

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

**REGULAR MEETING
City Council of the City of Calumet City
Cook County, Illinois**

JANUARY 22, 2026

Public Comment

Sherry Tate 365 Oglesby Avenue commented regarding the council meetings starting on time.

Ryan Sinwelski of Harvey inquired if Harvey Mayor Christopher Clark is still on Calumet City's payroll.

Mayor Jones Response to Public Comment

Mayor Jones stated that Christopher Clark has not worked for the City of Calumet City for a year.

Pledge Of Allegiance

The City Council of the City of Calumet City met in the City Council Chambers at 6:02 p.m. in a regular meeting on January 22, 2026, with Mayor Thaddeus Jones present and presiding.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 7

ALDERMEN: Harvey (6:31 p.m.), Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips.

ABSENT: 0

ALDERMEN: None

Also present was City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Police Chief Kolosh, Fire Chief Bachert, City Administrator Deanne Jaffrey, Director of Economic Development Christina Signorelli, Deputy Clerk I Jessica Coffee, Corporate Counsel Richard Bruen (Ancel Glink), Deputy Fire Chief Sam J. Vega, Water Deputy Commissioner Scott Nnmah, Public Works Deputy Commissioner Josh Brown, Water Commissioner Gerry Surufka and Legislative Counsel Michael McGrath (Odelson, Murphy, Frazier & McGrath).

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order.

Prayer

Pastor Fluker led the city council in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips to approve the following minutes as presented:

01/08/2026 Regular Mtg.

12/18/2025 Special Ordinance and Resolution Committee Mtg.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO BE ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jones Remarks on New Business
Item#1 Veto of Legislative Counsel

“There are inherent issues with the Ordinance provided; there is no contract presented to the city council or to the public to show what this attorney will be charging; even though the law allows the city council to have legislative council; what I’m asking the city council to do is possibly consider holding this ordinance in abatement and revising the Ordinance at the next meeting to fix the errors. The Legislative Counsel cannot do all the things as required by law that was put in the Ordinance; the legislative counsel does not have the power to do all the things that was put in the Ordinance. So, the city council should take this Ordinance and revise it, bring it back to the city council I would agree not to go forward with the veto but the city council can abate this Ordinance at the February 14th meeting and then bring back a proper Ordinance because this Ordinance is flawed this Ordinance the city council as you know cannot sign contracts. So, if the city council brings a properly formatted Ordinance I’m agreeing to work with Mr. Odleson and work with whoever you guys want; sign the contract. But as of this Ordinance that’s here you guys do not have a properly formatted contract that has to be signed by me and we don’t have a contract that’s presented to the public that has the terms of what this firm will be paid, the hours it will be paid and what those duties will be. Those duties in the law says that the legislative counsel has to answer the questions of the council and there is a length of time for the contract. That contract can be the length of my term but no contract has been presented. As you know the city council has railed on me about contracts so if we want to stay consistent, stay consistent and present a contract with terms that the go with what the legislative counsel wants to do.”

Alderwoman Wilson

“Mayor, may I ask a question.”

Mayor Jones

“Sure Alderwoman.”

Alderwoman Wilson

“So, I do recall an email from Attorney Odleson saying that he will be at will so at will meaning we as a legislative body can remove him when we no longer have a need. My concern is that our city attorney is Michael Kasper, and he has not been here in a meeting for five years and we pay him a great sum. You sir are not our city attorney, and we seem to always have your corporate council sitting where the city attorney should be so that poses a concern for me also. I would like to move forward with overriding this veto.”

Legislative Counsel Michael Mcgrath
Odelson, Murphy, Frazier & McGrath

Attorney Michael Mcgrath addressed the council and advised the matter that is in question is overriding the Mayors veto. Attorney Mcgrath explained to the council that the contract between Legislative Counsel will be an at will contract and that Legislative Counsel only expects to be paid what Corporate Council is being paid hourly.

Superseding Motion to Recuse Alderman
Tillman

Alderman Tillman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to recuse Alderman Tillman from voting for Legislative Counsel due to a conflict of interest.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1

ALDERMEN: Wilson, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
ALDERMEN: None
ALDERMAN: Harvey

MOTION CARRIED

1): Approve Override of the Mayor's Veto

Approve override of the mayor's veto of Ordinance #25-22 for legislative counsel.

