

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

**JULY 26, 2012**

Public Comment

The following individuals spoke before the public forum held at 7:30 p.m.

Hope Allen, 1033 Burnham, spoke regarding the appropriation ordinance and the budget procedure.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Pledge of Allegiance

The City Council of the City of Calumet City met in the City Council Chambers in a regular meeting on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 6

ALDERMEN: Schneider, Wosczynski, Jones, Wilson, Munda,  
Manousopoulos

ABSENT: 1

ALDERMAN: Collins

Also present were City Clerk Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, City Attorney Montana, City Engineer Roberts, Finance Director Kasperek, Fire Chief Galgan and Deputy Clerk Bonato.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was in order.

Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush: "Alderman Collins has an excused absence tonight."

Approval of minutes

Alderman Munda moved, seconded by Alderman Jones, to approve the minutes of July 14, 2012 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### Finance

Alderman Wosczyński: “The Finance Committee meeting of the Whole was called to order by Chairman Wosczyński in the city council chambers at 6:30 p.m. on the following days to review the 2012-2013 appropriation ordinance.

On Tuesday, July 17, 2012 the meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. In attendance were all the aldermen, Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush, City Clerk Figgs, Treasurer Tarka, Finance Director Kasperek, Purchasing & Personnel Director Vallis, the public and the press. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

On Wednesday, July 18, 2012 the meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. In attendance were all the aldermen, City Clerk Figgs, Treasurer Tarka, Finance Director Kasperek, Randy Barron, James Gigliotti, Fire Chief Galgan, ESDA Director Chiaro, the public and the press. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

On Thursday, July 19, 2012 the meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. In attendance were all the aldermen, Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush, City Clerk Figgs, Treasurer Tarka, Finance Director Kasperek, Nick Yovkovich, Gerry Surufka, Illa Galloway, William Borah, Jane Rowland, the public and the press. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, July 25, 2012 the budget review meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. In attendance were five aldermen, Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush, City Clerk Figgs, Treasurer Tarka, Finance Director Kasperek, the public and the press. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. A copy of the meetings are available in the city clerk’s office.

I would like to thank the Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, the aldermen, Finance Director Kasperek and the department heads for their support and cooperation in putting these appropriation ordinance together. Thank you.”

### Public Safety

Alderman Manousopoulos had no report. The committee did have a meeting but due to all the budget meetings I have not put together a report. I will report at the next council meeting.

### Public Utilities

Alderman Jones had no report.

### Ord. & Res.

Alderman Collins was absent.

### H.E.W.

Alderman Schneider had no report.

### Permits & Licenses

Alderman Wilson had no report.

## Public Works

Alderman Munda: “We had a severe thunderstorm the other day that knocked out a lot of power in various wards. There were also a lot of trees and power lines down.

I would like to thank public works department for their immediate response. The storm started at 7:00 a.m. in the morning and public works were out helping residents remove trees from their properties and clearing power lines. Also making sure roadways were clear for people to get to work.

I would like to thank the fire and police departments for their immediate response to emergencies throughout the various wards and their involvement with handling the situation.

I would like to say thank you to Commonwealth Edison, especially the Regional Manager Toni Eberhardt who the city works very closely with to keep these services provided for the residents. Their response was very quick, per their contract. I would like to say a special thank you to Toni for working with all the aldermen and getting residents service restored.

## Mayor’s report

Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush: “I would like to make a statement about the budget process if everyone would indulge me. It has been a long task of many meetings between myself and staff and then meetings with the city council to carve out the final appropriation for the year of May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013. I want to thank everyone involved for assisting in creating the final version of the appropriation that is on the agenda tonight.

I want to take a few minutes to discuss this year’s appropriation ordinance. First let me start off with some unaudited numbers from last year. I say the numbers are unaudited as the books for the last fiscal year are not yet closed. We are still in the process of putting the finishing touches on the end of the year accruals.

