

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 15, 2024 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Scott Rakos presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

TOTAL: 7

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott - Good to see you all. Thanks for the invite back to the Council Meeting. This is my address for October 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a busy Council meeting, I know you all know that. So I'm gonna limit my first part. I have comments for everything we are doing today. I'll just comment at the appropriate time period. I don't need to do that at the beginning of the meeting because I will be here with you all for the entire meeting. My activity log for the past few weeks, since the last time we all met. I met with representatives of the Hammond Sanitary District to go over their financing and their long term control plan. It's something that we constantly do. Obviously, we have a big commitment that we made to the Federal Government that must be met over the next decade of so. So it's good to keep up with them. Hosted a couple hundred Realtors to the City of Hammond at the Hammond Lost Marsh Golf Course for the annual Realtors Breakfast. I want to thank Councilman Dan Spitale for always being the leader and the liaison between us and the Realtors, as well as everybody that worked so hard to put that event on. It was a great day. A lot of people came to Hammond and enjoyed themselves and went home with positive impressions. So, that's always good. And the Realtors have a real good relationship with us all. So, it's really good to see them all come here. I attended a caucus of Hammond's Democratic Precinct Organization to watch the election of your President to become Hammond's new City Chairman. Congratulations to the new City Chairman, Councilman Rakos. Good to see you and congrats. Had breakfast with a representative from United Engineering to get updates on projects across the City of Hammond that they supervise. Attended the visitation for Ms. Annie Burns at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. As you all know, Ms. Burns Hicks was the first African American teacher in the City of Hammond. She's an icon in East Hammond. She recently passed away. I know we've already sent respects from the City of Hammond. I know Councilman Barry's real close and has done a great job. I just wanted to say thank you to the family and to Ms. Burns Hicks for everything that she's done for our City. And as everybody knows we have an elementary school in the City of Hammond named after her, so. Married two Hammond residents. Two of them that I've know for most of their lives. Alexandra Stahura to her husband Chris McCormick. Both of whom have numerous ties to the City of Hammond. So it was very nice to use the powers that are granted to Mayors, Hoosier Mayors, under the Indiana Code to marry two people I know very well. So congratulations to Alexandra and Chris McCormick.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

## MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - I held by monthly Captain's meeting with the Hammond Police Department. We do this regularly, monthly. I met with Captains and Chiefs regarding multiple issues across the City of Hammond. I met with my appointees to the South Shore Convention and Visitor's Bureau. We have two appointees, the Hammond Council has one and I have one as well. I met with those two appointees to talk about a lot of swirling issues that are going on with the City of Hammond right now, especially in regards to a possible Convention Center in Northwest Indiana. So, I'm making sure we're on the same page as those appointees are. I met in Chicago with one of Hammond's lobbyists and our attorney, he serves multiple roles, to discuss the upcoming legislative session. Along with Councilman Al Salinas, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman, I attended the grand reopening of La Hacienda Azteca. It's a great restaurant located at 150<sup>th</sup> and Columbia. It's a hard working gentleman named Gus that's living the American dream and he built a great restaurant. It's excellent, excellent food. If you like Mexican food, La Hacienda Azteca at 150<sup>th</sup> and Columbia. It's a grand reopening. It's a great owner and it was a really proud day. So thanks for being there with me Al. Attended the Hammond Fire Department Fire Prevention Open House at Station 8. That was well attended, a few hundred people from the City were there, a lot of Council people, obviously, the Chief's, and everybody did a great job. I met with the Cargill Plant Superintendent, as well as Cargill's Corporate Council, in City Hall, to discuss a \$36 million tax free municipal bonds that they're attempting to issue. That's something that's gonna come before the Council probably within the next couple of weeks. This is, as you all know, municipal bonds are tax free and the only way for any of our industries to issue tax free bonds, so that investors can buy it and get the tax free benefits, is to be approved by the Hammond Council as well as the Hammond Mayor. So Cargill's attempting to refinance bonds and we need to approve them for their tax free status. So, you'll be seeing them come before you and I'm willing to discuss more if you have questions about those. Also, attended Hammond's Annual Trunk or Treat. I want to thank the Council for having a booth there, as well the over a thousand kids that showed up three weeks before Halloween. I thought it might be a little too early this year and everybody proved me wrong. We had 750 bags going into that event and we thought that we'd have plenty for this Trunk or Treat and we'd still have some left over for the next Trunk or Treat that we're doing, we ran out of those bags with about 15 minutes left. So there was over 750 kids there. So, it was a great event. The Sportsplex looked great. A lot of our City Departments were out there. So I want to thank everybody for working real hard and the kids had a blast, so. City Hall was used over the past weekend for a film shooting. I'm not sure if you're aware of that, and I wanted to make sure you knew about that just in case you heard. I heard it was Chicago Fire but it wasn't, I don't believe it was, it was a small India film that was filming there that wanted to use the Hammond City Court and they were here over the weekend, so it was the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. They paid \$1,500 to us. We had some people stationed. They didn't really use or abuse anything. I think we had one fire alarm go off because somebody used too much hair spray. So it was not very exciting over the weekend but they did a good job and we will see Hammond's City Court in an India movie shortly and I'll let you guys know what the name of it is and everything. I have a lot of items that we're talking about tonight that I'm prepared to discuss when they come up. There's two resolutions with Hammond Police and Hammond Fire that are vital that we talk about them today. We need to come up with a resolution today. I'm willing to explain those, obviously. The Budget's before you on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, including Sanitary District, Redevelopment. We're gonna be talking a lot about that. Wheel Tax is up for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Reading. I'm ready to discuss everything as they come up. I just wanted to say thank you. If you don't have any questions about anything. I'll be ready to discuss those items when they come up.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the minutes of September 23, 2024 and place on file. AYES: ALL

Councilwoman Alexander is now present.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from September 19, 2024 through October 9, 2024. Claim #8240 through #8924, inclusive. In the amount of \$13,880,601.96.

ROLL CALL VOTE (approval)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

24-19            An Ordinance of the City of Hammond Adopting a Municipal Vehicle Excise Tax and a Concurrent Wheel Tax Pursuant to Indiana Code

Dave Mathura - So, I thought about that and thought that's a lot like the city of Chicago with their stickers and some of my neighbors have recently moved in from Chicago. When I told them about that, they looked at me and said, "That's exactly what I was trying to get away from. You can't tell me this is happening in Hammond." I said, "Yeah, I'm afraid it is." I said, "I think it passed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings." Well, hear we are at the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Aside, the other day I'm driving down Calumet Avenue and I see an older Hispanic couple and they're picking up cans from the street and I thought, now why are they doing that? Well, the cost of groceries has gone up approximately 25% since 2019. So, everybody knows that when they go to the grocery store. It's painful. This older couple is even more painful, to the point where they're picking up cans. Which is doing the city a service but they're picking up pennies to make ends meet. And then I thought and here we are in addition to the tax on our food, that's prepared food, we're going to get a Wheel Tax, just the fact that you own a vehicle you're gonna be taxed. It doesn't matter that you already pay to purchase the vehicle, a tax. Well, there's a story behind this, and this is where it turns into fiction. But I thought, there's a Mayor and he's driving with his Chief of Staff and he says, "What's that couple doing?" and the Chief of Staff says, "Well, Mayor, they're picking up cans." He says, "Well, why in the work would they do that?" "Mayor, it's a tough world out there, they're barely getting by. That's why they're doing it." "Really?" "Yeah, these people are barely getting by." "Hmm, will my wheel tax affect them?" "No, they can't afford a car." "Oh, so they won't be paying any wheel." "No, they won't be paying a wheel tax." The Mayor thought about it and he said, "Were they wearing shoes?" He said, "Yes, they were wearing shoes." "Can I pass a shoe tax? Then they'll pay a tax on the shoes." He said, "That's a brilliant idea. Not only will you tax them but you'll tax their soles." Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS cont.

- 24-20 2025 City of Hammond Budget Proposal
- 24-21 2025 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal
- 24-22 2025 Sanitary District of Hammond Budget Proposal

George Stoya - I didn't research or anything like that but it just seems that, I looked at last meetings agenda and these budget proposals weren't on there and I'm wondering is this properly before the Council? I could be wrong. Because we're getting the Introduction and we're getting the Public Hearing it seems all on the same date and granted, I know that these budgets you put on two or three pages, but, you know, my ... for example, I have a concern about the, it hasn't come under discussion but I have a concern about the Sanitary District. We've heard the Mayor time and again talking about that there's some big cost coming up to comply with EPA rulings and stuff like that. I'd like to know, you know, what's waiting for us. If it's part of this budget, if it isn't or is it part of the budget. But, can someone enlighten me. I don't know. It just seems like this is just being rammed through and, ha, I just want to know if it's properly before the Council.

Ken Rose - Hi, Council. I'm not exactly sure but I believe that this Sanitary District and the Federal Mandates that the Mayor was talking about, I believe it has something to do with the Sanitary District in the mitigation of flood waters and, you know, they mandate that we were put under that we delayed the dealing with for years, and years, and years and now it's become a multi million dollar problem for us. And it was kicked down the road for a long time. Now within that mandate it said that the city was required to conduct mitigation efforts to stop the flooding. Well, they're gonna build a new treatment facility but in addition to that they are also supposed to have some sustain ability built into the construction that goes on around here. I don't see any of that going on. I see parking lots going in, draining right into the city drains. I see buildings going in and they just get fully approved and, boom, all the green space is being taken up. I don't see any mitigation. I don't see how we are actually abiding by this mandate. And on top of that you are going to pave over the Briar East Woods, which is gonna add more water so we're going in the opposite direction. So, I think that's irresponsible. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved that all communications received are placed on file. AYES: ALL

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board - Councilman Emerson - Met on 10/7/24:  
Item A - Funding Allocation No. 210 - PAPER and Sign Inventory - First Group Engineering - \$69K  
Item B - Funding Allocation No. 211 - Barriers on Kennedy Avenue - Milestone Contractor North - \$5,476.65

Council as a Whole Committee - Councilman Woerpel - Brought out 24-19.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

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

Edison Community Watch - Edison School - Wed., Nov. 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Harrison Park will not meet.

Hessville Crime Watch - Thur., Oct. 17 - 6 p.m. - Hanson Community Center

Irving Community Watch - Tues., Nov. 12 - 9:30 a.m. - Art Room at Irving School

S. Hohman Ave. Neighbor. Watch - Thur., Oct. 17 - 7 p.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church (173<sup>rd</sup> -Hohman)

Whiting Robertsdale Crime Watch - Thur., Nov. 14 - 6:30 p.m. - Calumet College

The Hammond Police Dept. will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat at the Police Station on Sunday, October 27, 5 to 7 p.m. Come out and meet the officers who protect us and the same for our Community and Crime Watch Meetings. Come out, find out what's going on in your neighborhood and meet the men and women who protect us and our neighborhoods.

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

24-19            An Ordinance of the City of Hammond Adopting a Municipal Vehicle Excise Tax and a Concurrent Wheel Tax Pursuant to Indiana Code

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for passage.

Councilman Woerpel - This is \$25 per passenger car and I think it's prorated as far as industrial vehicles and different types of trucks and stuff. I heard the gentleman's concern and, unfortunately, we're faced with the decision, and that is do we pass a Wheel Tax, which the State says we can or do we let the streets just crumble away. I know I get calls all the time asking about this street or that street being fix and unfortunately our gaming, as compared to some years in the past, has been cut in half. Which is how we paid for the street in the past. The street projects and all that. And, as it was pointed out in caucus, in some cases in order to apply for certain grants, the people that award the grants will ask, "Have you guys used all the tools available to you in the tool box?" This is one of them. And so, I support this. Nobody likes raising the tax but we're faced with the choice of getting calls over the condition of the streets, and we all drive them streets, I choose to sponsor this and support it.

Councilwoman Venecz - I would like to point out that we are not the first municipality to do this. The city of Gary, Crown Point, Portage, Merrillville, Valparaiso, all have instituted the Wheel Tax. Every time I go to a Mayor's Night Out and somebody has a complaint about our streets, they always make the comparison between us and Munster. Frosts me, every time. Because Munster is a much, much, smaller community. They have less roads to finish and their property taxes are higher over there. So, with the reduction of our gaming money, this is a tool that we can use to make repairs to our street. I understand what you are saying, sir. Some people can't afford it, but if they have a car and they put gas in the car, they should be able to afford it. One of the issues that comes up at every Crime Watch meeting is Illinois plates. I see Captain Strabavy standing in the back. I would like to call him forward to explain what is called reciprocity and what the Police Departments efforts are to ticket the, I shouldn't say Illinois cars, I should say out of state vehicles.

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

Captain Tom Strabavy, Hammond Police Department - City of Hammond Council members, good evening. My name is Captain Tom Strabavy. A thirty two year veteran of the Hammond, Indiana Police Department and I'm a Hessville resident in President Rakos' District. I'm also tasked right now as Captain of Community Affairs Division of the Department. So the brief history of reciprocity, to quote the Mayor, about of year ago at one of his Mayor's Night Out, "It was a problem twenty years ago and it will probably be twenty years after he leaves office." What we're attempting to do in minimalize that problem. We tried to come up with creative ways on how to do that because we know that it just isn't fair to have Illinois plates flooding our City. A few weeks ago, myself, along with Uniform Captain, Rob Bunner, a few Lieutenants from Traffic and Community Affairs, met with Chief Short and Assistant Chief Long and they gave us supplemental manpower of an Officer that is strictly designed, which we had before in the past, just to do reciprocity investigations. His name is Sgt. Frank Herrera. I can honestly say, over the last two weeks, that Frank remains in Traffic Division but he checks in with me periodically, he's probably up to about 250 to 300 citations as it stands right now. The next thing Chief Short and Assistant Chief Long took it upon themselves to do was to be with one of the Judges from 232 Russell Street to find out if there's anything we are missing, as far as when we write the citations for the actual moving violations, or actual violations, what the court is requiring from us. So I made a phone call today to retired Sgt. Cary Newman who was our Reciprocity Officer, and I asked Cary, "How many times did you actually go to court to testify?" He said, "None". Most of the times what happens in reciprocity cases is they head down to the Clerk's Office, they pay their fine, and go about their business. We're aiming to try and get more compliance from those people that have out of state vehicles while living in our city. So how do we go about doing that? One way we find is, after talking to Sgt. Herrera, on some of the citations he left he's been approached by citizens and their question is, "What's the white sheet of paper for?" After he explains it to them, they tell him, "We had no idea about that. We had no clue." So, some of the general public, maybe not all, but some of the general public doesn't even know that once they move into our great State, our fine City, that they have to convert their plates. So after a phone conversation between myself, the Mayor, and Assistant Chief Short today, one of the ideas we came up with is simply putting a formatted flyer in everybody's water bill. Passing it out to everybody that obtains a water bill advising them that hey, just so you know, this is the reciprocity laws in the State of Indiana and if you're not in compliance than you have to come into compliance soon. We explored other areas of enforcement as well, speaking with Code Enforcement, trying to see if we could hold some landlords accountable. As it stands right now, you know, the landlords should be the ones who have it in their lease stating these are the people that are going to be residing here. These are the vehicles that are going to be here. Perhaps we can attack the problem in that manner. Again that would also come with the assistance of Code Enforcement because they regulate the landlords. In closing, I'd be open to any questions, comments, ideas, suggestions that you all might have.

Councilman Tyler - Captain, thank you for that information. Can you do us a favor, I know, I think, we are all are familiar with it, but maybe for the public who don't fully understand what that process, in terms of ticketing a car that has out of state plates, can you go through what that process looks like? How long it takes?

Captain Tom Strabavy - So, your neighbor has Illinois plates on their car, or Iowa, or Florida, whatever have you, a complaint is submitted to our office and all of these have to start with a complaint. I found that out from Sgt. Herrera, and Sgt Newman today as well, they have to start with a complaint. So once we get the complaint they go out and investigate it, Sgt. Herrera will be tasked with that. He would go out and write, basically, it's a

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

Captain Tom Strabavy cont. - warning, a reciprocity warning, it's a white sheet of paper, it looks like a ticket but there's no court cost, fines or fees. That gives that person sixty days from the time they are issued that ticket to come into compliance per State of Indiana law. Once that time's expired, during that time rather, Sgt. Herrera then has to launch a full fledged investigation into each and every vehicle. So let's say that's that one car that's your neighbor. He's gonna have to search water bill. He's gonna have to go through tax records, any kind of information he can obtain to prove that the owner of that vehicle lives at 1122 State Street or blank Street. Once he proves that, and that vehicle is still there, then he can go ahead and mail or leave on a windshield a UTC, Uniform Traffic Citation, for the reciprocity violation. Again, it's after sixty days. Once that's done, I believe the citation would then go to the Clerk's Office, either for a payment, or if they chose to contest it, and then it would be sent down to 232 Russell Street, the Superior Court. That's basically it in a nutshell. And there's a lot of vehicles in the City that fill that bill. Community Affairs, for the longest time we had reported to the Mayor we'd started this back in June, we're trying to curb the problem and up our numbers, as far as the issuance of those reciprocity violations, but Community Affairs, obviously, we've got that among a band of vehicles, community meetings, a plethora of other responsibilities within our Division. It was a great relief when Chief Short and Assistant Chief Long granted us Sgt. Herrera. I hope that answers your question, sir.

Councilman Tyler - Thank you, and just for clarification, those complaints can be a phone call to the Police Station, they can come directly through See, Click Fix or 311 App, and they can come from residents from, you know, Police Officers, whoever wants to report a potential violation can report in one of those forms.

Captain Tom Strabavy - Correct, and the predominant amount of ours are fielded through reciprocity, and as a side note to your question, speaking of See, Click, Fix's, most of them are signed anonymous. So, if we had help from the citizens. Again, I guess I just want to emphasize it's a we problem. The Police Department will do everything humanly possible to curb and put a dent in this issue, but there's other, obviously, sections within the City we'll be leaning on as well as the citizens themselves.

Councilman Woerpel - Captain, I know in my neighborhood, I got the college right there by me where there's dorms and there's apartments around it and when I worked in that neighborhood I noticed that there were all kinds of Illinois plates. And a lot of them were rental cars or leased cars or work cars.

Captain Tom Strabavy - Correct.

Councilman Woerpel - I know, you know, let's say I had a grandchild that went to Calumet City School but I had to pick him up from school everyday and I hear people tell me, well, why don't they go around the schools. I don't want to be hassled because I'm picking up my grandkid.

Captain Tom Strabavy - Correct, so ...

Councilman Woerpel - It's not a simple issue with a simple solution is what I'm saying.

Captain Tom Strabavy - Correct. To clarify that, Councilman, I'm glad you brought that up. Students, whether they're at Purdue Northwest or they're at Cal College, they're considered transient. They don't fall under the

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

Captain Tom Strabavy cont. - umbrella of reciprocity. Corporate cars out of Illinois or Iowa or Ohio or anywhere else, they're registered to a corporation or rental cars do not fall under reciprocity as well. So I'm glad you brought that up, thank you.

Mayor McDermott - If there's anything I could say on behalf of the administration is we don't get, sometimes when you've been in the government a long time you get a little discouraged because there's problems that are never ending problems and I think reciprocity is definitely is one of those problems that we just got to keep grinding against and I'm waiting for the day that Captain Strabavy calls me and says, "Mayor, we got them all." But I don't think it's ever gonna happen. I promise you. It's just one of those issues that alls we could do is, there's a lot of job security out there for Captain Strabavy' crew. We all know Tom, that his crew is responsible for that. He has a Detective specifically assigned for this. It's something that we take seriously. And to Councilwoman's point, there's even more of an incentive for people not to get registered right now. So reciprocity is why we are talking about that in the middle of the Wheel Tax issue. I get it. That's why Captain Strabavy is here. So, it's something that's important, Councilwoman. Thank you for bringing it up and thanks to Captain Strabavy for being here and speaking in front of the Council. I do want to point out, I was listening to the gentleman argue about the taxes and I'm very hesitant to pull trigger on taxes. I want to point out that this tool has been in our toolbox since 2018, I believe, and we intentionally passed on it in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and we're passing it 2025. Even if we pass it tonight, it's not gonna apply until 2026. Okay? We waited that long because gaming revenue was doping so well in the City of Hammond and per our formulas, the cheese grater we call it, there was plenty of money available to do the road work so why tax the citizens. We passed it up all those times because of that very fact and now it's no secret that Hard Rock Casino is taking a lot of the business that used to go to Horseshoe Casino which affects our gaming distribution dramatically and we've seen dramatic effects to it and as such the amount of maintenance that we're doing this year is too low. Way too low. And maintenance, that's what we're talking about. This fund, we restricted even further than the State Law does. State Law gives us three ways we could use Wheel Tax money. We could use it on curbs, and sidewalks, we could use it on local matches for bigger projects, and we could use it on roads. And we restricted it to roads only. We'll find money for local matches and curbs and stuff like that other ways. We restricted this to roads only, with your approval. So, I could guarantee you this tax will generate about \$1.5 million for the City of Hammond and we'll put 100% of that into maintaining our roads. Which is usually just the surface coat. And we'll do miles of surface coat this way. Alright? So, nobody likes to do it that why we passed it all those times. We can't keep passing it and still think we're doing our job. I know how little maintenance work we did this year. If we don't pass it now, what are we just gambling that Horseshoe does better. This is not a gamble. This is why I support the Wheel Tax and I hope you do too. So, thank you. I'm available for questions if you have them as well.

Councilman Tyler - Mayor, I know one of the other things that we've talked about it a lot but we haven't talked about it tonight, is the rising cost to do that maintenance on the roads and, I know, prior to my time on the Council I hear about the glory days where you could do a full block for \$20-30K and now we're talking upwards of close to \$100K, \$80K or something like that. So, I know that those costs have risen and we're trying to keep up but, you know, in situations like this it does hurt to have to put another tax. You know where my heart is, so you know I'm ...



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

Mayor McDermott - Always, you're consistent, Councilman.

Councilman Tyler - But, and it's tough, and one of those tough decisions that I feel like if we don't then, you know, our old City will just continue to decay and we won't be able to, you know, maintain those adjustments.

Mayor McDermott - That's where I'm coming from, Councilman, I appreciate it. By the way, other communities that have already pulled the trigger on this, I know we mentioned quite a few of them, almost exact same fees were proposing in every single case. I'm gonna read off. Crown Point, years ago, Gary, Portage, Valparaiso, Dyer, La Porte, Merrillville, Munster, that's just the Region. I didn't pull up communities like Fort Wayne and Jeffersonville and stuff like that. It's all over the state. This is, we're one of the rare ones that hasn't done this and the reason was because we had gaming money, we didn't have to. By the way, I fought like crazy when Hard Rock was going into Gary. I think we all know that. But, I did. Because I knew what it was going to do if it was on the highway, and it's doing it. It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what that was going to do to our city and so it shouldn't be too shocking that Horseshoe is struggling so much right now. We knew it was going to happen when this the Governor was getting flown all over the State, we knew it was going to happen.

Councilman Woerpel - As the sponsor, I think I'll give the final word real quick. Two things I'd like to address, and I don't mean no disrespect by them, but the gentleman brought up what if the Mayor and Mr. Miller were driving around and they want to do a tax on shoes. It don't work like that. I know the public has this idea that we just look for ways to tax people or we look the other way when we see Illinois plates. I heard it all the time in my previous job on how elected officials just do what they want. And one day Mr. Miller and the Mayor are out driving around and one of them says, "You know what, I think we ought to add \$20 tax on Air Jordan's." It's ridiculous. Just like thinking there's a simple solution to these Illinois plates. I've seen it with my own eyes with the students. Being the old man picking up my grandkids from school. It's not simple solutions and I have no problem. I mean, I was elected to do what I thought was right for this City and drive able streets is the important thing to me. So now I'll shut up.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

ORDINANCE NO. 9643 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

24-20            2025 City of Hammond Budget Proposal

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee on October 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Mayor McDermott - A lot of hard work went into this budget. Just to give you an idea, every department head had met with the Controller's Office. We went over the last five years worth of expenses in each department,

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - made an average. So, the numbers that you see before you are well researched. Every single line item in that budget has been thoroughly discussed based on facts with the department heads that actually spend that money. We also, I know I've been keeping you all in the loop about negotiations with our Police and Fire as well as our Teamsters and we know that it's public that the Police Department is on record their first year asking for 15% pay raise and we're discussing that. The pay package would be 25% over four years if they accept it, and I have every year they'll accept that. Which is gonna add to the challenges that we have in city government because we need to do this to stay competitive with our police department and if we don't do things like that we will see a massive number of police officers quit our department and go to other departments where they're making more money. So is we want to be in the police business, which I know we do, we have to be competitive and quite frankly Hammond Police Department is used to being one of the leaders and so we have a lot of issues going on. This budget's well thought out. Obviously, we're available for any questions you have. But we do have some good news in this budget as well. Things like our assessed value, which is the number of new businesses we are bringing into our city increased 12% in this budget. That's something that's phenomenal. It's encouraging for our city that we've grown our property tax revenue to \$42 million, and that's significant for me. Okay? \$42 million is the amount of money that we used to make before property tax caps took effect. That's a big number. It's the biggest in the Region. Our assessed value, the highest in the Region. It's something that I'm real proud of and it's something you should be proud of too. It's a lot of hard work went into that. It was sort of like a one trick pony when I took over. We had a gaming boat and we relied on it a lot and we're very diverse right now. Our revenue is very diverse and we have taken a hit on gaming but we're so diverse as a city that we're offsetting that pain with strength in other areas and that's some that if we didn't have that right now it'd be dark times in Hammond with what's going on in the boats right now. So I'm real encouraged. Even though this is a challenging time. Even though we're negotiating big contracts, I'm encouraged, because it seems like our property taxes are picking up, our assessed value is picking up, and that's a healthy thing for our economy. A real healthy thing, so. I'm available to answer any questions and if I can't answer them I've got Megan behind me with makes me real confident, so. I know we've got 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final next week. To give you an idea, guys, the Police itself will be a \$37 million cost next year. We get \$42 million in property tax revenue. These are the types of challenges we have. The Police Department budget itself eats almost all of our property tax revenue. We have a couple bucks left over. How much is the Fire Department cost? \$25 million. So just adding the Police and the Fire budget together wipes out every single penny of property tax revenue that every homeowner pays in the City of Hammond and we're upside down by \$15 to \$20 million. These are the challenges that we have, okay, and we've made it work. And that's a lot of hard work in the Controller's Office. And I tell ya, I've become accustomed over the years to having a really top notch Controller's Office and we have a really have a top notch Controller's Office. We really do. We have a bunch of smart people working in there and they work really hard. So, if you have questions and I if can't answer them, please see Megan over the weekend. I know they were in here and they fielded a couple questions from the Council but this is a well thought out budget and we can make it work and next year I think we are going to be in a strong spot to make another good budget, so. Can I say one more thing, Councilman. I'm sorry to keep talking but I did sponsor it, so. Another real bright spot, our water revenue has picked up a lot. We're on long term contracts with our customer communities. Our customer communities are Indiana communities. We're on long term, at least eight more years under specific contract and then after that they're communities pay a rate of what we pay. So we have real good contracts in Indiana and our Illinois contracts are kicking butt. So, yeah, we've taken a hit but we're doing well in a lot of other spots as well. So I did want to point out that there's a

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - lot of water revenue that's built into this budget, helping us pay for. Another thing that's helping us right now is Pilot Fees from our utilities. That's one thing that we didn't really have when I took over as Mayor, is if the Hammond Sanitary is in the City Hammond and they have a filtration plant, they don't pay any property taxes and yet, you know, they take space in the City and if that was a private business they would owe us hundreds of thousand of dollars in property taxes every year. So how much does an entity like the Sanitary District pay in property taxes? How much does the Water Department pay? The Port Authority? So we've been doing a good job making sure that property tax revenue is coming into the City like it should so we can properly fund our government. Pay our Police and Fire what they deserve and have a safe community, so.

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

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Tyler, Salinas, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

MOTION CARRIED

24-21            2025 Hammond Redevelopment Budget Proposal

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee on October 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

All these different budgets that come before you, they're submitted by the administration, they're all similar. They all have similar raises for the employees. We treat everybody ... so every budget you have before you is treated similarly. We're all one unit. Even though we have different units we all are one team when we approach you. So, if it's 2% pay raise it's 2% pay raise for all employees unless there is some special circumstance. But, so, every budget that come before you, be it Water, be it Sanitary District, be it Redevelopment, it will be consistent in that regard.

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

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

MOTION CARRIED

24-22            2025 Sanitary District of Hammond Budget Proposal

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee on October 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Mayor McDermott - With regards to the Sanitary District, a gentleman came up earlier and talked about Sanitary District budget and I wanted to, I don't like to address things that are brought up during public comment but since we're talking about the Sanitary District Budget and an allegation was made earlier that we're building in

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - lots of extra hidden cost into this budget that has to do with the long term control plan. I want to tell you that Hammond residents, we do have a long term control plan looming in our future. Probably in the next ten years, the Hammond Sanitary will be forced, forced, to spend \$200 million on a long term control plan. Maybe more than \$200 million, and when that happens, it's being required by the Federal Government, when that happens, we will be forced to raise rates on Hammond residents. When that happens. This is happening. This isn't an evil Mayor McDermott plan. This isn't an evil City of Hammond plan. This is the U.S. Federal Government a mandate with the Department of Justice. So, they're forcing us to do it and we will do it. We have to. I don't feel like going to Federal Prison over Clean Water Violations. So when this happens, and it will, it will, when it happens our rates will go up. But there's nothing in this budget that has that. Not a penny. We're talking about it. We're planning on it. Not in this budget that's before you. Not a penny. Okay? I just wanted to address that. But that is out there. The gentleman was correct. There will be days when we come to ... Hammond Sanitary District has to approach the City Council and say, "Here we go guys". We've been talking about this for years. We need to spend \$50 million on this project. That day will come. Just not this year. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but that's a fact and it's out there and it's good for Hammond residents to know that. This is not something we can negotiate our way out of. It's coming.

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

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

MOTION CARRIED

24-23            2025 City of Hammond Salary

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, move the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee on October 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Mayor McDermott - We put all employees in for a 2% pay raise under this ordinance, so. I just wanted you all to know, if you didn't do the math, which I'm sure you did. But for the people that are watching and the audience that are wondering, that's what we put the employees in for, a 2% pay raise, that's built into this ordinance. There are employees that receive what we call special pay raises that would be built in there already but 99.9% of the employees are getting 2%.

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

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

MOTION CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

24-24 2025 Police Officers and Firefighters Salary

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee on October 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Mayor McDermott - These are tough to pass right now because we're in the middle of negotiations with the Police and Fire and obviously we have deadlines with you so we want to submit this to you, but this is something that's gonna have to wait to be passed until we know what the number is when we finish our negotiation with Police and Fire. So Megan has dialed in a 1% pay raise right now just because that's what we did this year for Police and Fire. I imagine that's gonna change. Based on the outcome of negotiations. Okay, so when we know what the outcome of negotiations is and we know that it's been voted on and approved, then we'll ask the Council to change these ordinances to reflect that and then we'll approve it that point. That's how I hope it goes down, but just so we could get this turned in to you, Megan decided to just put a 1% in there and we'll just deal with it down the road. Okay? I hope you guys understand. It's tough to turn in a Police and Fire Salary Ordinance while were negotiating Police and Fire salaries, so.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kalwinski

Motion carried

8/0/1

MOTION CARRIED

24-25 Appropriate Monies into the 2024 Gaming Fund

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by title and referred it to the Council as a Whole Committee on October 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Councilwoman Venecz - This is simply moving leftover 2023 money into 2024 so we can utilize that.

Councilman Tyler - It looks like there'll be a public hearing on October 28, 2024 for this as well.

Councilwoman Venecz - Yes, you are absolutely correct. Thank you, Councilman.

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

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

MOTION CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES cont.

24-26 Amending Ordinance No. 9252 and Further Extending the College Bound Scholarship Program

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

Mayor McDermott - This is not due in the next year and I appreciate Councilman Salinas floating this ordinance. The thing about this ordinance that's important for us to remember is this is a signature real estate development tool that we use in our City. It's been successful. Thousands of kids have graduated from colleges all across our State under this program. We spent \$58 million on college scholarships right now and I think, personally, I feel like that's paid itself off multiple times with our increased housing market. The housing market over the last ten years in the City of Hammond has increased like 70%. So, all these things happened because, in my opinion, we have a great business environment in Indiana and we have a great college program that's encouraging people, not just to move here, but to stay here. And when I took over that was a big thing. People were leaving and it's stopped the people from leaving. It's encouraged people to stay. To fix up their home. Their kids are getting educated. Yeah, it's costing us about \$3 million a year right now but I think it pays itself off so much. You talk to the Realtors that are selling homes in our City and they'll tell you people are looking to move to Hammond right now and I think that's great for us. So, I appreciate Councilman Salinas bringing that up. I do want to point out that if you have a kid in college right now, right now College Bound is funded for the rest of this year and college is funded through end of next year by ordinance and then it would run out. So I appreciate Councilman Salinas bringing this up right now. It would extend it for another ten years and I do want to point out to the Council that stuff happens, we went through a pandemic and we still maintained our loyalty to this program. But stuff happens, and if something happened in Hammond that was so devastating that we couldn't afford to do this program anymore, there is language built into this ordinance that get's us the financial ability to get out of this commitments. It's unusual to see a city paying for college scholarships for children of homeowners. That's unusual. So, obviously, if something happened where we weren't making as much money from water sales in Illinois or our revenue dropped dramatically to low and the river boat, where we couldn't afford it anymore then we could get out of this. So, I appreciate you Councilman Salinas for bringing this up. I think it's important for the City. I support it and I hope the Council does too. So, thank you.

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

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

24R-18        Rejecting Establishment of a Merit System for the Hammond Fire Department in accordance with I.C. 36-8-3.5-5.5 and Allowing the Membership to Vote the Issue in accordance with I.C. 36-8-3.5-4

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

Councilman Woerpel - Pursuant to the State Law that Clerk Golec cited, an eligible police department will establish a merit system for its members effective by January 1<sup>st</sup> unless before December 31<sup>st</sup> we decide to opt out as the legislative body. By opting out of this we're leaving up to the membership of the Police Department and the Fire Department to decide if they want to establish a merit system for their bodies.

Mayor McDermott - I agree, Councilman Woerpel. So, the State of Indiana in the last legislative .... first, I've been mayor 21 years. When I came in the promotion system that we have and the discipline system and the hiring system, hiring goes through the pension board, discipline goes through the Board of Public Works and Safety, the Chief runs the department. That's the way it's always been. The Chief has power to promote all the way, there's a lot of seniority that takes place up until you get to Sergeant, and then once you get beyond Sergeant it's based on merit, it's based on accomplishments, it's based on seniority, it's based on, you know, relationship with the Chief of Police, and that's the way it's always worked in Police and Fire. So, I've always heard about merit systems and quite frankly we approached the Police and the Firemen multiple times over the last 20 years and asked them, do you want a merit system, and they've said no. They like it the way it is. This is the way it's always been. So, last year the general Assembly Session I started hearing word about a merit system and it's coming from the Republican Supermajority and it's got legs. This thing is passing the House, it passes the Senate, you're like okay, they're passing a law in Indianapolis that says you must be on a merit system if you're a Hoosier police or fire department. You must. You will be run by a board of five people, two people appointed by the F.O.P. or the Fire Union, two people appointed by the Mayor, one person appointed by the Council. This board must be bipartisan. This board will basically run the department. The Chief of Police and the Fire Chief will be sort of like making recommendations to this board and this board will be the one that hires, the one that fires, the one that demotes, the one that promotes, the one that does everything. So, if we have a situation, we had a fireman get fired sometime back for doing something really, really dumb. It was covered in the newspaper. It was shockingly stupid what this fireman did, and we fired the fireman on the spot. We were like, sorry, there's no way you can come back from this one, and that fireman had rights still. That fireman went to the Board of Public Works and Safety and we set up a hearing and the Board of Public Works and Safety was going to decide, and even if they agreed with the administration you could still sue in court to try to keep your job. So the firefighters and the police department have due process when they're going through this process. Right? But, under this scenario, if this was happening, if that firefighter did the same shockingly dumb thing, the Fire Chief could say, I'm making a recommendation to this Board that you're gonna get fired, and then we make a recommendation to the Board and I tell you what, there's two people from the Union on that Board, maybe they don't want to see this person get fired, maybe they're like, I don't know. I don't like it, personally, as Mayor. We've been doing this for 21 years. Nobody from Indianapolis talked to the Fire Chief or the Police Chief and asked us our opinion on this. Nobody cares about our opinion. We're just the ones running the department. They just said, "Screw you. If you got a police or fire department, you got a merit board whether you like it or not. Suck it up." So this passes the General Assembly. Signed by the Governor, it's gonna become

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - law, right? Well, we read it and it says, “You know what? You don’t have to do this if the Council rejects it and if the Council rejects it, basically the officers and the firefighters get to decide for themselves if they want this system or not.” Because some of them don’t guys. I’ve talked to dozens that don’t. They don’t want this. Our firemen and our policemen don’t want this. And I’m willing to bet that if you reject it, it will go to the bodies and if the bodies don’t want it, why are we forcing something on them that Indianapolis says you must have. Why are we doing that? Nobody talked to a police officer or fire fighter and asked them, do you want this? I think it’s dumb. I like it the way it was. I think we have a great fire department and a great police department. I has nothing to do with the Governor and the Supermajority, it has to do with the way we run it up here. I don’t appreciate what they’re doing. So , I hope that you guys will reject it and them we’ll give it to the police officers themselves so that they could decide, and we’ll give it to the firefighters themselves so that they could decide. Then if they want the merit system, God bless America. But if they don’t, why are forcing this change on them? So, I guess what I’m trying to say is if you reject it, you’re actually giving a voice to the police officers and the firemen in Hammond. So, I hope you reject it. I’ll sign it and we’ll let them decide what kind of promotion system they want. Okay?

Councilman Woerpel - Just to touch on something the Mayor said. I remember before you got here and how many police chiefs and fire chiefs we went through, and that’s not an indictment on the previous administration but I like the way it’s going. My previous job, I’d of loved to be able to pick the boss I want but it don’t work that way. So, I just to clarify, a rejection means we letting the bodies decide on both of these resolutions.

Mayor McDermott - I agree, Councilman Woerpel, if you reject it it gives the police officers and firefighters a chance to say yes, and if they want it there’s nothing we could do to stop it. If they say, “Yes, Mayor, I want a merit system.” There’s nothing we could do to stop it. It’s a vote of the body themselves. So, basically, you’re giving them a voice by rejecting the merit system. You’re giving them the choice themselves. So, thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

RESOLUTION NO. R18 ADOPTED

Mayor McDermott - So now I’m gonna contact the Firefighter Union and let them know that the Council and the Mayor both rejected the merit system and give the Firefighters body sixty days to decide for themselves what kind of promotion system they want. Thank you for doing that.

24R-19        Rejecting Establishment of a Merit System for the Hammond Police Department in accordance with I.C. 36-8-3.5-5.5 and Allowing the Membership to Vote the Issue in accordance with I.C. 36-8-3.5-4

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved for adoption.

Mayor McDermott - I know a couple things as Mayor. I been married twenty years. I know one thing about

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



RESOLUTIONS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont. - police officers. I've heard over the years that police officers are very reluctant to have civilian review panels. Very reluctant. Over the years, if I haven't heard from thirty or forty police officers that said we don't want a citizen review panel. We don't want to get, basically, chastised by people that don't understand being police officers. I've heard it from thirty or forty officers over the years. I want my police officers in Hammond to know what this is, is it's a panel that the State wants to put together that has five civilians that are gonna be your boss. The Police Chief is not gonna be your boss anymore under this. It's gonna be those five civilians that are on that panel that are gonna be looking at your body cams, that are gonna be deciding whether you get demoted or promoted, disciplined. Basically, all the control of the police department goes to this five appointed citizen board. If they vote yes. I don't think they're going to, being honest with you. But I think that you're giving the police officers a voice by rejecting the merit system and I have feeling it's gonna be a resounding they want to stay with the way we've done it for the past 130 years in Hammond. Thank you , Council, for taking this up.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Spitale, Venecz, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Kalwinski

Motion carried

7/0/2

RESOLUTION NO. R19 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

George Stoya - Quite a powerful meeting. So, we are staring down the barrel of a \$2 million debt to come in compliance with the EPA and there's no way out. We're maxed out now, aren't we? I guess we will be bonding to satisfy the Federal Government. Regarding the out of state plates, I believe when Code Enforcement cites them, they are allowed to make their case at the administrative level. Maybe some type of lien could be placed on the property to act as a deterrent. Just because it's hard doesn't mean it shouldn't be addressed. Lastly, regarding the merit board, the citizens in some areas feel cut off and I think there should be some citizen scrutiny.

Ken Rose - My point to the Mayor before was, it wasn't so much about the debt coming for the \$200 million treatment facility, we didn't get here by magic. We got here because of irresponsible unsustainable development that you guys approved. I keep referring to the Briar East Woods that's going to get paved over and exacerbate the problem. I wonder if the Council actually listens to us under Public Expression. I once told the Council about the newly planted trees on Kennedy Avenue that were not taken care of and dying. We now have dozens of trees dead and tens of thousands of dollars down the drain and I doubt they'll be replaced. They were never watered.

Elvia Fuentes - Do you and the Mayor really care about the City of Hammond and its residents or are you committed to destroy us? You are destroying the dune and bringing pollution, noise, thousands of animals will

PUBLIC EXPRESSION cont.

Elvia Fuentes cont. - migrate. We all know the Hammond residents will end up paying a huge portion of the project with the raise of our property taxes like we we've never seen before. The Hammond residents will have to pay for the maintenance of that bridge for as long as we live here. That ridiculous project won't solve the problem which is the safety of the children.

Jana A. - Read a poem to the Council regarding oppression.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Tyler, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

2024 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF  
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	8 22	12 12	26 11	25 8	13 28	10 24	8 22	12 26	9 23	15 28		
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E		
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Janet Venezc	E	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A		
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P		
Barry Tyler	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	P		
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Dave Woerpel	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Initials	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.



Scott Rakos, President  
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:30 p.m.  
cb

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk