

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

**JANUARY 08, 2026**

Public Comment

Alderwoman Monet Wilson 400 block of Hoxie Ave., commented regarding being a resident of Calumet City for over 30 years. "I am just really concerned with some of the things that I have read in the newspaper and some of the things that I have seen on the news. So, I am going to make my plea as a resident that was hopeful of the things to come, last term and this term. I am going to formally request Mayor Jones that you resign from your seat."

Sherry Tate, 365 Oglesby commented regarding the council meeting starting on time.

Denise Cole 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward stated that she is very supportive of the Mayor and would not like to see him resign.

Paulette Nelson, 1373 Imperial Ave., commented regarding her support for the Mayor and her lack of knowledge when it comes to information being released about the Mayor.

Donna Banks, stated she was a victim of vandalism and the Mayor stepped in and helped her out; she applauded the Mayor.

Darryl Jester resident inquired if what the mayor, is being accused of could send him to jail.

Mayor Jones responded "No"

Alderwoman Wilson responded "Yes"

Denise Baker 7<sup>th</sup> ward commented regarding the Mayor, stating he is not perfect and she supports him.

Pledge Of Allegiance

The City Council of the City of Calumet City met in the City Council Chambers at 6:06 p.m. in a regular meeting on January 08, 2026, with Mayor Thaddeus Jones present and presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	7	<b>ALDERMEN:</b> Harvey (6:25 p.m.), Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner (6:14 p.m.), Nelson (6:15 p.m.), Phillips.
<b>ABSENT:</b>	0	<b>ALDERMEN:</b> None

Also present were City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Fire Chief Bachert, City Administrator Deanne Jaffrey, Deputy Clerk I Jessica Coffee, Deputy Clerk II Quentin Dailey, Attorney Paul O'Grady, City Engineer Matt Buerger, and Police Chief Kolosh.

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

Motion to Deviate

Alderman Phillips moved, seconded by Alderman Tillman to deviate from the regular order of business for the purpose of swearing in Deputy Fire Chief Samuel J. Vega at 6:08 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Calumet City Incident Report

Police Chief Kolosh gave a report on the crime and public safety for the City of Calumet City in 2025. Police Chief Kolosh reported that there were zero homicides in Calumet City. In 2025 there was a 54% decrease in car jackings, 58% percent decrease in robberies, burglaries were down 20%, and retail theft was down by 11%. Police Chief Kolosh announced that domestic batteries increased by 12%.

Fire Chief Bachert

Fire Chief Bachert acknowledged all of the Fire Chiefs, Firefighters, and Retirees and thanked them for their service. Fire Chief Backert acknowledged Captain Thomas Dukups; thanking him for the many years he dedicated his life to the Calumet City Fire Department. Fire Chief Bachert wished Captain Thomas Dukups and his wife a happy anniversary. Fire Chief Bachert spoke about Deputy Fire Chief Sammuel J. Vega being a long time resident of Calumet City and at 21 year veteran of the Calumet City Fire Department.

Oath of Office

Mayor Jones gave the Oath of Office to Deputy Fire Chief Sammuel J. Vega.

Deputy Fire Chief Vega

Deputy Fire Chief Vega thanked the council, his family, and the Fire Department for trusting him with the position of Deputy Fire Chief. Deputy Fire Chief Vega gave a special thanks to Fire Chief Bachert and his predecessor, the former Deputy Fire Chief Bendinelli.

Recess

The city council took a ten-minute recess at 6:26 p.m.

Return to the Regular Order of Business

Alderman Phillips moved, seconded by Alderman Nelson to return to the regular order of business at 6:35p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Minutes

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Harvey to approve the minutes as presented:

- 12/04/2025 Special Finance Committee of the Whole Mtg.
- 12/08/2025 Special Finance Committee of the Whole Mtg.
- 12/11/2025 Regular Mtg.
- 12/22/2025 Finance Committee of the Whole Mtg.
- 12/22/2025 Regular City Council Mtg.
- 12/29/2025 Finance Committee of the Whole Mtg.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor's Report

Mayor Jones reported that he is returning Ordinance 25-22 to the city council for legislative council. Action can be taken on the veto on January 22, 2026, at the Regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Jones (Veto Message)

Mayor Jones delivered his veto message to the council:  
I am returning Ordinance 25-22 entitled "AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BY AMENDING ARTICLE VI ("DEPARTMENTS", DIVISION 2 ("DEPARTMENT OF

LAW”) OF CHAPTER 2 (“ADMINISTRATION”) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF CALUMET CITY” without my approval and vetoing it for several reasons.

First, Section 8-1-7 of the Illinois Municipal Code provides that no expense may be incurred by the City unless an appropriation was made for that contract or expense. That Section further states that any contract made or expense incurred in violation of this Section is null and void and no City funds may be paid toward such contract. The City did not make an appropriation for legislative counsel in its appropriation ordinance; therefore, the contract that is the subject of the ordinance is null and void.