Override of the Mayor's Veto

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to override the mayor's veto of Ordinance #25-22 for legislative counsel.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1

ALDERMEN: Wilson, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
ALDERMEN: None
ALDERMAN: Harvey

MOTION CARRIED

2): Direct the City Attorney to Draft An Amended Handicap Ordinance

Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to amend the handicap parking ordinance to approve and add a handicap pole to be located at 675 Memorial Drive.

3): Direct the City Attorney to Draft An Amended Handicap Ordinance

Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to amend the handicap parking ordinance to approve and add a handicap pole to be located at 677 Muskegon Avenue.

4): Direct the Public Works to Remove A Handicap Pole

Approve the removal of handicap pole at 404 Merrill. Handicap pole was installed for the former resident. New residents keep receiving citations.

Approve New Business Items #2-4

Alderman Tillman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips to approve items #2 - #4 as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1

ALDERMEN: Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
ALDERMEN: None
ALDERMAN: Harvey

MOTION CARRIED

BUILDING PERMITS

None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCE

None

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session

Alderwoman Nelson moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips, to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation, probable litigation, personal property, and employment of a specific individual at 6:31 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Alderwoman Harvey Entered Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

Alderwoman Harvey entered executive session at 6:31 p.m.

Executive Session

The city council met in executive session from 6:31 p.m. to 7:16 p.m.

City Clerk Figgs Left Closed Session

City Clerk Figgs left closed session.

City Clerk Figgs Returned to Closed Session

City Clerk Figgs left closed session.

Return to the Regular Order of Business

Alderman Gardner moved seconded by Alderwoman Harvey to return to the regular order of business at 7:16 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL MATTERS

#1): Table Payment to Ancel Glink

Approve payment to Ancel Glink, P.C. in the amount of \$17,411.94 for corporate legal services dated January 7th, 2026, and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #01025-52200. (Table)

#2): Table Payment to Ancel Glink

Approve payment to Ancel Glink, P.C. in the amount of \$12,401.50 for legal services January 7th, 2026, and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #01025-52200. (Table)

Table Payments to Ancel Glink

Alderwoman Nelson moved, seconded by Alderwoman Harvey, to table payments to Ancel Glink until the January 27th meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

#3): Table Payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266442)

Approve payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266442) for Project #02501151.001 Public Works drainage and site work that included services associated with site design. This project is reimbursable through DCEO funding under Calumet City grant number G-141 (DCEO State Award ID: 1785-55223), in the amount of \$5,352.00 and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #01110 55208.

#4): Table payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266441)

Approve payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266441) for Project #02500992.001 Sewer and Stormwater Capital Improvement Action Plan, in the amount of \$128,220.00 and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #12607-52136.

#5): Table Payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266445)

Approve payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266445) for Project #02501067.001 Wentworth Woods Development, in the amount of \$15,816.00 and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #12607-52494.

#6): Remove Payment to Farnsworth (#266442) Duplicate

Remove payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266442) for Project #02501151.001 Public Works drainage and site work that included services associated with site design. This project is reimbursable through DCEO funding under grant number G-141 (DCEO State Award ID: 1785-55223), in the amount of \$5,352.00 and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #01110 55208. (Removed due to being a duplicate)

#7): Table Payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266488)

Approve payment to Farnsworth (Inv #266488) for Project #02500103.001 Misc. Engineering Services - Council and City meetings, in the amount of \$3,600.00 and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #01099-52600. (Tabled)

Table Farnsworth Payment Until the January 27, 2026, Meeting

Alderman Harvey moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to table payments to Farnsworth until the January 27, 2026, meeting and delete financial item#6 regarding invoice 266442 due to it being a duplicate.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

ALDERMEN: Harvey, Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
ALDERMEN: None
ALDERMAN: None

MOTION CARRIED

#8): Approve Payment to CentralSquare Technologies

Approve payment to CentralSquare Technologies for Renewal Order #: Q-241745 renewal from March 28, 2026, through March 27, 2027; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$7,875.00 and charge account #01028-52632.

#9): Approve Payment to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc.

Approve cost payable to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc. for invoice #2025-272, in the amount of \$6,995.00 for work done at 155th & Lincoln Ave on 7/1/2025, sewer collapse repair-storm & sanitary main restoration, authorize the city treasurer to remit payment from account #03036-52349.

#10): Approve Payment to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc.

Approve cost payable to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc. for invoice #2025-318 for the amount of \$5290.00 for work at 1405 Stanley on 10/17/25, 10/20/25 & 11/12/25, water main break restoration for concrete & asphalt, authorize the city treasurer to remit payment from account #03036-52349.

