

**SPECIAL MEETING SWEARING IN
HELD ON MAY 01, 2025
204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY,
ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order at 5:56 p.m. by Mayor Jones.

PRESENT: 6 **ALDERMEN:** Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips

ABSENT: 1 **ALDERMEN:** Harvey

Also present were Mayor Jones, City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Deputy Clerk I Jessica Coffee, Deputy Clerk II Quentin Dailey, City Administrator Deanne Jaffrey, Police Chief Kolosh, Attorney Kasper, Fire Chief Bachert. Director Sheryl Tillman

PRAYER: Pastor Stokes led the city council in prayer

SELECTION: Simone Green performed God Bless America.

Mayor Jones Mayor Jones presented his wife with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for getting him through four interesting years.

Installation of the Mayor of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Thaddeus Jones as the Mayor of Calumet City.

Installation of the Treasurer of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Gerald Tarka as the Treasurer of Calumet City.

Installation of the Clerk of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Dr. Nyota T. Figgs as the City Clerk of Calumet City.

Affirmation of Bonds for the Top Three Office Holders Mayor Thaddeus Jones made an affirmation that the Mayor, City Clerk, and Treasurer of Calumet City all have that have been filed with the State of Illinois.

Installation of the 2nd Ward Alderperson of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Monet S. Wilson as the 2nd Ward Alderperson of Calumet City.

Installation of the 3rd Ward Alderperson of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Deandre Tillman as the 3rd Ward Alderperson of Calumet City.

Installation of the 4th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Ramonde Williams as the 4th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City.

Installation of the 5th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Dejuan Gardner as the 5th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City.

Installation of the 6th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Miacole Nelson as the 6th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City.

Installation of the 7th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City Judge Maria Barlow installed Melissa Phillips as the 7th Ward Alderperson of Calumet City.

SELECTION: Simone Green performed Thank You Lord.

Mayor Jones Mayor Jones acknowledged the elected officials and introduced some of the city employees.

Mayor Jones Inaugural Address “So four years ago I stood in this very spot and took an oath of office similar to tonight. Part of that oath of office was planning to the the residents of the City of Calumet City that we would do better and that we had to do better. And along the way was many heartbreaks It was interesting times not only did I lose my best friend Rob Mcgee that was here with us in this room 4 years ago. I lost my mother, my mentor Frank Zuccareli, lost one of my best friends Stephon Grant to pancreatic cancer, and most recently we lost a hometown hero Pete Bendinelli who’s birthday was yesterday. So, I would ask everyone to stand for not only a moment of silence, but a round of applause for not only their lives. I also have to add Alderman Gardner lost his mother during that time. So, we wanna thank God for not only bringing us through four years but we also want to praise God for what he’s done in our lives and as we celebrate these heroes for what they’ve contributed to Calumet City let’s not only give

them a moment of silence but a round of applause afterwards, so lets please give them a moment of silence not only for Rob McGree, my mother, Alderman Gardner's mother, Pete Bendinelli, Stephon Grant, Frank Zuccarelli."

Moment of
Silence

The City Council stood for a moment of silence and applause for the above mentioned by Mayor Jones.

Mayor Continued
Remarks

"I have to say to the residents of Calumet City sometimes I've been challenged. I not only want to respect the residents, but I want to tell the residents, it's time for you to get involved, you can't stand idle anymore and watch the city progress or go through struggle without getting involved. And at this time we need everyone to move Calumet City in a new direction, a new light, and also in a new economic light and not only do I pledge to do that; I'll make sure to keep Calumet City out in the forefront of every federal and state elected officials to make sure that they understand that Calumet City deserves more. As we do that we need our residents to get involved. You know I kind of laid back some and was not aggressive in the last four years as I should've been; because I was listening to people who wanted to make sure that we brought Calumet City together and sometimes I always say that it takes good news probably 60 days to travel but it takes bad news 30 seconds to travel. I am encouraging and challenging you and our residents of Calumet City to stop listening to the noise about my administration and what we've done. I got elected twice as the Mayor of Calumet City and its time the residents join us on this train to make sure we improve Calumet City otherwise we will be no better than other communities. We can no longer blame Dolton cause that's over with wait we can blame Harvey now.(laughter) But we got to challenge out residents to get involved because its time. And to each Alderman I encourage you to not only forget the past but stop listening to Aldermen who are no longer here. Stop listening to elected officials who are no longer here. It is our responsibility to make sure that we work together the right way. Now part of what I want to say to everyone at our last meeting there was somethings voted on by our city council that at our next meeting I will send a veto message to

this council; because we will not start off on the wrong foot. We are not going to listen to Alderman that are no longer here. We are going to listen to each other and work with each other but we will not listen to people and have them put pressure on my administration to do things that they didn't do eight years ago.

Presentation
Of Pens

(Mayor Jones had pens passed out to the new council as a symbol of the Council coming together.)

We have to make sure that we not only work together but we have the awesome responsibility to make sure we do better. Part of my plan many of you know that we have to repair and rebuild River Oaks Mall. So we took the first step to rebuilding River Oaks Mall by not only filing a Bill in Springfield for a Quick Take to take River Oaks Mall the slum lords that own River Oaks Mall told us that River Oaks Mall is worth \$40 million dollars, and we know River Oaks mall is probably worth \$4 million dollars but part of what we have is we have three developers that we are going to present to this council and they are ready to rebuild River Oaks Mall once we get it. So we've charged our Attorney's we've charged Springfield, and this council passed a Resolution for immanent domain proceedings to take River Oaks Mall. One of my other priorities is making sure that we start a proper 1st time Home Buyers program and focus on housing. We have nearly 1400 abandoned homes and we want to make sure we start a great 1st Home Buyer program that gets us to the next level. We can only do that by using or resources with our federal government and our state government. My third priority making sure that we build a Police and Fire Station; we found the funds to build that and also build a new Public Works facility. And as I mentioned part of that is looking at connecting some of the properties that we have that have been off the tax rolls for years. We have to make sure that we are improving our property tax collection rate. So, I've been working with the Treasurer to make sure we do that, I've been working with John Kasparek to do that; but we have to do that so that we can stabilize our budget. We can't no longer live in 2020 2018 budgets we have to make sure we improve our budget and Stabilize it for the future otherwise doing any housing program is not going to work. And lastly part of my vision is Economic Development we have to be

aggressive in Calumet City so Economic Development and Developers recognize and support Calumet City; to that end I am going to make changes in our Community Economic Development Department. I am also going to make sure that I am at the forefront of any talks that we have with developers that want to come to Calumet City. So we had talks recently with developer and have shown them Calumet City. Just want to give you guys a few of the developers we talked to, that we're in talks with right now: Café Borgia, Garretts Popcorn, Portillo's, Buona Beef who we've had conversations and Zoom meetings with, Fat Burger and Kulwin's, the other places that we are going after is Cinnabon, Oberweis, Mariano's and of course Upper Deck Golf. The State of Illinois gave us a \$21 million dollar grant which we are going to utilize and present to the city council on May 06th; I am calling a Special Meeting so we can improve and not only have Economic Development in Wentworth Woods but also a Grocery Store in Wentworth Woods that we long promised to the 6th ward residents and the residents on that end of town. Alderwoman Miacole has definitely saw the plans we made sure that the owner will come before the council, we've subdivided the lots, it is time for progress to come and Calumet City. So as I close I want to thank you guys and tell you guys its just starting. So when people come to you and talk bad about Calumet City and the progress that we've made, lets tell them that there is more to come. I can no longer listen and care about the people who say that the Mayor is a State Representative already and that brings out city down that is nonsense I can tell you this, our city we brought \$126 million dollars through our grants and Val correct me if it's more but no other city has brought \$126 million dollars. And as State Representative we get the benefit of having me as State Representative but also having me as Mayor of Calumet City. In the last 10 years I brought and you can check the Tribune they wrote this story in the Tribune I know you all don't read the Tribune; that was a joke. But the tribune not only reported that as State Representative I brought in \$500 million dollars, probably more to the district including nearly 26 million dollars to Calumet City. So we need your ideas, we need your developers,

we need people who want to come to Calumet City and buy a home. I recently had a conversation with the Realtors Association that we have to get a hold of our houses that are being rented. We cannot build our city if we have rented houses. The Realtor's Association is going to come to Calumet City so we can work out something. We are not going to go through and take Calumet City through lawsuits we want to make sure we are working with people who want to work with Calumet City and if you guys are with us with that I welcome you to the fight, and if you're not I still welcome u to the fight. I know that there was almost 1400 people that didn't vote for me so I have to earn not only their support and their respect but I have to earn the support and respect of my new colleagues because we're not done yet and we still have a long way to go. So, I want to bring you guys back in this room four years from now and we're celebrating our successes as opposed to celebrating the things that we could've done so let's not focus on the things that we could've done, lets get busy doing the things that we have to do. We have so many promises that we made to our Seniors; so many promises that we made to low income people that can't even pay their water bill, but we still have to have a servant's heart. So, I'm asking each and every one of you to not only grab a servant's heart and I know many of you have a servant's heart. But let's do this together, let's start this term off right and thank you guys for allowing me to serve as your Mayor."

City Clerk
Dr. Nyota T. Figgs

City Clerk Dr. Figgs thanked God because nothing is possible without City Clerk Dr. Figgs thanked the residents and the people who assisted her with her campaign. Dr. Figgs wished the council much success.

City Treasurer
Gerald Tarka

City Treasurer acknowledged his family and employees that attended and thanked them for their hard work. Treasurer Tarka stated he looks forward to the work ahead. Treasurer Tarka thanked the residents for entrusting him to four more years as Treasurer of Calumet City.

2nd Ward
Alderwoman
Monet Wilson

2nd Ward Alderwoman Monet S. Wilson thanked her husband and sons for their support. Alderwoman Wilson commented regarding being the first African American Woman on the council and welcomed Alderwoman Melissa Phillips. Alderwoman Wilson spoke about her experience during this election and her hopes for the council in the future. Alderwoman Wilson thanked the 2nd ward residents for voting for her.

3rd Ward Alderman

3rd Ward Deandre Tillman thanked his father and mother for raising him

Deandre Tillman right and being his support system Alderman Tillman thanked the 3rd ward for believing in his vision for the 3rd ward. Alderman Tillman thanked the city workers and his colleagues for the many informative discussions and debates and thanked them for playing a part in the city running well. Alderman Tillman stated that he looks forward to working with the new Alderwoman.

4th Ward Alderman Ramonde Williams 4th Ward Alderman Ramonde Williams gave honor to God. Alderman Williams thanked his wife for her supporting him being the longest sitting Alderman. Alderman Williams welcomed the new Alderwomen on this council. Alderman Williams spoke about Public Safety being at the forefront of the city's priorities. Alderman Williams thanked the residents for their continued faith.

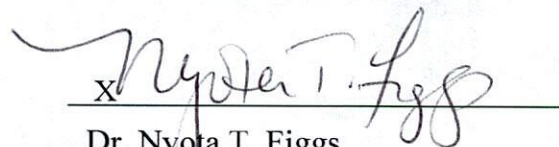
5th Ward Alderman Dejuan Gardner 5th Ward Alderman Dejuan Gardner gave honor to God for allowing him to be elected for a third term. Alderman Gardner thanked his wife and son for their support. Alderman Gardner thanked the 5th ward residents for continuing to believe in him and promised that he will continue to be present for his residents. Alderman Gardner wishes the new Alderwomen well and he hopes the council will be able to work together. Alderman Gardner stated that he will always be an advocate for what is right.

6th Ward Alderwoman Miacole Nelson 6th Ward Alderwoman Miacole Nelson thanked God for allowing her to be here Alderwoman Nelson spoke about the city's potential be built up and to be great. Alderwoman Nelson hopes the council can work together to do the work of the people because Calumet City deserves it.

7th Ward Alderwoman Michelle Phillips 7th Ward Alderwoman Melissa Phillips thanked God because without him wouldn't be here. Alderwoman Phillips thanked her husband, family friends and neighbors. Alderwoman Phillips spoke about the potential Calumet City has and how she is ready to rock and roll to get the city where it needs to be.

Adjournment Alderman Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Williams at 7:22 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED


x _____
Dr. Nyota T. Figs
City Clerk