

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2025, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER The Public Safety Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Mayor Jones.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: 6 ALDERMEN: Navarrete, Wilson (6:33 p.m.), Williams, Gardner (6:23 p.m.), Patton, Smith.

ABSENT: 1 ALDERMEN: Tillman

Also present were: Mayor Jones, City Clerk Dr. Nyota T. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Deputy Clerk Jessica Coffee, Economic Development Val Williams.

Motion for Closed Session Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Williams to enter into executive session at 6:13 p.m. for probable litigation and discussion of employment of a specific individual.

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session The council met in executive session from 6:14 p.m. to 6:34 p.m.

Return to Regular Order Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to return to the regular order of business at 6:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Mayor's Report None

Approval of Payment for Hoosier Printing Alderman Williams moved seconded by Alderman Smith to approve payment to Hoosier Printing for January 2025 Newsletter, in the amount of \$52,106.00 and direct City Treasurer to remit payment from account #01099-52351.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: 4 ALDERMEN: Navarrete, Williams, Gardner, Smith
NAYS: 2 ALDERMEN: Wilson, Patton
ABSENT: 1 ALDERMEN: Tillman

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Navarrete "This issue is not with the newsletter itself obviously the amount of

Discussion

it \$52,106.00 is something that caught the council's attention as usually these newsletters have historically been somewhere around the range of \$30,000.00 dollars. So when the city council had every right to flag this as an outlier as out of the ordinary. When the city council flagged it and decided to not approve it to look into the matter further. It was learned that the printing had already been done, the mailing had already been completed, the work had already been done on behalf of Calumet City by Hoosier Printing. My issue is again we have a purchasing ordinance here in Calumet City we have a credit card ordinance here in Calumet City. And continually over and over these ordinances are being ignored items are making it, tasks are being taken out without proper council approval. Items are making the agenda for the city council to review without proper back up. Again, that's the frustration that's the issue here with this item. Again, I think we had every right to flag this item; it's a very large expense, again outside of the ordinary. Again, my issue is not with, I guess how our staff entered it; how Hoosier Printing handled it, but rather how items continue to get through and the councils left with the decision to either approve it or decline payment to a small business someone who obviously cannot afford to do this work without getting paid. I'll leave it there at that and piggyback off of some of the other Aldermen's points."

Mayor Jones

"Alderwoman Wilson"

Alderman Wilson

"I second what Alderman Navarrete stated it is not anything that our employees have done, nor is it the printing company; it is the fact that we have policies and rules in place and time and time again things are happening and being paid for and we're told after the fact. Our next door neighbors in Dolton are currently going through that. And we did say that we wanted to table this bill because we wanted to have the invoice, a copy of what was sent to the printers to find out what was so instrumental that caused over a \$20,000.00 dollar increase in what we're paying. For the printing company we get \$25,000.00 each ward for sidewalks; so we're going to pay you 2 wards worth of sidewalks for a newsletter, that's beautifully done but we didn't approve it and I wanted to know what all was printed, what was in that order because an extra ten pages is not to me worth \$20,000.00 extra. For four years we have seen payments made without our approval; there's always an apology somebody's oversight and we've accepted it. We can't continue to just accept it. I hate that delaying payment hurts a small business I really do. But just like we tell our residents here before they go into business to look at who they are going into business with and read the fine lines of everything. We did not have a contract. I apologize for being late for executive session, so I don't know if we talked about who gave the approval to print this or not. I'm

use to these things starting at 6:30 p.m. because most of us work. So I am concerned; I don't feel comfortable continuing to pay for things that we didn't approve. It's just like if you tell your child they can spend this much and they go above what they are supposed to spend. When we said we wanted to table this item within days one or two days the newsletter was being put into our mailboxes by our employees. It was almost as if this council didn't say a thing and we have to stop that. That's all I have to say."

Alderman Gardner

"Can I speak to that? I do concur with the two Aldermen that spoke however, I did see for my own self the newsletters being delivered by the postal carriers. So, I can't speak to if I saw an employee with the city delivering newsletters. I physically saw it because I received one at my house. At this point we did vote to defer payment so that we can all have a fair opportunity to review the newsletter prior to it being issued. To my understanding, unbeknownst I believe unbeknownst to this council we didn't know the process that you guys print the stuff and mail it out. So, if you didn't know or were not aware of our action that we took on council in all fairness you guys have rendered a service and at this point I'm in favor of paying you guys so we can move forward. That's all I have."

Mayor Jones

"Alderman Patton"

Alderman Patton

"I've got nothing further to add other than what Alderman Navarrete and Alderwoman Wilson already stated."

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones transferred control of the meeting to Deputy Mayor Ramonde Williams at 6:45 p.m.

Alderwoman Wilson
Left the Meeting

Alderwoman Wilson left the Public Safety Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Alderman Patton
Left the Meeting

Alderman Patton left the Public Safety Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Fire Chief Bachert
Presentation

There was a brief presentation by Fire Chief Bachert regarding the number of emergency calls the department had taken in 2024. Fire Chief Bachert reported on the revenue the Training Center is bringing in for the City of Calumet City. Chief Bachert gave an update on the current number of employees and the employees that have retired.

Police Chief Kolosh

There was a brief presentation by Police Chief Kolosh reporting on the

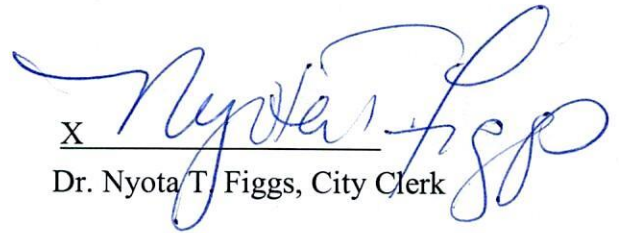
Presentation

crime in Calumet City for 2024. Chief Kolosh reported on homicides in the city, firearms collected and a decrease in car jackings. Chief Kolosh concluded his presentation by informing the council that citations have increased.

Adjournment

Alderman Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Gardner at 7:18 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

X 
Dr. Nyota T. Figgs, City Clerk