In other words, we are still recording revenues receivable and expenditures payable. Bills for work performed or product received during the year ending April 30, 2012, but the invoices to the city are still coming in.

So with that said, I am going to discuss the Corporate Fund of the city. Last year we projected the revenue to be \$33,434,484 and we received \$33,323,023. So we were slightly under projections by less than one-half percent. Not too bad on revenue projections. Expenses were budgeted at \$33,449,006 and we spent \$32,597,161. So we were under budget by about 2.55%.

This year we are projecting revenue at \$34,605,949 or about \$1.17 million more than we projected last year. Included in this figure is approximately \$1.3 million in federal and state grants. Majority of that money we have already have approval for so once the money is received, that the projects that those grants will fund will be started.

Most of the grant money in the Corporate Fund is related to manpower in the police and fire departments. This year we were approved for a Fire Safer Grant that will pay 100% of the costs of hiring three new firemen for two years. The grant will not only include salary, but health insurance costs, pension costs, training and gear to properly protect our firemen.

We are very fortunate to receive this grant. We have also received law enforcement grants that will allow the city to increase traffic enforcement at no additional costs to the city. Both of our city's public safety departments did a fantastic job in writing these grant applications.

Now as a part that I am sure that no one wants to hear, but our largest revenue increase that the city receives is in the real estate taxes. Last year we increased the city's overall levy by 4.9%. I know the overall increase on most resident's tax bills was larger than that. But we will discuss why that is at a future meeting.

For now, I want to focus on this year's budget. With the State of Illinois's financial crisis, ultimately we local municipalities have been impacted. We have seen the dollars that we received from state drop over the years. The largest being in the State Income Tax dollars we receive. At the height, State Income Taxes received by the city was just under \$3.6 million.

This past year we received just over \$2.7 million. That is a loss of almost \$900,000 in revenue a gap that is not easily filled. Other revenue items affected by the economy was the real estate transfer taxes that the city collected. At its height, we collected over \$1.3 million. This past year, we collected just under \$200,000, a loss of over \$1.1 million.

With a budget that is heavily laden with payroll and related fringe benefits, even the layoffs the city did could not offset the loss in revenues we incurred. Our jobs are difficult as various revenue sources of the city dry up or are reduced and yes we are cognizant of the raising real estate taxes as a means to offset those losses. With that in mind, this budget is not projecting a tax levy increase to balance this budget.

Now a little bit of the expenditures. This year's proposed budget of \$34,558,304 is about \$1.1 million more than last year. Almost all of the increase is a result of payroll. This year's budget is bringing the payroll back to the 2009 level. However, the number of full-time employees is still well below the number of full-time employees we had in 2006.

In 2006, we had 290 full time employees and now we have 245. So we have decreased the number of full time jobs, however, payroll and related payroll benefit increases have offset the savings of reduced work force.

Mayor report (cont'd)

Last year we saw our health insurance costs increase over \$223,000 in the Corporate Fund and over \$480,000 from the prior year. So since this year end April 30, 2010, the city's health insurance has increased almost \$700,000. These are costs beyond the control of the city. We all witness the prices of gasoline. The city has seen the cost of gasoline increased almost \$140,000 over the past two years.

The public wishes for more public safety presence which requires more vehicles on the street. Again, we are not exempt from the ever increasing cost of energy. I am sure people can nit pick items in the budget as some have done in our public forum, however the city council along with its employees are doing everything possible to keep costs down.

The use of outside vendors in public works has dropped significantly as we continue to do more work in house. So this year's corporate budget has over \$17.1 million projected in payroll, another \$5.9 million projected in health care costs, workmen's compensation claims budgeted at \$1.5 million and general liability insurance premiums and claims projected another \$1 million.

These costs alone are project at \$25.5 million or 74% of the entire operating corporate budget. That leaves 26% to cover all other costs. Private scavenger costs are estimated at \$1.87 million, contractual obligations are estimated at \$500,000, utilities, including gasoline costs are estimated at \$1 million. These costs add another \$3.375 million to the budget.

This accounts for another 9.7% of the budget. These expenditures just discussed amount to almost 84% of the budget. So it is not easy trying to pass a balanced budget when much of the costs we cannot control.

Overall, subtracting the proposed expenditures versus the proposed revenues leaves a small surplus of \$47,645. However, we have union contracts that expired April 30, 2012. Therefore, we still have potential increases in payroll for the police, fire telecommunicators and clerical unions. The Operating Engineers or Public Works or Inspectors, the union contracts was settled through the end of April 30, 2013 and therefore those raises are already factored into this years budget.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for putting together a balanced budget. I know there might be items we would like to do, however, we are living within means of our revenues and I thank you all."

Mayors Report

Consideration and possible action to approve a referendum on electricity aggregation to refer this matter to the Finance Committee for a recommendation on whether to place a referendum on the November ballot to create a competition to lower the electric rates for all residents.

Referendum on electricity aggregation

Alderman Jones moved, seconded by Alderman Wosczyński, to refer to the Finance Committee a referendum on electricity aggregation to be considered to be placed on November ballot.

MOTION CARRIED

National Night Out Against Crime - August 7, 2012

Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush announced National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at Memorial Park at 6:30 p.m. This is a community rally and neighborhood march. Join neighbors, city officials and police officers take a stand against crime. National Night Out brings our community together to send a message to criminals.

St Victor Fest - July 26-29, 2012

Alderman Schneider welcomed two new residents to Calumet City and to the first ward. Father David Pavlik the new pastor of St. Victor Church and Father Robert Sprott the associate pastor of St. Victor Church.

Alderman Schneider announced the St. Victor Fest and carnival starting Thursday, July 26 through July 29, 2012. There will be food, beer tent, carnival rides and live music. For more information visit the church's new website at [saintvictorcc.org](http://saintvictorcc.org).

2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Summer Mtg. July 30, 2012

Alderman Wosczyński announced her second ward summer meeting will be held at the corner of Harding and Calhoun on Monday, July 30, 2012. Residents are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs. The police and public works departments will be available also.

Check on neighbors during hot weather

Alderman Wosczyński encourages residents to check on their neighbors during hot weather and keep hydrated.

Kids Fest - 7/28/12 @ Ingalls Hospital

Alderman Wosczyński announced that Ingalls Memorial Hospital and Family Christian Health Center presents Kids Fest on Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 155<sup>th</sup> & Palina Street across from emergency department at Ingalls Memorial Hospital.

Email ward office

Alderman Jones thanked residents for emailing him regarding ward issues and service complaints. He encourages residents to email him at [calcity3@yahoo.com](mailto:calcity3@yahoo.com) for any ward issues.

Contact police dept. nuisance homes

Alderman Jones encourages residents if they are contacting the police department regarding a specific address to make sure the address is the correct one with the issue of disorderly house.

Third Ward Cookout 9/8/12

Alderman Jones announced that the Third Ward Community Cookout scheduled for August 4, 2012 is being rescheduled to Saturday, September 8, 2012 in conjunction with Children's Home Center. He will announce a list of vendors and companies participating in the event.

<u>School supplies/third ward office</u>	Alderman Jones stated he will be giving school supplies to the school district and any resident that comes into the office ahead of time. Contact ward office at (708) 891-8193.
<u>Thanks residents contacting ward office</u>	Alderman Jones thanked the residents for contacting the office in July. His office received over 167 calls, some related to storm damage and others were emails.
<u>Luella &amp; Harbor repair</u>	He reported that the Luella and Harbor Street is being repaired and some of the alleys in the ward are being done. He thanked the city engineers for their assistance.
<u>Vietnam Veterans Organization - drop box @ 1910 Sibley Blvd.</u>	Alderman Jones announced that the Vietnam Veterans of American Organization in conjunction with Pete's Fresh Market has a drop box at 1910 Sibley. The pickup service collects new and gently used clothing and household donations to support veterans organizations. They are open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
<u>Senior tax exemption</u>	Alderman Jones stated that all senior citizens have to apply every year for their tax exemption. Thornton Township will help them apply but they have to go Markham courthouse for the exemption.
<u>Appeal property tax bill South Suburban College 7/31/12</u>	Alderman Jones announced on July 31, 2012, announced that Larry Rogers office will be assisting residents with filing claims against their tax bill and also helping them with exemptions at South Suburban College from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
<u>Thank white sox staff donating tickets</u>	Alderman Jones thanked the entire white sox staff for donating over 200 tickets which is office has given to charity and continuing to support the community.
<u>Text to Drive Program</u>	Alderman Jones thanks AT & T for the big promotion of Text to Drive Program. There were high schools throughout cook county that competed in this competition to send the most text messages AT &T. Thornridge and Thornwood High School won and received a check for \$2,500 from AT & T.
<u>Amend handicap parking by adding: 355 Bensley</u>	Alderman Wilson moved, seconded by Alderman Manousopoulos, to amend the handicap parking ordinance by adding: 355 Bensley Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED

<u>4<sup>TH</sup> Ward Website</u>	Alderman Wilson announced the new 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward Website will go live shortly at 4thwardcalumetcity.org. It will have information about the upcoming third ward/fourth ward crime watch meetings and the street to street meetings. The fourth boundaries have changed and his office looks forward to having new residents attend and participate.
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Approve block party/  
200 block -157<sup>th</sup> Street  
7/28/12

Alderman Munda moved, seconded by Alderman Manousopoulos, to approve a block party on the 200 block of 157<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to dusk and direct public works department to provide trash receptacles and barricades at 213-157th Street. Also to notify the public safety personnel.

MOTION CARRIED

Approve block party/  
100 block Warren Street  
8/18/12

Alderman Munda moved, seconded by Alderman Jones, to approve a block party on the 100 block of Warren Street on Saturday, August 18, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to dusk and direct public works to provide trash receptacles and barricades at 131 Warren Street. Also to notify th public safety personnel.

MOTION CARRIED

Amend handicap parking  
ordinance

Alderman Manousopoulos moved, seconded by Alderman Schneider, to amend the handicap parking ordinance by adding: 1428 Shirley Drive.

MOTION CARRIED

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

Calumet City Fire  
Department/thanking Lion's  
Club

Thanking the Calumet City Lion's Club for donating a popcorn machine to the department.

Calumet City Fire  
Department/thanking  
Home Depot

Thanking the Home Depot Store for donating two gas grills to the department.

Comast/re: International  
Premium Channels

RE: International Premium Channels.

City Treasurer Tarka/  
RE: Exelon Energy

RE: Exelon Energy.

Accept & place on file

Alderman Jones moved, seconded by alderman Wosczynski, to accept the communications and place on file.

MOTION CARRIED

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Direct Fire & Police  
Commissioners begin hiring  
process of (3) firefighters

Direct the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners to begin the hiring process of three (3) firefighters; the hiring is related to the recent Safety Grant awarded to the fire department.

Refer to City Attorney  
Bey & Wicks v. Barron

Refer to City Attorney - United States District Court - Northern Illinois District of Illinois - Akmed Bey and Edward Wicks, Plaintiff v. Randy Barron, individually and his official capacity as head of the Inspection Services Department of the City of Calumet City, Jim Gandolet, individually, and his official capacity as an Inspector for the City of Calumet City, and the City of Calumet City, and unnamed unknown City of Calumet City Police Officers, defendants.

Approve new business

Alderman Jones moved, seconded by Alderman Wosczyński, to approve new business items as presented.

## ROLL CALL

YEAS: 6	ALDERMEN:	Wosczyński, Jones, Wilson, Munda, Manousopoulos, Schneider
NAYS: 0	ALDERMEN:	None
ABSENT: 1	ALDERMAN:	Collins

MOTION CARRIED

## RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Ord. #1: amending handicap parking, by adding: 1441 Wentworth & 355 Bensley (Ord. #12-32)

Ordinance amending Chapter 90 of the Municipal Code of the City of Calumet City, Cook County, Illinois, by adding: 1441 Wentworth Avenue & 355 Bensley Avenue. (see attached page 9A)

Ord. #2: Making Appropriation for all Corporate Purposes May 1, 2012 & ending April 30, 2013

Ordinance Making Appropriation for All Corporate Purposes of the City of Calumet city for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013. (see attached page 9B)

Adopt ordinances

Alderman Manousopoulos moved, seconded by Alderman Wilson, to adopt the ordinances as presented, without the necessity of prior posting.

## ROLL CALL

YEAS: 6	ALDERMEN:	Jones, Wilson, Munda, Manousopoulos, Collins, Wosczyński
NAYS: 0	ALDERMEN:	None
ABSENT: 1	ALDERMAN:	Collins

MOTION CARRIED

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

Remit payment/Calumet City Plumbing/\$8,164.00

Amend motion of June 28, 2012 and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment to Calumet City Plumbing in the amount of \$8,164.00 for repairs to sanitary and storm sewer at 378 Mackinaw Avenue and charge to account #030-36-2-101.

<u>Remit payment/Calumet City Plumbing/\$11,740.00</u>	Approve payment to Calumet City Plumbing for repairs of toilets at police department and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment in the amount of \$11,740.00 and charge to account #010-60-2-345.
<u>Remit payment/Complex Network Solution/\$18,479</u>	Approve payment to Complex Network Solution in the amount of \$18,479.00 for new tower and camera equipment (due to lightning strike) for the police department and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment and charge to account #010-99-2-628.
<u>Remit payment/KRC Calumet City 386, Inc. \$45,331.06</u>	Authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment to KRC Calumet City 386, Inc. in the amount of \$45,331.06 representing the city's 50% share of sales tax received by the city for the accounting period January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012 to be charged to the Corporate Fund - Contractual Obligations line item #010-99-2-696.
<u>Remit payment/University of Illinois/\$8,250.00</u>	Approve and authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment to the University of Illinois in the amount of \$8,250.00; for Certified Firefighter II 6-week training in Champaign, Illinois and charge to account #010-70-2-390.
<u>Approve payroll</u>	Approve payroll (\$849,321.38)
<u>Approve bill listing</u>	Approve bill listing (\$143,795.68)
<u>Approve legal bill listing</u>	Approve legal bill listing (\$55,505.80)
<u>Approval Dental insurance proposal/Ameritas</u>	Approve the Dental Insurance proposal with Ameritas for the period of August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013 and authorize the Purchasing/Personnel Director to execute the agreement for the city.  Approve the renewal for Life Insurance with Met Life for two years beginning August 1, 2012 through August 1, 2014 and authorize the Purchasing/Personnel Director to execute the agreement for the city.
<u>Remit payment/Network Solutions/\$12,805.00</u>	Authorize the police department to purchase one (1) Pole Camera and one (1) remote Camera Package to be placed in the First Ward with the total project cost to be split equally between the City of Calumet City and the Calumet Memorial Park District; also to direct the City Treasurer to remit payment for said camera packages to Complex Network Solutions in the amount of \$12,805.00 for the city's half of project cost from account #010-60-5-100. (Equal balance to be paid by the Calumet Memorial Park District)
<u>Remit payment/DH Wireless Solutions/\$29,944.63</u>	Authorize the police department to purchase thirty (3) wireless tracking modems for installation in marked squad cars from DH Wireless Solutions and authorize Miner Electronics to install; also to direct the City Treasurer to remit payment to DH Wireless Solutions in the amount fo \$29,944.63; to be charged to account #010-60-5-100.

Remit payment/Ray O'Herron/\$2,520.00

Authorize the police department to purchase one (1) Directional Golden Eagle II Dual Antenna KA-Band DCM Radar Gun from Ray O'Herron for use in unmarked traffic car; also to direct the City Treasurer to remit payment Ray O'Herron in the amount of \$2,520.00 to be paid from account #010-60-5-100.

Remit payment/Thomas Dodge (\$23,322.00)

Authorize the police department to purchase one (1) new 2012 Dodge from Thomas Dodge (state pricing plan); to be used for traffic control and direct the Finance Director to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with Chrysler Dodge Company for the purchase amount of \$23,322.00 and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment; to be charged to account #011-10-5-199.

Approve purchase (11) police vehicles (Curry Ford) \$309,495.00

Authorize the police department to order eleven (11) new vehicles as follows from Curry Ford (state contract pricing plan) - (5) Police Interceptors (Explorer Model) (Marked vehicle) - (3) Police Interceptors (Sedan Model) (Marked Vehicle) - (3) Police Interceptors (Detective Model) and direct the Finance Director to enter into a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Ford Motor Company for the total amount of (11) vehicles; total cost to be financed \$309,495.00; to be paid from account #011-10-5-199.

Remit payment/Calumet City Plumbing/\$7,200.00

Approve the repair of the emergency water valve at northwest corner at 163<sup>rd</sup> Street & Shirley Drive and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment to Calumet City Plumbing in the amount not to exceed \$7,200.00; to be charged to account #030-36-2-349.

Remit payment/Insituform Technologies/\$99,947.16

Approve the Combined Sewer Cured-In Place Pipelining and direct the City Treasurer to remit payment to Insituform Technologies in the amount not to exceed \$99,947.16 and charge to account #030-36-5-27. (Bid awarded at 9/12/11 council meeting)

Approve financial matters authorize City Treasurer remit payment

Alderman Wosczyński moved, seconded by Alderman Jones, to approve financial matters as presented and authorize the City Treasurer to remit payment.

**ROLL CALL**

YEAS: 6  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 1

ALDERMEN: Wilson, Munda, Manousopoulos, Schneider, Wosczyński, Jones  
ALDERMEN: None  
ALDERMAN: Collins

MOTION CARRIED

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Cost estimate traffic safety bumps

Alderman Jones moved, seconded by Alderman Wilson, to direct the City Engineer to submit a cost estimate of temporary traffic safety bumps and report back to the city council; to be charged to account #010-41-3-304.

MOTION CARRIED

Math & Science Camp

Alderman Jones thanked the residents that signed up for the Math and Science Camp that starts Monday, July 30, 2012 thru August 6, 2012. There were over 42 registrations. This event is sponsored by the Jones Foundation and the Illinois Math & Science Academy from grades 5-7.

McClain County Farm  
8/3/12

Alderman Jones announced that he will be going down to McClain County Farm on August 2, 2012. Everything is free sponsored by McClain County Farm Bureau and Jones Foundation.

Post Resident Only Sign  
387 Madison Avenue

Alderman Jones moved, seconded by Alderman Wosczynski, to post a Resident Only parking sign at 387 Madison Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED

Contact CEDA

Alderman Jones stated that any residents having hardship cases that are eligible to contact CEDA at (708) 339-1560 or contact his office at (708) 891-8193.

Countersuits against  
individuals filing lawsuits

Alderman Munda moved, seconded by Alderman Manousopoulos, to have the city consider countersuits against individuals who file lawsuits against the city that ultimately are deemed frivolous.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was at 8:07 p.m. on a motion made by Alderman Munda and seconded by Alderman Manousopoulos.

MOTION CARRIED

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Nyota T. Figgs, City Clerk

/rb