

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on October 28, 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.

Moment of silence was observed

#### ROLL CALL

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

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: None

ABSENT: Alexander

TOTAL:8

#### MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Council President. This is my activity log for the meeting of October 28, 2024. The last few weeks, I met with uh, The first thing I'm gonna report was a meeting I had about something in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. It was a resident of the Southmoor neighborhood complaining about a connection to the bike trail that they used to have coming from the Southmoor neighborhood that was cut off with the realignment of the bike trail system. I went over that with Dean. I want to scoop in Councilman Emerson onto that issue as well. It's problematic. I understand where the neighbors are coming from and it's also tough for NICTD to get them the connection that they used to have because of the realignment. We followed up with a letter to the constituent to let them know we looked at it. The Engineer, myself, Chief of Staff. It's a tough issue that we're gonna work through with NICTD to see if we can get it fixed. Met with representatives from Gary Public Transit System about bussing across Northwest Indiana. Obviously, Gary Public Transit has routes through the city. I met with a woman on behalf of the organization. I had lunch with the Mayor of Gary also. Mayor Eddie Melton, him and I had lunch, touching base on issues. Held Mayor's Night Out in the 6<sup>th</sup> District. That one was at Hess School. Met with F.O.P and Fire negotiating teams to catch up on negotiations with both unions. That was internal meetings. To give you an update, only thing that's really changed since last meeting in regards to negotiation, the offer is still pending for the Police. The Police are not voting on it. I don't know what that means, but they're not voting on it, so we're just sitting here waiting for them to vote on it. Fire Department, we gave them our latest offer. I think, I'm looking forward to hearing back from them. We're making good progress. Obviously there's big raises being talked about. I've been keeping the Council as up to date as I can. If you have any questions, I can talk to you after the meeting if you don't mind, so we don't do that on the record. I'm willing to answer any question you have about what's going on. Met with members of the administration over requests by Councilman Dan Spitale to raise the limits on the Homebound Program. As everybody knows, Councilman Spitale is a realtor in his professional life, and he's also an advocate for this program. We are presenting an ordinance to this Council if it's not pending today, it will be coming soon to codify this in our ordinance. It's not codified currently, so we're gonna codify Homebound, and we're proposing to raise the limits. This all came from the Realtor's Breakfast, actually. Councilman Spitale has been pushing us to reconsider the limits, and I think it's a good move. We'll have more on that coming, so I appreciate the

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont- Councilman's work on that. Met with Owana Miller, our Community Development Coordinator over problems that came to my attention about Meals on Wheels. We give a grant every year to Meals on Wheels. I received a concerning problem from one of the volunteers from Meals on Wheels about our residents getting cut off because they can't come up with the \$1.50 or something like that. I'm following that up with Meals on Wheels because we give a lot of money to Meals on Wheels and I don't want to hear sad stories about 90 year old residents that can't come up with \$1.50 for meals when we're giving them \$15,000 per year, which is what we're currently doing. I wanted you all to know that I followed that up. It was a legitimate complaint that I got, and I'm glad it was given to me, and I'm following it up. No one wants to hear sad stories about Meals on Wheels, especially when Hammond gives so much money annually to that organization. Met with Hammond's State Representative Carolyn Jackson about the 2025 Legislative Session and some ideas we had. Met with the CEO of Luke Oil, Tom Collins to catch up with him, and to touch base over land issues that we have across our city. Tom Collins is a real great CEO. I'm asking him if he will consider a donation to the City of Hammond in Hessville and I think he's considering it. I attended a naming ceremony at Calumet College of St. Joseph over the new residence hall located in Robertsdale. Calumet College of St. Joseph just renamed it. I wish I knew the name. Councilman Mark?