#11): Approve Payment to GoDaddy

Approve payment to GoDaddy for the GoDaddy Email Renewals expiring on March 27, 2026, authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$26,251.08 and charge account #01028- 52371. (This payment will need to be made via Credit Card due to GoDaddy/Good as Gold changes as of January 7, 2026).

#12): Approve Payment to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc.

Approve cost payable to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc. for invoice #2025-298, in the amount of \$5,190.00 for work at 163rd & Buffalo, storm sewer collapse restoration on 8/29/25, authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #03036-52349.

#13): Approve Payment to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc

Approve cost payable to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc for invoice #2025-280 in the amount of \$6,385.00, for work performed at 330 Bensley, water main restoration on 7/15/25, authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #03036-52349.

#14): Approve Payment to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc

Approve cost payable to Holland Asphalt Services Inc. for invoice #2025-271, in the amount of \$6280.00, for Water Main Break at 1473 Lincoln Place, Concrete and Asphalt work on 7/14/25 & 7/15/25; authorize the city treasurer to remit payment from account #03036- 52349.

#15): Approve Payment to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc

Approve cost payable to Holland Asphalt Services, Inc. for invoice #2025-273 in the amount of \$5390.00 for work at 667 Superior, water main break restoration, Concrete curb & side walk 6/26/25 & asphalt patch on curb 7/15/25; authorize the city treasurer to remit payment from account #03036-52349.

#16): Approve Payment to Budd Mechanical Systems

Approve costs payable to Budd Mechanical Systems, in the amount of \$7,153.00 (PROPOSAL) for repairs related to the lack of heat and ventilation in the Public Works main bay. Please direct the City Treasurer to remit payment from account 01041-52343.

#17): Approve Payment to Lyons-Pinner Electric

Approve costs payable to Lyons-Pinner Electric, in the amount of \$7,830.10 (INV# 33274). Please direct the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #04007-52449.

#18): Approve Payment to Air One Equipment, Inc.

Approve and authorize City Treasurer to make payment to Air One Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$18,635.00 for the 5 sets of bunker gear for the new personnel. The line item to be used is 06617-55100.

#19): Approve Payment to Pete's Fresh Market

Approve payment to Pete's Fresh Market for supplies; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$1,132.65 and charge account #01099-52731.

Approve Financial Items #8- #19

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips, to approve financial items #8- #19 as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

ALDERMEN: Harvey, Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
ALDERMEN: None
ALDERMAN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Jones Remarks Regarding Payroll

Mayor Jones cautioned the council regarding voting against the payroll. Mayor Jones requested that the members voting against payroll give their checks back.

Alderwoman Wilson Remarks Regarding Payroll

Alderwoman Wilson commented regarding ghost payrolling and her concern that employees are being hired daily that are not present at work.

Alderman Gardner Remarks Regarding Payroll

"I just want to go on record as I have at previous meetings regarding payroll my intent here is not for the residents to not get paid. My intent is to govern with a sense of good government. I brought to your attention individuals that are getting paid out of different departments that do not work there. I do not feel comfortable voting for payroll until we fix it, when we fix it, I'll be more than happy to support the payroll. So, I'm not going to sit here for the sake of your peace of mind and just and approve this and sweep it under the rug. We've said this before so please respect my decision, that's all I ask. And until we repair this, I'll be more than happy. Now tonight moving forward if we want to I'll be more than happy to move this to the finance meeting: but until everything in the payroll is repaired and I'm comfortable I'll support it."

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones requested Alderman Gardner return his check. Mayor Jones asked Treasurer Tarka what happens if the council does not approve payroll.

Treasurer Tarka

Treasurer Tarka stated that he is not sure.

#20): Approve Payroll (\$1,050,235.90)

Approve Payroll (\$1,050,235.90).

#21): Approve Emergency Bill Listing (\$2,585.25)

Approve Emergency Bill listing (\$2,585.25).

#22): Approve Bill List (\$1,220,923.96)

Approve Bill List (\$1,220,923.96).

Table Financial Items # 21, 22, 23
Until the Financial Meeting on
January 27, 2026

Alderman Williams moved seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to table financial items #21, 22, and 23 until the financial meeting on January 27, 2026.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

ALDERMEN: Harvey, Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
ALDERMEN: None
ALDERMAN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

Alderman Tillman requested that Alderman Gardner present all the discrepancies he mentioned regarding payroll.

**REPORTS OF STANDING
COMMITTEES**

Finance

Alderman Williams reported there will be a finance meeting held on January 27, 2026.

Public Safety

Alderman Gardner reported that Southland land bank will be at the meeting on January 27, 2026, and will be giving a presentation.

Public Utilities

Alderwoman Phillips reported that Public Utilities will have an informational meeting regarding the water rates.

Ord. & Res.

Alderman Tillman reported the Ordinance and Resolution committee plans to have a meeting two weeks from today.

H.E.W

Alderwoman Wilson reported that it will be brutally cold tomorrow and residents should put gas in their cars and let their faucets trickle to avoid any freezing. Alderwoman Wilson reported the police station will be open 24 hours.

Permits & Licenses

Alderwoman Harvey had no report.

Public Works

Alderwoman Nelson reported there will be a Public Works meeting held on February 03, 2026, or February 10, 2026.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Alderwoman Harvey – 1st Ward

Alderwoman Harvey announced there will be a 1st ward townhall meeting held on February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at All Nations Church 520 Sibley. Alderwoman Harvey would like residents who have any questions or concerns to email her at Sharvey@calumetcity.org. Alderwoman Wilson would like residents to stay warm in this extreme weather.

Alderwoman Wilson – 2nd Ward

Alderwoman Wilson requested 2nd ward residents call or text her if they need her at (708) 586-4990 or monet@alderwomanwilson.com. Alderwoman Wilson stated the 2nd ward will not be having a meeting in February but there will still be Mondays with Monet and Wednesdays with Wilson. Alderwoman Willson stated she will be

doing a Calumet City Takeover where she will pop up and show some love to various Calumet City restaurants and businesses and help bring some economic resources. Alderwoman Wilson gave a reminder to 2nd ward of the process for obtaining a Handicap pole. Alderwoman Wilson stated there won't be anymore Resident Only signs in the 2nd ward. Alderwoman Wilson announced the VFW will be having a Rap Cypher in February.

Alderman Tillman – 3rd Ward

Alderman Tillman announced the 3rd and 4th ward townhall meeting will be on February 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

Alderman Williams – 4th Ward

Alderman Williams gave honor to God. Alderman Williams would like residents to contact him at (708) 212-2240 or (708) 891-8194.

Alderman Gardner – 5th Ward

Alderman Gardner would like 5th ward residents to contact his office at (708) 891-8195. Alderman Gardner wished Ms. Tate a Happy Birthday.

Alderwoman Nelson– 6th Ward

Alderwoman Nelson announced the 6th and 7th ward will have their monthly meeting at Our Lady of Knocks; it will be Black History themed. Alderwoman Nelson would like residents to call her with any questions or concerns at (708) 891-8196 or (708) 526-1148.

Alderman Phillips– 7th Ward

Alderwoman Phillips requested assistance for 7th ward residents from the 1200 to 1300 block of River drive. Alderwoman Phillips would like residents to contact her with any questions or concerns at (708) 891-8197 or email at mphillips@calumetcity.org Alderwoman Phillips also thanked the 7th ward residents for reaching out to her.

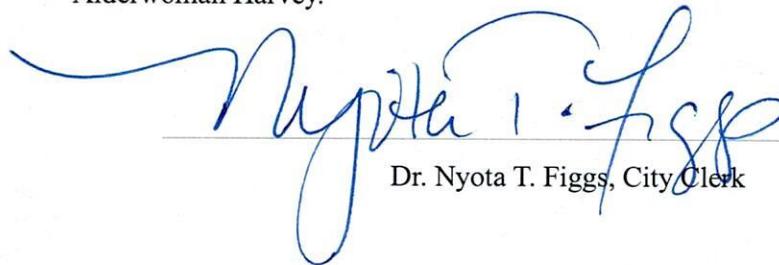
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderwoman Wilson

Alderwoman Wilson congratulated the Calumet City Chargers and Cheer team on their sports banquet Alderwoman Wilson would like residents to assist the team in getting Caleb Williams to come to their banquet. Alderwoman Wilson commended the council for using their vote tonight to override the mayor's veto.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was at 7:50 p.m., on a motion by Alderwoman Nelson, seconded by Alderwoman Harvey.



Dr. Nyota T. Figgs, City Clerk

MOTION CARRIED

/jkc