Second, as you are aware, Cook County has been late in issuing tax bills and, as we have been discussing, the City’s revenue has dramatically decreased due to the loss of nine major revenue sources. At this time, the City is experiencing challenges in paying current vendors who are performing work that is funded in the appropriation ordinance. The City already has several law firms approved by the Council and currently providing legal services. If the Alderpersons are dissatisfied with any particular firm, there are other approved law firms available to advise the Council. It is striking that this city paid Mr. Odelson \$8.2 million dollars from 2013 to 2021. We also paid Mr. Odelson’s firm \$18 million dollars from 2003 to 2013 for a total of \$26.2 million. This amount is outstanding and ridiculous.

Third, with respect to Mr. Odelson, you may not be aware that he has taken several positions adverse to the city. He testified against the City in a recent lawsuit filed by a local business and played a role in a judgment being entered against the City for in excess of a half a million dollars.

Additionally, while representing it’s efforts to bring a casino into town, he was simultaneously representing a competing municipality that was seeking to bring in the casino. The City is continuing to investigate its options related to these ethical concerns.

Further, I have not seen the proposed contract or agreement from Mr. Odelson. As you may be aware, this city council does not have the power under the law to sign contracts. Therefore, without an agreement or contracted, this item is void.

As I have indicated to each of you, I am committed to building a strong and united City Council so that we can continue to attract important economic development projects. I remain open to discussing any challenges or concerns the legislative branch of the City may be experiencing.

For these reasons, I am vetoing this ordinance.

Alderman Gardner

“Mayor I would like to respectfully dispute what you’re saying so, on the initial agenda there was no veto message. When was this agenda changed?  
I have a copy of both agendas.”

Mayor Jones

“Alderman this was posted on the agenda at 5:45 p.m. in enough time.”

Alderman Gardner

“That’s not true Mayor, Mayor that’s not true, respectfully mayor, in the spirit of honesty and fairness that’s not true.”

Mayor Jones

“Alderman it was posted by our IT Department.”

Alderman Gardner

"I would like to ask my colleagues do you guys recall seeing that?"

Alderwoman Wilson

"No."

Alderman Gardner

"Is this a changed agenda for the record?"

Mayor Jones

"Alderman it's not a changed agenda."

Alderwoman Wilson

"It is a changed agenda!"

Alderman Gardner

"Well respectfully Mayor since there's confusion, I would like to make a motion."

Motion to Reconsider Ordinance 25-22

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to reconsider Ordinance 25-22 creating the Ordinance for the office of Legislative Counsel and pass the ordinance notwithstanding the mayor's refusal to approve it.

Mayor Jones

"Alderman that motion is not a proper motion you can't do that motion, it's not on the agenda tonight, Alderman. That motion is not on the agenda tonight, Alderman. you do not call that motion."

Alderwoman Wilson

"2<sup>nd</sup>"

Attorney O'Grady

"That's correct you need to have an action item, it needs to be on the agenda if you want to override his veto in this case, it would have to be taken up you at the next Board Meeting."

Mayor Jones

"Alderman under the law the veto happened on December 18<sup>th</sup> the Ordinance and the law says not within 5 days after I am to issue and tell you guys about a veto. That was December 24<sup>th</sup> Alderman the law says at the next regular meeting, tonight is the next regular meeting we had a special meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> that's not a regular meeting. So, at the next regular meeting, which is tonight, I have to issue my veto message and at the next meeting is when you take action on the veto so you can take action on the veto at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting not tonight, Alderman."

Alderman Gardner

"Respectfully Mayor since the Attorney is chiming in tonight, I do recall this council passed that motion 6 to 1, 6 to 1 which was in fact veto proof council can you help me tonight? Can you explain to me...."

Attorney O'Grady

"That doesn't override the Mayor's veto power that's what you have to do at the next meeting. He's now vetoed it and it takes a super majority to override a veto; that doesn't happen with the first vote it's with the second vote."

Alderwoman Wilson

"Say that again."

"It doesn't matter what the first vote to approve legislative counsel is your not approving legislative counsel this next vote that you'll take at the next meeting is you overriding the veto, so it's two different things."

Alderman Gardner

"No that's not what I'm saying I don't think you're clear; when we initially passed the motion and made the motion this council it passed 6 to 0 which in fact is veto proof."

Attorney O'Grady

"No that's not true, what you're doing now is deflating now. What you approved is a vote for legislative counsel 6 to nothing right, and now the mayor has vetoed that. So now you bring it up at the next meeting and if you want to override the veto you do it then and if it's 6-0 again then you win. So that's how it works."

Alderwoman Wilson “So, what is the language within our Ordinance that’s talking about 2/3 of the vote being a supervote; so, we have seven members.”

