my district who have lost loved ones. So I just want to pay my respect to the Franks family on their loss of Mr. Gerry Franks, the Wilbert family on the loss of Mr. Dennis Wilbert, and the Dennis family on the loss of Ms. Helen Dennis. Mr. Dennis was actually a Security Guard here for several years here at City Hall. So, I just want to give all three of those families my condolences.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvements Board - Councilman Woerpel - Met on Tues., January 3rd. Under New Business:
-Funding Allocation for Chicago Street Phase 1 Final Balancing Change Order #17 to the Indiana Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$87,844.67 was approved. The other Item

-Funding Allocation for Dowling Park Storm Water Improvements. The U.S. Army Corp. Of Engineers Sec. 219 Grant. The project cost \$850K and the City passed for their portion of the match, which is a 50/50 Grant of \$412,500. That is off of Mahoney Dr. To connect Parrish avenue to Kentucky Pump Station.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for January 16th, which is a holiday, so the next meeting will be January 17th.

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:
Hessville C.W.; Jan. 19; 6 p.m.; Jean Shepherd Center
Please remember to call the Police if you see something that is just not right.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

ORDINANCE 3RD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- 23-01 Creating a New Fund (Fund #2472) for the City of Hammond Police Department for FY2023 Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (SAVE) Grant Funds

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title.

Councilman Spitale - The SAVE Grant is for \$30 thousand. The Police will be targeting stop arm violations and unsafe driving around the school busses. AYES: ALL

- 23-02 Creating a New Fund (Fund #2473) for FY2023 Lake County Drunk Driving Task Force Grant Funds

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1st and 2nd reading by title.

Councilman Spitale - Drunk Driving Task Force Grant is at the amount of \$80 thousand. AYES: ALL

RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for a Notice of Intent to Consider for Ord. 22-58 for Monday, Jan. 23, 2023. AYES: ALL

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to re-appoint Diane Kaminsky to the Hammond Port Authority starting February 11, 2023.

Councilman Kalwinski - Diane has served very diligently for the last, at least, eight years on the board with her MBA and finance background. As a professional she's brought an added keen insight when reviewing claims and finances. AYES: ALL

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Ken Rocek - The Mayor committed to our city to a Resilient Cohort Plan, which is coordinated by NIRPC. It inventoried the greenhouse gasses of Hammond This year, they will develop a climate action plan. The destruction of hundreds of trees will be going in the opposite direction. It also goes in contrast to the mitigation of excess storm water that we are mandated to reduce. An underpass solves both of those issues. Regarding the

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Ken Rocek cont. - Times article, the one mile trek over the bridge and through the woods is only half the trek the school children must take. According to Dean Button, the bridge will only take up a sliver of the Dune Woodlands. But even destroying a sliver will do irreparable damage. If that road is built there will be nothing left to save. Then it will be no problem to develop the rest. Which has always been their goal.

Carlotta Blake-King - A high achieving school district is economic development for its city. How well a school district fares academically, socially, mentally, even athletically, does add to the economic growth of its city. I'm encouraging the Council to ask questions regarding the academics of our school district. Learn for yourselves their achievement. People are drawn to a city with a high achieving school district.

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

AYES: ALL

ADJOURNED

2023 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec											
Katrina Alexander	9 P	23	13	27	13	27	10	24	8	22	12	26	10	24	14	28	11	25		23	13	27	4
Dan Spitale	P	P																					
Janet Veneez	P	P																					
Mark Kalwinski	P	P																					
Pete Torres	P	P																					
Barry Tyler	P	P																					
Bill Emerson	P	P																					
Dave Woerpel	P	P																					
Scott Rakos	P	P																					
Initials																							

E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY

PRESENT

A=ABSENT

If the member qualifies for an exemption from the "Consecutive - 50" requirements, draw a circle around the E for that meeting/ member.

Scott Rakos
Scott Rakos, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:

Robert J. Golec
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:25 p.m.

cb

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk