

SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2026
204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS

CALL TO ORDER The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.
on August 24, 2026, by Mayor Pro Tem Ramonde Williams.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT 7 ALDERMEN: Harvey, Wilson, Tillman, Williams,
Gardner (6:11 p.m.), Nelson, Phillips.

ABSENT: 0 ALDERMEN: NONE

Also present were: City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka,
City Administrator Deanne Jaffrey, Fire Chief Bachert, Police Chief
Kolosh, Deputy Clerk Jessica Coffee, Public Works Commissioner
Jericho Thomas, Attorney Mark Sterk (Legislative Counsel).

PUBLIC COMMENT Renita Johnson 567 Freeland commented regarding branches that have
not been picked up from the last storm. Renita Johnson requested the city
pave the road leading up to Wentworth Intermediate. Renita Johnson
inquired if the city has crossing guards.

Alderman Willams reported that the city of Calumet City does not
employ Crossing Guards.

Health, Education, and Welfare Chairman Alderman Wilson responded
that Wilson Intermediates School Board has a surplus and those funds
are available to repave the road leading to the school. Alderman Wilson
also advised the School Board has the ability to pay for Crossing Guards.

Ms. Gilbert 275 Calhoun commented regarding school buses pulling in
front of her home and letting the kids out by the alley; she stated this is
not safe. Ms. Gilbert also stated she is having issues with the parents
because the kids are playing in her yard; Ms. Gilbert stated there is a
need for Crossing Guards.

Albert Kendall from Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle's office
announced that President Toni Preckwinkle declared the storm on
July 27, 2026, a disaster emergency. Due to the storm being declared an
emergency the State and the County has allocated disaster funds at this
time Cook County and the State of Illinois are working with the
areas that have been most affected by the storm to determine the best way
to distribute funds. Albert Kendall also announced that SBA is giving out
loans for small businesses and residents that were hit by the storm.
Albert Kendall directed residents to visit the Village of Hazel crest at

3601 W. 183rd st and Pullman Library at 1101 Indiana for SBA loan assistance.

Ernest Hayes 499 Calhoun commented regarding trees that fell during the storm that needs to be removed from his property.

Ms. Harris 514 Calhoun complained about a neighbor calling the police on her for walking her dog and picking up the dog's waste. Ms. Harris stated that random men are coming to her door to discuss the matter and now the Sheriff's Department has been involved; she stated she is embarrassed and would like the council to assist in stopping the continuous harassment.

City Administrator Deanne Jaffrey read a letter to the council.
"Good evening I'm here to discuss item #3 on tonight's agenda. I am Deanne Jaffrey and I am the City Administrator here in Calumet City. That agenda item is the abolition of the City Administrator/Comptroller. Believing this may freshly stem from the comments made by some of the council members at the August 20, 2026, Special Council meeting. I committed to sharing some facts on May 28, 2026, city council approved the RFP for Residential Waste Collection Services. That approved RFP was only a shell draft incomplete and lacking much required detail for a successful RFP process. Commissioner Thomas and I were directed to proceed with the RFP process to work alongside Attorney Bruen. Upon review of that approved RFP, we immediately engaged other members of the executive level in the process, it included them on all correspondence throughout the process. Including the zoom meetings that were scheduled for discussion. As there is a lot of detailed information that had to be quickly and accurately obtained and included into which everyone contributed towards finalizing that RFP. Last week at that August 20, 2026, meeting in response to Alderwoman Wilson's emailing concerns, I provided the council with a copy packet of all supporting documentation to prove the RFP process was handled accurately, professionally, and fairly; copies of public notices, bid specifications, dates, times, and locations of pre-saved bids, identity of persons who maintained custody of each sealed bid, the public bid opening notice, attendance, record, tabulation, pertinent communication with perspective bidders, and vendors, IT, Counseling Attorneys were Odelson, and J. Avery and the internal team myself, Jericho, the attorney and those executive individuals. The area which we fell short of was not directly ensuring that City Clerk Figgs received a complete RFP and we acknowledged this in a meeting in Mayor's office upon adjournment of that August 20th meeting. Commissioner Thomas and I extended our apology directly to her. And I do the same today publicly Clerk Figgs I apologize for not providing you with a copy of that RFP. At a minimum I should have included you on that email that I was directed to send to

Attorney Odleson and Avery. Now to the comment of potential bid rigging. If that was directed at me I take complete offense to this and deny the obligation and I do hope that each member of this council took the time to thoroughly review the 114 pages plus packet of supporting documents I provided to you at the start of that meeting. If there are any questions or additional information you would like please let me know and I'd be more than happy to provide it. I stand before each of you confidently stating again that the Garbage RFP with attorney involvement was handled accurately, fairly, with transparency and according to established RFP processes. The only time I was approached or asked about the RFP was in a council meeting a few weeks back when I believe Mayor mentioned it in one of his reports, and if I'm not mistaken, Alderman Gardner, inquired about the number of potentially interested vendors. After the advertising was posted on the city website. I provided that response based upon the vendors that had reached out to us with questions, expressing their thanks for sending the RFP to them and including them; nobody inquired with since or until Alderwoman Wilson email received on August 19th at 4:30. Separately but also at that August 20th meeting claim was called to my attention about something I supposedly said to one or two city individuals. I deny ever making such a statement as it was shared with me in question why I was not called upon during or included when asked upon that claim being mentioned or shared. To the statement about the employees that don't live in Calumet City and the insinuation that we are not fully invested in our city, I challenge that wholeheartedly nobody cares to highlight or speak about the number of hours and late nights week over week til one sometimes 2:30 a.m. over the course of two solid years, here at city hall. Nor the number of my son's school events or functions, sporting events, milestones, family events, birthdays, and other celebrations, meals, weekends, that I sacrifice to be her for Calumet City placing the city before even my sons."

Alderman Wilson

"Is there a time limit."

City Administrator
Deanne Jaffrey

"I'm almost finished. As a single mother of two sons, if that doesn't speak volumes as to just how dedicated and committed I remain to our city over these last five years; than I discount that comment as merely a personal attack. I assure you that the numerous employees that do not reside in Calumet City that they are equally committed to our city as I am. I implore the city council to continue doing your due diligence. I respect your job, I respect your work, I respect your votes. I simply ask you to take the time to review the provided information, to ask questions, to engage not just me, but other department heads for answers to any questions you have about the department, the situation, So, that we can all gain an understanding and continue moving our city forward. Thank you."

Dismissal of Court Reporter

Alderman Wilson moved, seconded by Alderman Phillips to release the Court Reporter Trixie Schuzer from Lexitas who was ordered by Cleo Jones.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION CARRIED

Deviate From the Regular Order of Business

Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderman Nelson to deviate from the regular order of business to discuss the mayor's credit card misuse.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Jones Credit Card Misuse Discussion

There was a brief discussion regarding the council finding independent legal counsel to litigate the misuse of the city credit card.

Appointing Independent Counsel

Alderman Tillman moved, seconded by Alderman Wilson to appoint Independent Counsel to pursue civil litigation against Mayor Thaddeus Jones.

Alderman Gardner

"We've all received a letter or an email from the mayor stating that he did make payments back I just want to confirm tonight on record from the Treasurer's office was there anything he paid or receipts provided?"

Deputy Treasurer Nicole Rudder

"A small check was issued I believe probably less than a \$1000.00 dollars but it wasn't clear what it was for, so I can provide the backup for that and send it along because I wasn't sure what it was applying to so we deposited it and we were waiting for more information to figure out what it was supposed to be paying for; so, we do have that."

Alderman Gardner

"And then it was also mentioned that this was reviewed by Crowe is that true?"

Deputy Treasurer

"The credit card is a finding on our 2025 audit for the credit cards so the city got cited for receipts not being part of the well-they weren't able to audit all of the receipts so it was a finding on our audit. So we have to find a way to; well, we just need receipts."

Withdrawal of
Motion to Appoint
Independent Counsel

Alderman Tillman withdrew his motion to appoint Independent Counsel.

Withdrawal of
Second to Appoint
Independent Counsel

Alderman Wilson withdrew her second to appoint Independent Counsel.

Approval to Direct
Legislative Counsel
And Corporate Counsel
Compose a List of
Independent Counsel
For the Initiation of
Legal Action

Alderman Tillman moved, seconded by Alderman Gardner to authorize the initiation of legal action on behalf of the City of Calumet City against Mayor Thaddeus Jones to recover any amounts determined to be due and owing to the city arising from unauthorized, improper, or otherwise noncompliant use of City-issued credit cards, including all appropriate costs, interest, and other relief available by law; and further, that the selection and retention of special counsel to prosecute such action shall be presented to the City Council for approval at the September 08, 2026, meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION CARRIED

Return to Regular
Order of Business

Alderman Nelson moved seconded by Alderman Phillips to return to the regular order of business at 6:53 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

City Administrator/
Comptroller
Discussion

Alderman Tillman gave an overview of the reason behind the motion to repeal the Comptroller portion of the City Administrator title. Alderman Tillman explained the purpose is to make sure the Clerk's duties reflect that she is the Comptroller.

Direct Legislative
Counsel to Amend
City Administrator/
Comptroller Title and
Amending The
Ordinance
Appropriately

Alderman Wilson moved, seconded by Alderman Nelson to direct the Legislative Counsel to draft an amended Ordinance repealing the Comptroller portion of the City Administrator's duties and returning those duties to the City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

AYES:	6	ALDERMEN:	Harvey, Wilson, Williams, Gardner, Nelson, Phillips
NAYS:	0	ALDERMEN:	None
ABSENT:	0	ALDERMAN:	None
PRESENT:	1	ALDERMAN:	Tillman

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Enter into
Closed Session

Alderman Harvey moved, seconded by Alderman Nelson to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing employment of a specific individuals at 7:04 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session

The City Council met in executive session from 7:04 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Return to the Regular
Order of Business

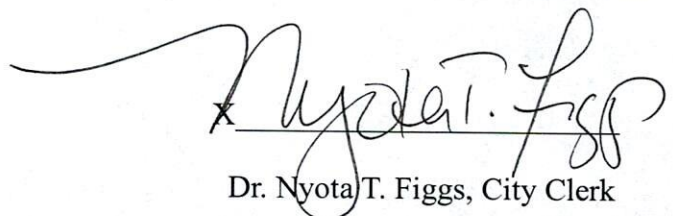
Alderman Harvey moved, seconded by Alderman Nelson to return to the regular order of business at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

RECESSED

Recess was at 9:31 p.m., on a motion by Alderman Harvey, seconded by Alderman Nelson to reconvene on August 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED


Dr. Nyota T. Figs, City Clerk