

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD ON MARCH 30, 2026
204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY,
ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by Alderman Ramonde D. Williams

ROLL CALL

PRESENT 7 ALDERMEN: Harvey (Remote), Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner (6:17 p.m.), Nelson, Phillips.

ABSENT: 0 ALDERMEN: NONE

Also present were: City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Deputy Clerk I Jessica Coffee, City Attorney Patrick Walsh, Public Works Commissioner Jericho Thomas, Deputy Deputy Commissioner Josh Brown, Ancel Glink Corporate Counsel Richard Bruen and Jayman Avery Legislative Counsel.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Request for Remote Participation Alderman Harvey requested to attend the Committee of the Whole Meeting through remote participation because she is out of town for work.

Approve Remote Participation Alderman Nelson moved, seconded by Alderman Harvey to approve remote participation for Alderman Harvey.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 ALDERMEN: Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Phillips

NAYS: 0 ALDERMEN: None

ABSENT: 0 ALDERMAN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Republic Services Presentation Ernie Lopez the Municipality Service Manager for Republic Services gave an overview of the current contract between the City of Calumet City and Republic Services. Ernie Lopez gave a breakdown of the cost to the residents of Calumet City which is currently at \$31.30 and compared that cost to surrounding municipalities such as the City of Harvey which pays

\$29.25, Calumet Park \$28.43, and Midlothian \$28.63. Ernie Lopez commented regarding the services Republic has provided the City of Calumet City over the last 5 years such as the 150 roll offs and the pickup of large items for the residents. Ernie Lopez stated Republic Service would like to utilize the provision in the current contract that allows either party to request a four year extension and that is the company's purpose for being present today.

Republic Service Discussion Alderman Wilson expressed concerns about Republic Services collecting large items. Alderman Wilson stated that the Calumet City Public Works department has to stop doing their daily work to collect large items because Republic has failed to retrieve those items. Alderman Wilson acknowledged that the act of Public Works picking up those items to appease the residents is causing the City go over the 150 roll offs and that is causing an increase in payment to Republic Services.

Public Works Commissioner Thomas Comments Public Works Commissioner Jericho Thomas reported that in previous years Public Works has gone over the 150 roll offs allowed by Republic; last year Public Works had 180 roll offs. Public Works Commissioner Jericho Thomas stated he hopes to have less roll offs this year because Public Works plans on placing liens on the properties if Public Works is required to pick up large items.

Alderman Gardner Alderman Gardner inquired about recycling.

Finance Director Kasperek Finance Director Kasperek commented that it would be a waste of resources to pay for recycling because if one residents bin is contaminated it will ruin the entire load and it will have to be mixed with the regular trash. Finance Director Kasperek stated that the cost is close to \$3,000,000.00 a year for the service.

Recess City Council took a 5-minute recess at 6:50 p.m.

Return to Regular Order of Business Alderman Nelson moved, seconded by Alderman Phillips to return to the regular order of business at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Republic Services Ernie Lopez Ernie Lopez stated that Republics goal is to negotiate the contract to see if they can offer a better price.

Alderman Wilson Alderman Wilson stated the city did a horrible job of putting this project out to bid. Alderman Wilson stated she wanted to put on record that at the time there was a lot of politics involved in this contract, and she recommends this matter goes to bid.

Alderman Gardner Alderman Gardner would like to go on record to thank Finance Director Kasperek for providing his input and perspective in regards to this matter. Alderman Gardner stated to Alderwoman Wilson's point that there was some issues regarding the last contract process and he would also like a fair bidding process. Alderman Gardner stated he would like to see some additional provisions added for the residents.

Alderman Nelson Alderman Nelson thanked Finance Director Kasperek for answering all of her questions before she got the opportunity to ask them. Alderman Nelson stated that the new Alderman have never seen the contract and that they need the documents to review. Alderman Nelson asked Republic Services how would it benefit the residents if the council did not to go through the RFP process. Alderman Nelson stated that she thought this meeting would be to discuss what Republic Services is offering.

Republic Service Municipality Service Manager Ernie Lopez stated it wouldn't be fair to Republic Services for them to offer the city a dollar amount and the city still goes out to bid.

Finance Director Kasperek Finance Director Kasperek suggested the council look at doing a short extension to avoid changing vendors in the middle of winter.

Alderman Wilson Alderman Wilson stated that the city is at the end of the fiscal year and the council will be working on the budget soon which should allow enough time to for the council to go out to bid with the help of the City Clerk and the Attorneys before the December deadline.

Alderman Wilson commented regarding being one of the four alderman that had calls and text messages sent out about them for questioning a 12,000,000.00-dollar contract with Republic Services. Alderman Wilson stated if Republic Services wanted to negotiate, they should have come prepared.

Alderman Nelson Alderman Nelson inquired regarding the municipalities nearby cost for Refuse services and their populations that are serviced by Republic.

Republic Service Municipality Service Manager Ernie Lopez gave a brief synopsis of costs and populations of the surrounding municipalities that their company services.

Alderman Williams Alderman Williams stated that he would like to see what the negotiation process looks like between the City of Calumet City and Republic Services.

Alderman Wilson Alderman Wilson stated she would not like to go through the negotiation process with Republic; she would like to go to bid since the council did get to see what other vendors had to offer when the garbage contract was up last time. Alderman Wilson mentioned that State Representative Anthony

Deluca is colleagues with State Representative Thaddeus Jones and just so happens to own Republic Services.

Republic Services Anthony Deluca Republic Services representative Anthony Deluca reported that his family has been in the garbage business for 58 years. Representative Anthony Deluca also stated that of course he knows Thaddeus Jones, they've been colleagues for a long time; he stated he usually works with Deanne.

Alderman Nelson Discussion Alderman Nelson asked Alderman Tillman what his take is on the matter.

Alderman Tillman Alderman Tillman agrees that the process wasn't handled like it should've been and the contract should be bid on.

Approval to Prepare an Offer And Bid Package Alderman Gardner moved, seconded by Alderman Wilson to authorize the City Clerk to prepare an offer and a bid package for sealed bids with the assistance of Corporate Counsel, Legislative Counsel and Public Works Commissioner Jericho Thomas for City residential refuse services as provided in the Ordinance and applicable statute.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION CARRIED

Refuse Discussion Continued Alderman Williams stated he would like to allow Republic Services the ability to negotiate like the contract states.

Alderman Nelson inquired about the contract and the language for extension. Alderman Nelson stated she wants to be fair to Alderman Williams because he would like to go through the negotiation process, unless the negotiation binds the council to a decision, she is fine with negotiating.

Alderman Harvey requested the previous contract.

Alderman Wilson stated "this council would like to go to bid so why are we putting something else on the floor."

Approval to
Negotiate Refuse
Services

Alderman Williams moved, seconded by Alderman Harvey to allow the current vendor Republic Services the opportunity to present an offer to negotiate extending the Refuse Services contract as stated in the current contract.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment

Alderman Tillman moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Gardner at 7:44 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

X 

Dr. Nyota T. Figs
City Clerk