Attorney O’ Grady “A supermajority is 2/3 that’s five out of seven.”

Alderwoman Wilson “So, we had six out of seven.”

Attorney O’ Grady “It has to be taken up at a separate meeting.”

Alderwoman Wilson “I guess that’s what we’re asking.”

Attorney O’ Grady “Just if I could finish; it’s two separate action items. Think about it this way you voted to approve legislative counsel, you won, it’s come before the mayor he has a decision whether he wants to exercise his right to veto, he has exercised that right. The ball goes back into your court now to see if you can override it; you need a supermajority vote to override it; you bring that back at the next board meeting to override the veto if you override it then you win.”

Alderwoman Wilson Alderwoman Wilson inquired about Ancel and Glink being present in meetings opposed to Attorney Michael Kasper since he is the city attorney and Ancel and Glink is Corporate Counsel.

Mayor Jones Mayor Jones stated that he would have Attorney Kasper at the meetings going forward if that’s what the council wanted.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO BE ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE**

- A. Recognition of Firefighter Lewis, Firefighter Raffin, and Firefighter Garcia RE: Captain Borowski expressing recognition for fast and effective search techniques and services performed by Firefighter Lewis, Firefighter Raffin, and Firefighter Garcia, dispatched to 327 Pulaski on November 23, 2025.
  - B. Captain Dukups Retirement Announcement RE: Captain Thomas Dukups joined the Calumet City Fire Department on February 1, 2000. After almost 26 years of dedicated service to the city and residents of Calumet City, Captain Dukups will be retiring effective January 3, 2026.
  - C. Arthur Street Watermain Project Close-out. RE: Arthur Street Watermain Project Close-out.
- Alderwoman Phillips Discussion Alderwoman Wilson inquired if the Arthur Street Watermain Project Close-Out is part of the payments that are being requested in the supplemental.
- City Engineer Matt Buerger City Engineer Matt Buerger replied that this close out is included for payments to the Contractor for work they will complete in the future.
- D. Engineering and Capital Improvement RE: Engineering and Capital Improvement Projects Update.
  - E. Engineering and Infrastructure RE: Engineering and Infrastructure Grant Update.
- Alderwoman Phillips Commented Regarding Engineering and Infrastructure Grants Alderwoman Phillips would like to know if the engineering and infrastructure grant update information was given to Economic Development and to Alicia Benford since she is in charge of grant reporting for the city.

City Engineer Matt Buerger Commented Regarding Engineering and Infrastructure Grants

City Engineer Matt Buerger reported that the updates have been handed over to the Economic Development department.

Approve Informational Items to be Accepted and Placed on File

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips to accept Informational Items and place on file.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1): Board of Fire & Police Commission Promotions

Approve and to authorize the Board of Fire & Police Commission to promote Firefighter R. Banks to Engineer, Engineer R. Graser to Lieutenant and Lieutenant M. Wyrwicki to Captain.

2): Board of Fire & Police Commission Promotions

Direct the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners to offer conditional employment to the next eligible candidate on the hiring list and to direct the Board to make the necessary promotions to reflect the retirement of Captain Dukups.

3): Board of Fire & Police Commission Promotions

Approve and authorize the Board of Fire & Police Commission to promote Firefighter K. Cahill to Engineer, Engineer C. Pierce to Lieutenant due to the promotion and appointment of Deputy Fire Chief Samuel J. Vega.

4): Board of Fire & Police Commission Conditional Employment

Direct the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners to offer conditional employment to the next eligible candidate from the current list due to Deputy Chief Vega's appointment.

5): Direct the City Attorney to Draft an 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 518 Marquette Avenue.

6): Direct Public Works to Remove a Handicap Pole

Direct Public Works to remove a handicap pole located at 324 Luella Avenue.

Alderwoman Wilson Discussion

“Who currently sits on the Police and Fire Commission Board?”

Mayor Jones

“The current Police and Fire Commission is Steve Curry, Butch Carridine, and Stephanie Gomez.”

Alderwoman Wilson

“Previously you read and if you don't have it, I understand but you read the statue or Ordinance number where they didn't have to live in Calumet City to be on Police and Fire Commission Board. Do either of you happen to recall what that is? Cause I have a question why the Mayor of Lynwood's husband is on our Fire and Police Commission.”

Mayor Jones

“We will get you that statue Alderwoman.”

Approval of New Business Items

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Harvey to approve new business items as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUILDING PERMITS**

None

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCE**

#1. Resolution In Memory of Sylvia DeYoung

A Resolution in memory of the life of Sylvia DeYoung.

(Res.#26-01)

(See Attached 7A)

Adopt Resolutions as Presented

Alderman Tillman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Nelson to adopt the resolution as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#1: Payment to Benford Brown & Associated, LLC

Approve payment to Benford Brown & Associates, LLC for invoice 19102; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$8,400.00 and charge account #01099- 52610.

