

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2026
204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY,
ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER The Special Committee meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on January 13, 2026, by Mayor Jones.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT 7 ALDERMEN: Harvey (6:06 p.m.), Wilson, Tillman (6:03 p.m.), Williams, Gardner (6:09 p.m.), Nelson, Phillips.

ABSENT: 0 ALDERMEN: NONE

Also present were City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Deputy Clerk I Jessica Coffee, Finance Director John Kasperek, Deputy Clerk II Dailey, Police Chief Kolosh, Fire Chief Bachert, City Engineer Consultant Ken Chastain, City Engineer Matt Buerger, and Attorney O'Grady.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Mayor's Report Mayor Jones reported there will be a meeting next week regarding the Calumet City Water Rates. Mayor Jones announced there will not be a Meeting on January 15, 2026. Mayor Jones stated his concern is getting Farnsworth paid for their work; if not in entirety, for the city to at least make payments.

City Engineer Matt Buerger and Ken Chastain Engineer Consultant City Engineer Matt Buerger and Engineer Consultant Ken Chastain presented the council with an update on the active engineering projects. This report was as follows:

Public Works Site and Drainage Improvements-the design is underway at the 30% level, the review is set to be provided to the city in January. Lead Service Line Replacement Phase II- the project was bided on and awarded to Trine Construction, the engineers are currently awaiting information from the City to finalize the loan commitment. Lead Service Line Replacement Phase III -The project is out for bid with an opening scheduled for January 29, 2026. Wentworth Woods Development- the design is underway with the review set to be provided to the city in early February. USACE Levee Project-the engineers are awaiting USACE FEMA determination on land acquisition needs. Annual Road, Alley and Sidewalk Program- the engineers need the close out of the 2025 paperwork and authorization by council (approved 12/22/2026) to prepare resolutions and paperwork for 2026 program.

Stormwater and Sewer Capital Plan - National Power Rod will begin Phase I, January 02, 2026, for 35 miles of sewer north of Michigan City Road. Cleaning and Televising Phase II area south of Michigan City Road, approximately 20 miles will go to bid in January 2026. Superior Basin Improvement -Design is at 60% plan submission to the city in January. Yates Basin Improvement -Design is at 60% plan submission to the city in January. Forsythe Village Stormwater Planning- Stormwater Conceptual plan submission February. Greenbay Pump Station- Analysis started in December with recent field visit, deliverable TBD. Lincoln Pump Station-Analysis started in December with recent field visit, deliverable TBD. State Street CSO Pump Station- Analysis started in December with recent field visit, deliverable TBD. -Stateline Road Stormwater Basin- Design started in December with recent field visit, deliverable TBD. Capital Plan- Underway anticipated delivery December 2026.

Discussion

The City Council inquired about work completed by the city engineers and the amount of funds paid out for pending projects

Alderwoman Wilson

Alderwoman Wilson inquired about grants the city is in jeopardy of losing or having to pay back.

City Engineer
Matt Buerger

City Engineer Matt Buerger replied the city is in jeopardy of losing the 8,000,000.00 dollars for the lead lines if the city doesn't move forward with that project. City Engineer Matt Buerger also stated the city is also in jeopardy of losing and or having to pay back any Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grants where the city is not showing progress on the projects.

Consultant Ken
Chastain

Consultant Ken Chastain reported that the government defines progress on a project as payment to the engineer or contractor or both, a draw down from the grant shows that the project is not stagnant. Without movement on the projects, the city is at risk of losing the grants.

Alderwoman Wilson

"I understand that we have to show progress but you all aren't showing us progress and I have to be honest. In 2021 I asked you all about one specific street Herbert Breclaw in the 2nd ward. You all did the study we paid you and nothing has been done. That sewer is sinking per your own study in 2023 people almost lost their lives on Herbert Breclaw with the flood, had the Fire Department not swam up to save people they would've drowned in their own homes. This is a sewer from 2021 that we've paid Farnsworth to survey and fix. So, for me I have a problem with a lot of these projects. I understand the reimbursement and all of that and the need to draw down but we are trying to show progress for money when we aren't showing progress to this council or to the people."

Alderwoman Nelson Alderwoman Nelson commented regarding the ponds recently being drained since she's been an Alderwoman but it being an issue since 2021. Alderwoman Nelson stated that the City of Calumet City is paying for a service from Farnsworth. Alderwoman Nelson is concerned that Farnsworth is doing a lot of surveying and analysis and patch work; she stated that the patch work, the analysis and the work from Calumet City Plumbing is what's eating up the money.

City Engineer Matt Buerger City Engineer Matt Buerger stated that Farnsworth's goal is to be proactive and not reactive.

Finance Director John Kasperek Finance Director Kasperek gave a presentation regarding the funding for all the pending projects and how those projects relate to the bonds and grants. Finance Director Kasperek pointed out that there is an issue with the process regarding Farnsworth invoices as it relates to invoices being paid out of the correct accounts.

Alderman Gardner Alderman Gardner requested that all the engineering bills from Farnsworth be reviewed by City Treasurer Tarka and Finance Director Kasperek for duplicates and proper account numbers. Alderman Gardner stated for the record that if the bills do not come before this council; the council will not be paying moving forward with payment.

Direct City Treasurer Tarka and Finance Director Kasperek To Review Invoices Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Harvey to direct City Treasurer Tarka and Finance Director Kasperek to review Farnsworth invoices for the \$1,245,246.74 for duplicate invoices and submit appropriate account numbers to the council for payment.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7 ALDERMEN: Harvey, Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
NAYS: 0 ALDERMEN: None
ABSENT: 0 ALDERMAN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Direct City Engineer Farnsworth To Obtain Council Permission Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips to direct City Engineer Farnsworth to obtain a motion from the city council before assisting any Calumet City Department heads.

ROLL CALL

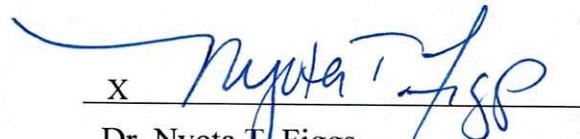
AYES: 7 ALDERMEN: Harvey, Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
NAYS: 0 ALDERMEN: None
ABSENT: 0 ALDERMAN: None

MOTION CARRIED

City Engineer Ken Chastain City Engineer Consultant Ken Chastain stated Farnsworth will not assist any Calumet City Department Heads or do any contractual work without a motion from the council.

Adjournment Alderwoman Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Gardner at 8:17 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

X 

Dr. Nyota T. Figgs
City Clerk