Milan Kruszynski- Clark

Mayor McDermott- I should remember that very easily. It's Clark. Clark Hall. Thank you Milan. So, that was a really nice little apartment complex looking dorm. I attended the Veteran's Day planning session. I wanted to remind the Council that the Veteran's Day Parade is this weekend on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and the temperature is supposed to be warm. Please come out, and please remind everyone at home to come out for the Veteran's Day Parade. We're the only Veteran's Day Parade in this entire Chicagoland area and we don't get huge crowds, and it's heartbreaking because we have Veteran's all over the region coming to that. So please help us out. I know a number of you get floats, and I appreciate it. I attended a ribbon cutting for a new business in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district, Fuerte Restaurant. It's a super restaurant. It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> location in the city. It's right outside the window of City Hall, so we can easily order tacos and it's right there, which is wonderful. If you like tacos, go to Fuerte. It's a really good restaurant. It's gonna love the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and it's gonna love Fuerte. So Congratulations on Fuerte for your 3<sup>rd</sup> location in our city. I attended a meeting with architects and Parks staff over the Sportsplex expansion. To give you guys an idea, I know that you all helped with this with the food and beverage issue. Right now, the soccer field expansion is a new 150 foot by 170 foot flexible space. 80 percent of that space is gonna be turfed for flexibility, for flexible use for soccer, baseball, and softball. We're adding 8 volleyball courts, that turn into 4 basketball courts. We're adding a second concession stand. We're moving the sand volleyball courts to the backside of the building, with lights. Once this expansion is complete, the Sportsplex will have up to 20 volleyball courts, up to 10 basketball courts, 4 sand volleyball courts, 3 soccer fields, and 2 concession stands. That's been made possible through the Council's work with us on the food and beverage issue, and I appreciate your help. That's gonna be a great expansion. It's gonna add a lot more tourism, a lot more people in our city. As you all know, we just hosted the largest women's volleyball tournament in the country, D-2. Women from all over the Midwest were here last weekend. There were busses everywhere. I was going through North Hammond, there were busses in North Hammond. It was wonderful, so we're doing great work there. I had lunch with the new Managing Editor of the Northwest Indiana Times, Kathy Chaney, and former Managing Editor, Mark Chase, toward Hammond's new gateway station in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. I know the Council's got a meeting this week, another tour of the gateway station. If you didn't sign up for that, please do

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- so. I know a number of my staff is signing up for that one as well. I held an annual volunteer awards breakfast at the Dynasty and held a voluntary meeting with the resident's of the East Hammond Pullman neighborhood to discuss new housing and new economic development in the area. Tonight before the Council, I'll come up and talk about things as they come up so I don't waste time up here. I'm available for any questions you have. We have a super busy Council meeting tonight, obviously we'll all be talking a lot. If you don't have any questions, I say thank you.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2024 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved to approve the claims from October 10, 2024 through October 23, 2024. Claim #8925 through #9327, inclusive. In the amount of \$6,169,559.63.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Claims)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

Motion Carried 8/0/1 CLAIMS APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

24-25 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2024 Gaming Fund

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tyler- I was able to attend the Hammond Police Department's Trunk or Treat yesterday, and I just wanna thank our police department for sponsoring that event. My kids had a great time dressing up like Ninja Turtles and seeing all the other kids there. Everybody was friendly and gave out a lot of candy which my kids will not be able to eat but I appreciate it anyway. So, I just wanna thank our police department for putting on that event yesterday and everybody else who was there handing out candy.

Councilwoman Venecz- I would like to echo Councilman Tyler's sentiments on that Trunk or Treat. I was going to go over there yesterday. I got all dressed up and had my costume and everything, and the streets were lined with cars and kids, so I really appreciate the participation of our city with the activities that our city offers for our children in particular. In this particular case, the police department, so our kids can get to know our police officers. So, yes, great event. Thank you.

Councilman Kalwinski- Along that same vein, I wanna thank the Hammond Mohawks for sponsoring a Trunk or Treat on Saturday. It was nicely attended. Cars were dressed in the parking lot. People had a very good time, and the weather was very good for it. Thank you to the Mohawks for putting that on for the neighborhood.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Improvement Board- Councilman Emerson-The Capital Improvement Board met on October 21, 2024. We dealt with:

Item A- Funding Allocation #212- Relocate a 24 inch water main at Dowling Park storm water improvements Grimmer Construction in the amount of \$212,916.60

Item B- Funding Allocation #213- Construction Observation of Kennedy Rd. Diet United Consulting in the amount of \$604,000. Hammond's portion is 120,820.00

Item C- Funding Allocation #215- Columbia Avenue reconstruction design 170<sup>th</sup> to 173<sup>rd</sup> Street First Group Engineering in the amount of \$315,064.00

Item D- Funding Allocation #216- South Hammond Sub area plan HWC Engineering in the amount of \$156,000

Item E-Funding Allocation #217- Rectangular rapid flashing beacon in the amount of \$19,400

Councilman Woerpel- Council as a Whole will be bringing out 24-20, 24-21, 24-22, 24-23, 24-24, 24-25, 24-26

Community and Crime Watch Committee - Councilwoman Venecz- Upcoming meetings

Edison Community Watch; Wed., Nov 6; 6:30 pm; Edison School

Hessville Crime Watch; Thurs., Nov 21; 6pm; Hansen Library

Irving Community Watch; Tues., Nov 12; 9:30am; Irving School

Whiting/Robertsdale; Thurs., Nov 14; 6:30pm; Calumet College

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

24-20 The City of Hammond's 2025 Budget Proposal

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

Mayor McDermott- We've had plenty of discussion with just about every City Council member about this budget. As we all know, Megan and her staff, went through multiple meetings with each department. We averaged the expenses over the last few years. The numbers that you see in this budget, every single line item has been researched. If you have questions, obviously we're at the public portion of the meeting now, obviously if we want to talk about things on the record, I'm more than willing to. I don't want the public to think this is the first time we've looked at it. Each and every one of us has worked real hard on this, so I'm not sure what you all wanna talk about that we haven't talked about already.

Councilman Woerpel- I know I read every page of it, and looked at it and I have to commend Megan and the City because, because of some increases in salaries and stuff like that, I was actually impressed on how much we saved in other areas. Just like the Mayor said, this isn't the first time we looked at it, nobody's hiding nothing. I just want to tell her she did a good job on it. Thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Councilman Woerpel was talking about, you know, we were talking earlier about

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

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

Mayor McDermott cont- negotiations with Police and Fire and it's hard in this budget to build numbers into this budget knowing that the Police and Fire may change it drastically with those negotiations. I think we can easily live with the numbers we have in that budget. If we have to come back to you we will, but we imagine we know what's gonna happen in both departments in regards to raises for next year. I'm hoping that they'll follow through and vote them in so we can all move forward. Thank you Councilman, and by the way, I'm not even, Megan and her staff went through a huge computer transformation that encompassed every part of City Hall, every part of City Government, and we implemented that transformation this year and then we had an audit, because we're always getting audited, and then as soon as we cleaned up the audit, we jumped right into budget season and interviewed every department head. The Controller's office works extremely hard, and I'm not just talking about the Controller's office in City Hall, all the Controller's offices in each of the utilities, Redevelopment, everybody works real hard to put their budgets together before you guys. I know you guys ask a lot of questions and there's a lot of back and forth, I just wanna say thank you to everybody involved in this process. When it works, it's great to see it happen. I can go over some of the big parts of the budget if you want, Councilman, for the public.

Councilman Rakos- Ok.

Mayor McDermott- The large expenses we have in here, College Bound is one of the large expenses we carry. It's 3.5 million dollars every year. City Insurance, Self Insurance, Insurance for the employees, for the Police and Fire, everything is about 11 million dollars a year. Public Safety is running about 50 million a year. We pay about 5 million dollars in debt. Police budget alone is 37 million dollars. Fire department budget is 25 million dollars. Gaming as we all know has been under a lot of pressure with what has been going on at the Hard Rock. It's tax advantages that it has over every casino in Indiana right now amplified by the fact that it's a brand new boat and exacerbated by the fact that I don't really see the urgency coming out of Horseshoe Casino, but I'm not the CEO of Horseshoe Casino, and I can't force them to do things that they're not willing to do for themselves. All we can do is, we're partners over there, and when they're having a tough year, we're having a tough year with them. The good news I have is, even though we're having a tough year in gaming, we're having a great year in other categories. The water revenue is up, and that's wonderful and it's all contractual, and it's gonna go up next year as well. The pilot fees that are paid by the utility fees are up and fair, by the way. The assessed value is up, and I know nobody likes it when their assessed value goes up, because that means their taxes go up, but if your assessed value goes up, that means your house is worth more, which is our main job. So when all these things come together, we can have a bad year with gaming and offset it with the strength in other categories, and that's what happened this year. It makes me feel like we're doing a good job because we did have a bad year in gaming, and we're still managing to pay the bills, and give raises, and do all the things that cities are supposed to be able to do. So thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: Kalwinski

ABSENT: Alexander

Motion carried

7/1/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9644 PASSED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



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

Mayor McDermott- We put up 2% for every employee outside of the contractual. If it's contractual, Police and Fire ordinance are gonna take over. If it's contractual with teamsters, they're gonna have to negotiate that in to the first year. So with teamsters, the first year will have to be the number we put into the budget with you all that you're approving and we can make it up to them in years 2,3,& 4 if they're uncomfortable with that. With Police and Fire, that's gonna be a whole separate issue that we deal with between the Council and the administration just with those two, so we can weigh it on those, but, yes, 2%. Long winded answer, sorry Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

Motion carried 8/0/1 ORDINANCE NO. 9647 PASSED

24-24 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries and Wages of all Police Officers and Fire Fighters in the City of Hammond Indiana Other than Those Fixed By Statute or Ordinance hereto for Enacted, and Fixing the Effective Date Thereof.