Approval to Strike Financial Item #1

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Gardner to strike financial item #1 from the agenda due to 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**

#2: Payment to Benford Brown & Associated, LLC

Approve payment to Benford Brown & Associates, LLC for invoice 19212; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$8,400.00 and charge account #01099- 52610.

#3: Payment to Benford Brown & Associated, LLC

Approve payment to Benford Brown & Associates, LLC for invoice 19164; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$8,400.00 and charge account #01099- 52610.

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**THE CITY OF CALUMET CITY,  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-01**

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**A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF SYLVIA  
DEYOUNG**

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**THADDEUS JONES, Mayor  
DR. NYOTA T. FIGGS, City Clerk**

**DEJUAN GARDNER  
SHALISA HARVEY  
MIACOLE NELSON  
MELISSA PHILLIPS  
DEANDRE TILLMAN  
RAMONDE WILLIAMS  
MONET WILSON**

**Aldermen**

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Prepared by Corporation Counsel Ancel Glink, P.C. – 140 S. Dearborn, #600, Chicago, Illinois 60603

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**RESOLUTION NO. 26-01**

**A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF SYLVIA  
DEYOUNG**

WHEREAS, the City of Calumet City ("City") is an Illinois home rule unit of local government; and

WHEREAS, the City has lost a valued member of its community on January 2, 2026 with the untimely and unfortunate death of Sylvia DeYoung; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia married her husband Robert ("Bob") DeYoung in 1957; and

WHEREAS, prior to marrying Sylvia, Bob proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia and Bob celebrated their 68<sup>th</sup> marriage anniversary in 2025; and

WHEREAS, prior to moving to Calumet City in 1971, Sylvia and Bob lived in Roseland neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, On June 1, 1979, Bob opened Bob's Body Shop in the City at 339 State Street, where Bob still works at the age of 94 years old, and which has serviced the Calumet City community for over 46 years; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia dearly loved her family and leaves behind her husband Bob and her beloved children, Barbara, Roy, and Andrew; and

WHEREAS, the death of Sylvia DeYoung has left family, the City, and its community deeply saddened.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Calumet City, and the neighbors of the 800 block of Buffalo Avenue, hereby extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Sylvia DeYoung, and extend our sincere gratitude for the

life and legacy of Sylvia DeYoung and her devotion, support, and long-time service in the Calumet City community.

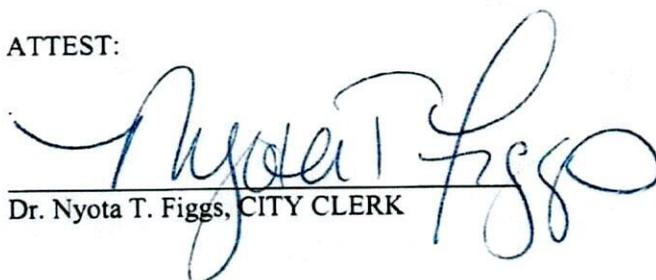
**ADOPTED** this 08th day of January 2026, pursuant to a roll call as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent	Present
Gardner	X			
Harvey	X			
Nelson	X			
Phillips	X			
Tillman	X			
Williams	X			
Wilson	X			
(Mayor Jones)				

**APPROVED** by the Mayor on January 08, 2026.

  
Thaddeus Jones  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Dr. Nyota T. Figs, CITY CLERK

#4: Payment to Benford Brown & Associated, LLC

Approve payment to Benford Brown & Associated, LLC for invoice 19102; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$8,400.00 and charge account #01099- 52610.

Approval of Financial Items #2-4

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Harvey to approve payment of financial items #2-4 for payment to Benford Brown & Associates, LLC.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5  
NAYS: 2  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#5: Payment to Currie Motors

Approve the purchase of three (3) 2026 Ford Utility Interceptor Police vehicles from Currie Motors for a total cost of \$161,205.00; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment to Currie Motors in the amount of \$161,205.00 to be charged to account 06860-57117 (Federal Asset Forfeiture - Law Enforcement Equipment). Note: Currie Motors was awarded the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative contract for the 2026 Ford Utility Interceptor.

#6: Payment to North East Multi-Regional Training

Approve the annual membership with North East Multi-Regional Training (NEMRT) for the police training for \$6,745.00; authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment to North East Multi-Regional Training in the amount of \$6,745.00, to be charged to account 01060- 52390.

Alderwoman Phillips

Alderwoman Phillips inquired if the Police Department is replacing existing vehicles with the purchase of the three vehicles from Currie Motors.

Police Chief Kolosh

Police Chief Kolosh stated that the police department is catching up with the purchase of vehicles now that they are fully staffed, they need the vehicles to accommodate the officers.

Approval of Financial Items #5 and 6

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Gardner to approve payment of financial items #5 and 6 as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#7: Payment to Track & Trap

Approve payment to Track & Trap Invoice #1726 for Community Wildlife Services from September 16-30, 2025, in the amount of \$5,200 and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #01060-52487.

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones reported that previously the council requested the Track & Trap bills decrease and because of that the Track N' Trap only comes out when Police Chief Kolosh contacts them for work.

Approval of Financial Items #7

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Gardner to approve payment of financial items #7 for payment to Track & Trap.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#8: Payment to Fire Service, Inc

Approve payment to Fire Service, Inc. (Inv #57910) for the city's portion on repairs to Engine - 112 involved in an accident on 8/4/2025, in the amount of \$35,000.00 (city's SIR) with the insurance company paying the remaining balance of this invoice and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #06617-54150.

Fire Chief Bachert

Fire Chief Bachert reported that Engine 112 was involved in an accident on August 04, 2025, where someone ran into the station.

Approval of Financial Items #8

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Gardner to approve payment of financial items #8 for payment to Fire Service, Inc.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#9: Defer Payment to Public Response Group (PRG)

Approve payment to Public Response Group (PRG) for invoice 25-398 for \$7,500 and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment from account #01099-52351.

Deferral of Financial Items #9

Alderwoman Wilson moved, seconded by Alderman Gardner to defer financial item #9 until after the January 22, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting when the Legislative Council can review the contract.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#10: Defer Disposing of Truck #30 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #30, a 2011 Ford F-250 SD (VIN #1FTRF3B63BED10285), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#11: Defer Disposing of Truck #11 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #11, a 2015 International 7400 SFA 4x2 (VIN #3HAWDAZR4FL599238), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#12: Defer Disposing of Van #1 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Van #1, a 2012 Ford Van (VIN #1FTNE1EW9CDA79532), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#13: Defer Disposing of Van #2 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Van #2, a 2012 Ford Van (VIN #1FTNE1EW0BDA95942), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#14: Defer Disposing of Truck #49 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #49, a 1995 International 4900 DT466 (VIN #1HTSDAAN1TH251650), due to significant mechanical 4 issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#15: Defer Disposing of Truck #52 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #52, a 2011 Ford F-350 SD XL (VIN #1FTRF3B61BED10284), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#16: Defer Disposing of The Animal Control Truck and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance (Deferred)

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of the Animal Control Truck, a 2009 Ford F-150 (VIN #1FTMF1CW1AKB55779), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#17: Defer Disposing of Truck #56 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #56, a 2014 Ford F-250 (VIN #1FTBF2B60EEB43139), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#18: Defer Disposing of Truck #10 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #10, a 2008 Ford F-450 SD XL (VIN #1FDXF46R98EB86920), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#19: Defer Disposing of Truck #32 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #32, a John Deere Hi-Lift (VIN # DW624GD548493), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#20: Defer Disposing of Truck #19 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #19, a 2011 International 7400 SBA 6x4 (VIN #1HTWGAZR7CJ627616), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

#21: Defer Disposing of Truck #51 and Remove From City of Calumet City's Insurance

Authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of Truck #51, a 2011 Ford F-350 (VIN #1FTRF3B60ECEA22290), due to significant mechanical issues that render the vehicle no longer viable for service. Further, to remove from the city insurance policy and no further insurance payments.

Defer Financial Items #10-21 To The Public Works Committee

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to defer financial items #10-21 to the Public Works Committee.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#22: Payment to Airy's (Deferred)

Approve pay application 3 (final project payment) to Airy's Inc. releasing the payment retention on the project once punchlist items have been addressed and approved by the City Engineer for Calumet City Arthur Street Water Main Improvement, in the amount of \$27,985.51 and direct City Treasurer Tarka to remit payment from account #03036-55139. Project has partial funding through ARPA funds from Cook County per the agreement entered into by the City with the County on October 12, 2023, allocating \$380,000 to the project. (Deferred)

Approve Payment to Airy's

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson for discussion to approve payment to Airy's.

Superseding Deferral Motion

Alderwoman Wilson moved, seconded by Alderwoman Nelson to supersede the previous motion and defer financial item #22 until all of the bills for the project can be provided to the council.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#23: Payment to River Oaks L & E Automotive (Deferred)

Approve payment to direct the City Treasurer to remit payment to River Oaks L & E Automotive in amount of \$15,154.57 for truck repairs charged to account number# 01069- 54115.

Deferral of Action on Financial Item #23

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Nelson to defer financial item #23 until supporting documentation are provided.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#24: Payment to Fire Service, Inc

Approve and authorize City Treasurer to make payment to Fire Service, Inc. in the amount of \$21,669.22 for the maintenance and repairs to Truck-12. The line item to be used is 06617-54150.

Approval of Financial Item #24

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips to approve payment of financial items #24 for payment to Fire Service, Inc.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#25: Reclassification To Water Fund

Authorize the City Treasurer to reclassify via a journal entry the Arthur Street Water Main Project engineering expenses in the amount of \$74,725.00 previously paid and posted to Corporate Clearing account 01099-52600 – Engineering & Architect to Water Fund account 03036-55139 – ARPA-Covid Funding Relief Water Fund.

Defer Reclassification to Water Fund

Alderwoman Nelson moved, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips, to defer financial item #25 until all of the bills for the project can be provided to the council.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#26: Reclassification To Water Fund

Authorize the City Treasurer to reclassify via a journal entry the 2023 Green Alley MWRD Partnership Program expense paid to Transland Engineering Group LLC, in the amount of \$35,524.10, from the Corporate Fund, Account 01099-52600 – Engineering & Architect, to the Water Fund, Account 03036-52600 – Engineering & Architect.

City Treasurer Tarka

“This is just an accounting motion the bill is paid; it was paid out of corporate funds and it’s a water fund expense so we’re just asking the expenditure come out of the corporate fund into the water fund where it belongs it’s the same as number 25.”

Approval of Financial Item #26  
Reclassification to the Water Fund

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Tillman to approve the reclassification from the Corporate Fund Account to the Water Fund for the Green Alley project.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

#27: Approve Payroll (\$1,119,143.30)

Approve Payroll (\$1,119,143.30)

Alderwoman Wilson Discussion

Alderwoman Wilson stated she is concerned about the payroll. Alderwoman Wilson stated she sent an email to Attorney Kasper and the Legislative Council regarding ghost payrolling. Alderwoman Wilson reported that we are paying Thaddeus Jones Jr. in our payroll but we were provided from the Comptroller Susan Mendoza’s office that Thaddeus Jones Jr. is a full time employe in Attorney General Kwame

Raoul's office. Alderwoman Wilson stated she is very uneasy about what's going on with this payroll. Alderwoman Wilson stated that she is concerned that the council still has not had a finance meeting to discuss an employee that was hired after his contract was not approved by the council.

Alderwoman Phillips

Alderwoman Phillips stated for the record she would like to say that she has the same concerns as her colleagues. Alderwoman Phillips stated she does not want to risk putting the employees who have faithfully worked their hours for the city in a bad position; that's why she is voting Yes.

Approve Payroll

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderwoman Wilson with discussion to approve payroll.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 4  
NAYS: 3  
ABSENT: 0

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones stated for the record that the Aldermen that are voting against payroll are voting against their own payroll as well.

Alderwoman Wilson

Alderwoman Wilson stated that fiscal responsibility is important. Alderwoman Wilson stated for the record that they keep coming into council chambers and nothing is being changed; nothing is being fixed.

#28: Approve Emergency Bill List (\$3,452.25)

Approve Emergency Bill List (\$3,452.25).

#29: Approve Bill List (\$601,339.62)

Approve Emergency Bill List (\$601,339.62).

Alderwoman Nelson Discussion

"I want to say that I have listened to everyone tonight; we know that a good job can be done here but we have to be responsible with what's going on in front of us. We are seeing so many different things and we were elected it's called checks and balances, we were elected to make sure that we do our due diligence to make sure that things balance. So when you ask by law and you're responsible by law to do things right. We have a right to ask why and we have a right to see those documents. If I am not allowed to see the things that I've asked for and legally I know we're supposed to get then that says something that I'm just here to take a paycheck and that's not why I ran. I ran three times, so you need to think about this is not a fight for us this is a fight to do what's right for our community. I'm going to say that I think that you are and can be an awesome Mayor but there's somethings that you need to change, and I say that with love. Because there are some things that are going on that we can all get in trouble for if they're not fixed not just trouble but we also can bankrupt our city. So that's why I'm voting no because if I do not stand up for the position that I ran for I am just a rubber stamp. Everybody has been paid but there has to be a resolution of us working together; respecting that I have a vote. If you take my vote away or if you just want me to just say yes and I know its wrong then why am I here. I would say take your check because when I leave here, I need to go home. When I leave this earth, I need to know that I left doing what God told me to do. So, if y'all dislike me or one of us because we want what's right and we have the ability by law to get things done right. Shame on y'all cause I'm going to sleep good. So that is why I'm voting no it has to stop and we have the power to

stop it. So, if we continue voting for the stuff we're going to stay in the same place. If you say you want to work change, change. If you say you want us to work together Counsel, you're not here just to represent the Mayor, you're here to represent the city. You guys didn't even show up until we began to fight asking for things we had to deal with an attorney that sat there and went to sleep in our face that was not even engaged; so that says what's important to you. Let's be real here; we say we want to fix it but are both sides really trying to fix it; or is it just going to be a show or a rubber stamp meeting."

Mayor Jones

"So Alderwoman, thank you for your comments I would ask this city council that once the evidence comes back that disproves you guys I want you to issue an apology the same way you are saying these things tonight because I can guarantee you my son does not and has never worked for the State of Illinois or the Attorney Generals Office. So as soon as the evidence comes back."

Alderwoman Nelson

"That's not what I'm talking about."

Mayor Jones

"Alderwoman., I let you talk so let me finish so we can move on, I let you talk Alderwoman. I am responding to this because we have a Ordinance that you guys are not supposed to impugn the character of anyone on this city council, yet my son was mentioned twice in this meeting. So, allow me to give you guys the evidence that you're seeking, it's coming from the State of Illinois."

Alderwoman Nelson

"But Mayor, this is bigger and I respect what Alderwoman Wilson said but that's her opinion about your son; but don't make that our plight. There are bigger things we need to pay attention to we are in debt, our buildings are abandoned, we are spending so much money and we are paying people to do a job that they are not even qualified for. We are paying people to do jobs where they don't respect us again, why were we elected to be rubber stamps or to fix it, you say you want to fix it, so lead it and fix it, you have to work with us mayor. Theres some things you need to change; all of us; but it starts with you."

Mayor Jones

"Alderwoman, there's somethings you need to learn as a new Alderwoman."

Alderwoman Nelson

"Yeah but teach me and show me the documents; don't tell me to vote for things and now I see documents that could potentially be illegal, if you say you want to lead me then lead me but then when we ask questions about things that we know that are law then you come up with another scenario as if..... I ran with you, I don't want to do this but Mayor there are things that are going on that are not right and if I have to sit here just. I have to do what God told me to do. So, stop fighting and lead cause if you stop she'll stop. If you open the door and make counsel talk to everybody and teach us. Stop with the two agendas; it's confusing."

Mayor Jones

"Theres not to agendas Alderwoman."

Alderwoman Nelson

"Fix it Mayor, God is giving you the ability to lead."

Mayor Jones

"Alderwoman, Alderwoman."

Alderwoman Nelson

“Cause it’s going to get out of control and we are not going to stop if it don’t change.”

Discussion

There was a brief discussion regarding the council being able to see the supplemental packet in timely matter.

Alderwoman Nelson

Alderwoman Nelson commented regarding the bills not being available with the agenda and emails being sent requesting access. Alderwoman Nelson requested that the Mayor, give the agenda back to the Clerk.

Alderman Tillman

Alderman Tillman stated the council can do that if they decided to do so.

Approve Emergency Bill Listing and Bill Listing

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Tillman to approve the Emergency Bill Listing and Bill Listing.

Alderman Gardner Amendment Request

Alderman Gardner requested his name be removed as the Finance Chairman from the Emergency Bill Listing memo.

Alderman Williams Discussion

Alderman Williams requested that City Treasurer Tarka explain the items on the emergency bill listing.

City Treasurer Tarka

City Treasurer Tarka explained that the payments on the emergency bill listing are for liens.

Alderman Tillman

Alderman Tillman stated for the record that he would like to explain why he voted yes on 27, 28, and 29. I echo what Alderwoman said and what my other colleagues are saying. I think it’s important that I approve the payroll, and I said this a couple of weeks ago there are a lot of allegations that are out there and it’s important that the city council do an investigation before we just vote not on things. I think maybe we should entertain that once again before we just continuously say no because of things that we hear. Obviously, there are some things that happened that we have confirmed; the credit card, some other things and I understand that’s why a lot folks are hesitant to vote on a number of things. So, I just want to put that out there that why I’m voting yes and maybe we can entertain that. Thanks.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 4

ALDERMEN: Harvey, Tillman, Williams, Phillips

NAYS: 3

ALDERMEN: Wilson, Gardner, Nelson

ABSENT: 0

ALDERMAN: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Alderwoman Nelson

Alderwoman Nelson inquired about the lien process and if that process use to be handled by the clerk’s office.

City Clerk Dr. Nyota T. Figgs

City Clerk Dr. Nyota T. Figgs responded that her office did handle liens.

Alderwoman Nelson

Alderwoman Nelson stated we are paying people to do double work so for that reason she voted No.

Alderwoman Wilson

Alderwoman Wilson stated that she agrees with Alderman Tillman, and she believes that some Ordinances need to be put in place to combat this situation. Alderwoman Wilson stated that she will be voting no because she did do some investigation work and found out that Public Works has been doing some work at a house on Paxton

and for that reason her answer is no.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### Finance

Alderman Williams will be having a Finance Committee of the Whole meeting next week if he receives all of the concerns from the Aldermen to be addressed in regards to the payroll and human resource department.

### Public Safety

Alderman Gardner had no report.

### Public Utilities

Alderwoman Phillips had no report, however she will be working on a meeting date for Public Utilities.

### Ord. & Res.

Alderman Tillman reported that he noticed different agendas, and it did cause some confusion amongst the council. Alderman Tillman addressed Alderwoman Nelsons request to give the function of the agenda back to the Clerk. "I just wanted to let the council know if we wanted to change the Ordinance to update it or revert it back to how it was pre-2021; we can do that; if that's the pleasure of the council, we can."

### City Clerk Dr. Nyota T. Figgs

City Clerk Dr. Nyota T. Figgs reported the Ordinance was never changed it was just taken.

### H.E.W

Alderwoman Wilson reported Health Education and Welfare would like to make everyone aware that there has been an uptick in the flu virus and there was a child death in Illinois. Alderwoman Wilson would like everyone to be mindful about handwashing and mask wearing. Alderwoman Wilson would like any current or former employees to reach out who may need mental health attention please reach out there are Mental Health professionals and Legal Assistance we can put you in contact with.

### Permits & Licenses

Alderwoman Harvey had no report.

### Public Works

Alderwoman Nelson reported Public Works will be having a meeting in the next two weeks.

## **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

### Alderwoman Harvey – 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

Alderwoman Harvey wished everyone in Calumet City a happy new year. Alderwoman Harvey would like residents to be safe and mindful that the Flu is going around. Alderwoman Harvey announced the 1<sup>st</sup> ward will not have a January meeting but will have a February meeting that will be announced at a later date.

### Alderwoman Wilson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

Alderwoman Wilson would like the 2<sup>nd</sup> ward residents to call or text her at (708) 586-4990 or email at [monet@alderwomanwilson.com](mailto:monet@alderwomanwilson.com). The Calumet City Chargers and Cheerleading team will start their winter conditioning in partnership with Calumet City Memorial Park District please check the website for dates and signup.

### Alderman Tillman – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

Alderman Tillman wished everyone in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward a Happy New Year. Alderman Tillman reported that the next 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ward townhall

meeting will be held on February 2, 2026, at that Calumet City Library at 6:30.

Alderman Williams – 4<sup>th</sup> Ward

Alderman Williams gave honor to God. Alderman Williams thanked his long time secretary Stephanie for everything she does for the City of Calumet City. Alderman Williams requested a resolution be prepared for Stephanie.

Alderman Gardner – 5<sup>th</sup> Ward

Alderman Gardner would like 5<sup>th</sup> ward residents to contact his office at (708) 891-8195 with any questions or concerns. Alderman Gardner announced the 5<sup>th</sup> ward will be having a townhall meeting soon a communication will sent out to the residents with the date.

Alderwoman Nelson– 6<sup>th</sup> Ward

Alderwoman Nelson announced “the 6<sup>th</sup> ward will have a community meeting on February 28, 2026, at Our Lady of Knocks it will Bingo and Dinner. Please, look out for the Lead Replacement Program letter. We should be receiving letters or phone calls on when this phase will begin hopefully soon. I want to just take the time to say that I know that there are some challenging moments here and I know that some of us are new, I know that we need to learn, but I also know that we were elected to do a job. We were elected to make sure that we are continuously being responsible with the Tax Payer’s money; responsible for making sure that the bills are paid not just the bills but that the Tax Payers are not footing the bulk of the taxes or other things that can start to accumulate. I do believe this city has the potential to be beautiful, but we have to have the right leadership. I do believe that Mayor Jones has the capability, but I do understand there’s some things that he needs to change what I’m looking for and hope that the residents can hold all of us accountable about being transparent and go by the books and making sure that we are not over staffing hiring or wasting funds; in order to do that we have to work as a team and if individuals want us to work as a team everybody has to be open to change, everybody, not just one person, everybody and do it for the right reasons. So again, Happy New Year and Thank you.”

Alderman Phillips– 7<sup>th</sup> Ward

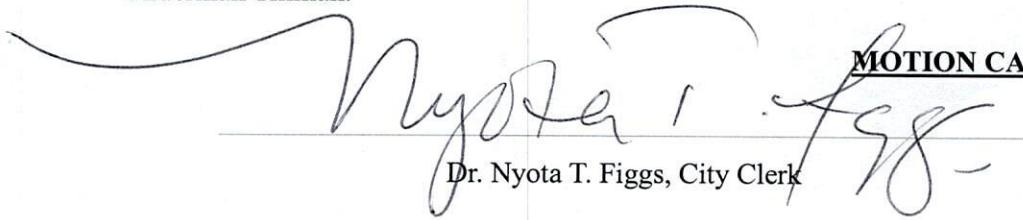
Alderwoman Phillips announced that she will be having some informational meetings and events coming up. Alderwoman Phillips asked the residents to pray for the council.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was at 8:00 p.m., on a motion by Alderwoman Nelson, seconded by Alderman Tillman.

  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
Dr. Nyota T. Figs, City Clerk

/jkc