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

Councilman Woerpel- Again, like what was discussed in Caucus, the contracts aren't done yet. This is a budget estimate based on the talks they've had so far and it's my understanding that if everything goes as planned, you might have to come back to us with like an amendment on this towards the end of the year.

Mayor McDermott- We built 1% into this salary ordinance right now and what we're gonna plan to do is when we finish our negotiations with Police and Fire, we're gonna have to come back to you all and amend this. We've talked to Corporate Council and Corporate Council felt that this was the best way to do it, is to pass this tonight at the 1% and then we'll have to come back before the end of the year and fix it. We have to wait until we're done with negotiating to do that. We have until the end of they year though. We were informed that this is the best route to take on this ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander, Spitale

Motion carried 7/0/2 ORDINANCE NO. 9648 PASSED

24-25 An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies into the 2024 Gaming Fund

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

Councilwoman Venecz- This is moving funds from 2023 to 2024 for the appropriate districts.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9649 PASSED

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

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

Councilman Salinas- This is a further extension of our College Bound Scholarship Program.

Mayor McDermott- This scholarships been in existence now for almost 20 years. We're on our 19<sup>th</sup> year of this program now, which is hard to believe. At this point, we've given out over 8,800 total awards. 58 million dollars in tuition assistance, since we've started this program. 50 different colleges and universities across Indiana. These students have completed over 350,000 community service hours in the City of Hammond, in return for that service. In 2024 alone, this class, we have 460 students in the program currently, attending 27 schools across Indiana. The interesting thing about College Bound, is most of the kids stay local. Over 60 percent of them don't leave the immediate area. 43 percent of them go to school right here in Hammond at PNW. 43 percent of all of our students are at PNW. So this is really helping out the local university as well. IUN, Calumet College, and Ivy Tech also very heavy local population goes there. We renewed the program 10 years ago. There might have been a few of you on stage when we renewed it at that time. At the time we renewed it, there was concern about whether or not we could make another 10 year commitment. We did it, obviously. We're in year 9 of the 10 year commitment. At the time, we came up with language, the Council and the Mayor, that said something to this effect, and it's built into the ordinance, if the Mayor declares a fiscal emergency, it gives us the ability to get out of this program. Let me explain it to the audience at home, we're paying for homeowners college tuition, the city budget, out of the city budget. This is an extraordinary thing. There's not a lot of cities in America that do this, so there is language that's built into this ordinance, that gives us the flexibility if an emergency arises, and we need to get out of this commitment. It's built into the ordinance. I insisted on it 10 years ago. I know there were others that insisted on it. That language is still in there. Obviously this is another 10 year commitment if we follow through with this. I hope we do. I think this program has helped us become the biggest city in Lake County with the highest assessed value in Lake County. We have the most students in the school cities in Northwest Indiana. We have a lot of things going for us in Hammond. I think a lot of it has to do with this program. So I hope we give it another 10 year run. This is not an emergency. This is year 9 of 10. We still have 1 full year to act on this if you guys don't wanna do it today. I just want to point out, it's good to give the people in this program the assurance to know that this thing is approved for the next 4 years. They're buying houses right now, and they want to know if their kids are gonna be covered. Thank you for taking this up, Councilman Salinas.

Councilman Tyler- If it's not too late, I would like to be added as a co-sponsor for this ordinance.

Councilman Kalwinski- I was here with you when we first started this.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*



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

Mayor McDermott- In the first year. 20 years ago.

Councilman Kalwinski- What excitement was generated by us passing that. It was really something avant-garde and shot in the arm for the city, and for it's residents. Here we are almost 20 years later, 58 million.

Mayor McDermott- Yes sir.

Councilman Kalwinski- Well spent, but we are nearing a place where we're hitting our prices. We're very close and what I would ask is that we look at the program we modeled was the Kalamazoo Promise, right?

Mayor McDermott- At the time, yes sir. That's where we got the idea.

Councilman Kalwinski- How they did their program was through the Kellogg Foundation, and they used strictly private funds to fund that scholarship program. What I would ask to be able to continue College Bound to sort of ease the burden on the City, is that, I would request that you put a committee together to see what kind of private funds we could get to contribute to the program. You guys did a great job with the Y. You partnered with White, Crossroads Y, and the city put in some money and we got a great project out of that. I would ask that we look at doing something similar with College Bound so that we can keep it in place, and that it can run another 10 years, and so that we can put some of those dollars back in to the city where it's needed, infrastructure or where else. So, I'm all for College Bound, but I think we have to look at revamping how we fund it, so I'm requesting that you put that under consideration.

Councilman Emerson- I wish that I would've had for my children, a daughter and a son, College Bound. I was, they were previously at college before it came into existence, but I think it would have been, it's great, and I hope it continues. That's my final statement.

Mayor McDermott- I personally support this program a lot. I think it's wonderful. I share Mark's enthusiasm at the time we passed it. I still have it. I do. I love this program. I think it makes us unique. It makes people wanna live here. It makes people wanna stay here. I think that's worth a lot. It's hard for us to see it. I know looking at that number, it's a big number, 58 million. Over 20 years, it's a big number, but I think that helped us achieve a billion dollars in economic development. I think it helped us. That's how much we've brought in over the last 20 years, a billion dollars into economic development. How much of that billion dollars is brought in because of that 58 million investment we made? Nobody will ever know Councilman. You could hire people, I could hire people, they'd probably have different numbers. I get it man, it's a big number. It's a big commitment. I'm not mad at anybody for feeling the way that they do. We could afford this. It's 3 million a year. That's not wonderful, it just makes our job harder. I get it, but we do theoretically pay for this with Illinois water revenue. We make like 20 million dollars a year in water revenue. A lot of that's going to pay for programs like this. We do still make money from the gaming boats, that also helps. It's not what it use to be. Councilman Mark remembers like I do when it was in the mid 30's and it's way less than that now. So I get it, I'm not mad. I think this is an important part of who we are. If it got to the point where we couldn't afford it, we have the ability to get out. That won't be a fun day. Just like I'm sure it's not easy for Councilman Mark to say what he's saying right now. If we all had to say that, that's a bad day in Hammond. That's like a flag at half mass day in Hammond because we can't pay for College Bound anymore. That day may arrive, and if it does come when we can't afford it, We do have the language, and I do wanna point that out. It protects us.

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

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

Councilman Woerpel- I know I was doing a different job, when you first put College Bound into effect and I saw it first hand on my mail route. When it first started to take effect, the one thing, before it was taking effect, what I did see were a lot of my old neighbors that I grew up around, the moms and dads dying off and the kids not living in Hammond and just selling houses. We never knew who they were going to. I didn't see a lot of families moving into the neighborhoods. Once College Bound became into effect, what I did notice were families coming back to Hammond. I will never forget the housing crisis of 2008. A lot of the foreclosure notices I was having to knock on the doors to get people to sign and I had people tell me we'll figure out a way to make these payments because we have College Bound in Hammond. I'm just saying that I saw it with my own 2 eyes and to go back on that promise now, I think would be doing a disservice to the residents that moved here with little kids now for that reason. Yeah it would be good if you could get somebody else interested, like a business or whatever. I think this is a great program and it needs to remain.

Mayor McDermott- I do want to point out Councilman Mark, I don't remember the foundation, it could be Kellogg, I don't remember if that's the one that's right, but if somebody wants to give us a lot of money to help fund this, I would be so thrilled because this is the cost every year for it. So I don't want you to think that I think that this is preposterous, ok? It's obviously not easy, hey would you give us 100 million dollars? Or whatever, right? I'm willing to do it, but right before us right now is the pending motion.

Councilman Kalwinski- I appreciate you saying that you'd be willing to look into that and possibly pursue something like that.

Mayor McDermott- I would love to, absolutely, there's a lot of billionaires out there, you never know.

Councilman Kalwinski- We have some big industry.

Mayor McDermott- Yes sir.

Councilman Kalwinski- Thank you for considering it.

Mayor McDermott- You're right, the Dean and Barbara White Foundation has been incredible for the City of Hammond. I think since I've been Mayor, they've probably given over 50 million dollars to the City of Hammond. Just that one foundation, so who knows. If I remember correctly, in the Kalamazoo Promise, they were given 9 figures, the city was gifted, and they live off the interest. That would be amazing if we didn't have that 3 million dollar cost on our book every year.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

Motion carried

8/0/1

ORDINANCE NO. 9650 PASSED

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

24-27 An Ordinance Authorizing the Extension of the Maturity of \$39,000,000 Variable Rate Demand Sewage and Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Refunding Bonds (Cargill, Incorporated Project) Series 2005 of the City of Hammond, Indiana; The Execution and Delivery of a First Supplemental Indenture of Trust; The Execution and Delivery of a First Amendment to Loan Agreement Between Cargill, Incorporated and said City; and Related Matters

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Woerpel, moved the proposed ordinance to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title, with a Council as a Whole committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on November 13, 2024

Councilman Kalwinski- This is a bond that goes through Cargill. It's their bond. They have a representative here, Mr. Adam Lawson today. I appreciate him being here from Cargill and they're asking for a 5 year extension for the bond. It's already been built in to the previous ordinance so they're not asking anything that out of the ordinary. Again, the expense for the bond is totally theirs, and we'll have the committee meeting in 2 weeks.

Mayor McDermott- Cargill's one of the largest employers in the City of Hammond. They're good neighbors. We've had issues with Cargill in the past. We've approached Cargill with the issues, and they've worked quickly to address the issues. I know the Councilman is aware of that. It is a company, so sometimes things do happen. Councilman Mark explained it very well. For those of you that heard of municipal bonds, that's what we're talking about here. If it's for pollution control, which this bond was for pollution control, they're allowed to get municipal treatment which is tax deferred basically if we endorse it. So we endorsed it 20 years ago, they're asking for 5 more years if we extend it, then they can continue to get tax free municipal bonds, which is what they're trying to do. Like Councilman Mark said, this does not cost us anything, it's just us helping one of our biggest employers in the city.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alexander

Motion Carried

8/0/1

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

None.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel- I been debating whether or not I should say this or not, but this weekend my 14 year old grandson got picked to represent not only Hammond, Indiana but, the Great Lakes Region in a 14u baseball tournament that only 15 kids in the entire Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky region get to play in and he hit 6<sup>th</sup> in that region and he played flawless at shortstop. I know there's lot of talk these days about what do kids do. There's nothing for kids. This kid started on a baseball field at Hessville Park at 4 years old playing T-ball. It's a game he loves, and now he gets to show his talents this weekend to represent the Great Lakes Region. I'm very proud of him. Secondly, when we were talking about the investment in Hammond and the assessed evaluation, about once a week, once every 2 weeks, I drive around the entire city and I just look at it from my

*Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk*

old eyes. I noticed something we passed not too long ago, the frames up on that Swanel Beverage over here. I don't know. There's a lot of BS we hear as elected officials on what our priorities are, you know, what we seem to like and not like. I like to drive around and look at all the new things going up, and that's something I think everyone on the, because we could have very easily lost that business. Councilman Tyler, you sponsored that ordinance, so it's just kind of neat when you drive around and see what kind of new development is coming around the City of Hammond. So I just wanted to say that too.

Councilman Rakos- Congratulations to Mason.

Councilwoman Venecz- Congratulations, Grandpa.

Councilman Woerpel- I don't know if I can sit in the car for 16 hours without having to use the bathroom every 10 minutes, but I'll cut back on the coffee.

Councilman Emerson- Congratulations.

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilwoman Venecz, moved that the meeting scheduled for Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be rescheduled to Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

AYES: ALL

Councilman Emerson- As the Mayor stated, Veteran's Appreciation Day is November 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 10 a.m. start. It's our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Veteran's Appreciation Day Parade. A day of remembrance for a lifetime of service. Rain or shine, we're gonna march in it. If you know a veteran, tell him to march in it, or if he wants to just observe it, he can. That's it. November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 a.m. start. It's at Olcott and 175<sup>th</sup>, I believe.

#### PUBLIC EXPRESSION

George Stoya- That was a pretty good meeting, the last couple have been pretty good. My problem is, none of the things that you passed on the final reading was on the agenda. You guys are just doing your own thing. You're supposed to be our representatives. There's some accountability. It'd be nice to have a nice little agenda.

Jana A.- This is my last meeting. I'm going to travel. I have grown so much while making this documentary. I can't wait for all of you to see it. I'm leaving you with a movie, and I hope it gives you all hope. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I enjoyed making speeches for you. You guys are cool people. It would be amazing if you could make it to the premier. The information is on the flyer that was given to you.

Councilman Woerpel, 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	26	11	25	8	22	13	28	10	24	8	22	12	26	9	23	15	28				
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	A			
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Janet Venecz	E	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P				
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	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				
Dave Woerpel	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG				

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: 7:00 p.m.  
mg/cb

Prepared by  
Robert J. Golec  
Hammond City Clerk