

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2023, (VIA ZOOM)**

**204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Special Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Jones via Zoom.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no public comments submitted in writing or in person.

**ROLL CALL**

**YEAS:** 7 **ALDERMEN:** Navarrete, Wilson, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Patton  
Smith

**ABSENT:** 0 **ALDERMEN:** None

Also present were Mayor Jones, City Clerk Nyota Figgs, City Treasurer Tarka, Deputy Clerk Jessica Coffee, City Fire Chief Bachert, City Police Chief Kolosh, Finance Director John Kasperek

**Discussion of  
Severe Weather**

Mayor Jones reported regarding the recent flood. Mayor Jones stated here was 11.5 inches of rain in Calumet City in two hours. Several roads and expressways were closed due to the flood. Mayor Jones also reported Fire and Police Departments rescued residents who were stuck in their homes and cars. Wes' Towing pulled vehicles from the flooded streets.

**City  
Assistance**

Mayor Jones stated he will inquire with the governor about declaring the September 17, 2023 storm a natural disaster this will allow the city to apply Federal funds and the residents will be to apply for FEMA assistance. Mayor Jones reported the City will apply for SBA Assistance so that the Council will be able to aid the residents. Mayor Jones reported he will issue an Executive Order declaring the September 17, 2023 storm a Disaster. Mayor Jones went on to say that this will allow Calumet City to be able to apply for Cook County funds. Mayor Jones stated that the City will apply for America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

**Pump Stations**

Mayor Jones reported the water/ sewer system is 100 years old and it is very expensive to fix. Mayor Jones referenced the 2022 Bond meeting

were the council discussed funds being used from the bond for the water and sewer system.

Mayor Jones informed the Council that the City has restored about 46 homes and currently is working with 2 companies that have agreed to keep the cost low. In order to continue to restore homes the council would have to agree to use ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The estimated cost to continue to restore homes in Calumet City would be \$9,000.00 per house.

Sewer  
Rehabilitation

There was a detailed discussion about the pump stations and the percentage the pumps were operating at. Mayor Jones will provide a report to the Aldermen showing the functionality of the pump stations from the City Engineer. Treasurer Tarka suggested speaking with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to obtain a report on the Deep Tunnel Project.

Alderwoman Wilson informed the council of streets and sewers that she has reported from her ward that have been having issues are the same streets that caved.

The council discussed how to assist residents and how flood and sewer insurance will determine the amount of assistance the city will provide. Mayor Jones reported that restoration assistance the city would provide will be for the underinsured residents that are not covered for sewer back up. The restoration project would not provide assistance for business owners or landlords of apartment buildings.

Finance Director  
John Kasperek

Finance Director Kasperek spoke about an application process which would include a maximum cap for assistance; the application will available online and at City hall.

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones advised that the funds will be given to the Restoration companies and not to the residents. Currently the city is using a company by the name of Restore to do the work. Resident will need to provide proof of lack of coverage and damages.

Ald. Wilson

Alderwoman Wilson was no longer in the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Ald. Smith

Alderman Smith was no longer in the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Approve Waiving  
Requirements

Approval to waive the Bid Process for restorations companies due to emergency restoration services needed from the flooding.

Restoration

Alderman Smith moved seconded by Alderman Williams to waive

bidding requirements for restoration companies due to emergency restoration services needed from the flooding.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: 4 ALDERMEN: Navarrete, Tillman, Williams, Gardner  
NAYS: 1 ALDERMEN: Patton  
ABSENT: 2 ALDERMEN: Wilson, Smith

**MOTION CARRIED**

Approve Up to \$9,000.00 cap for Individual Resident Approve capping damages for emergency authorization at \$9,000.00 per house for emergency restoration; further to direct the Treasurer to pay said bills from ARPA funds.

Restoration Cap Amount Alderman Tillman moved seconded by Alderman Gardner to approve capping damages for emergency authorization at \$9,000.00 per house per ward for emergency restoration; further to direct the Treasurer to pay said bills from ARPA funds.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: 4 ALDERMEN: Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Patton  
NAYS: 1 ALDERMEN: Navarrete  
ABSENT: 2 ALDERMEN: Wilson, Smith

**MOTION CARRIED**

Approve ARPA Funds For Restoration Authorize emergency use of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds not to exceed 1 million dollars for clean-up and restoration of homes from list of residents who qualify for assistance due to flooding.

ARPA Funds Alderman Williams seconded by Alderman Gardner to approve emergency use of the ARPA funds not to exceed \$1 million for clean-up and restoration of homes from list of residents who qualify for services.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: 4 ALDERMEN: Navarrete, Tillman, Williams, Gardner  
NAYS: 1 ALDERMEN: Patton  
ABSENT: 2 ALDERMEN: Wilson, Smith

**MOTION CARRIED**

Emergency RFQ Authorize recommendation to the city council for an emergency RFQ to be placed on the next Agenda for emergency Restoration Companies.

Emergency Restoration RFQ Alderman Williams moved seconded by Alderman Patton to authorize for an emergency RFQ to be placed on the next Agenda for emergency Restoration Companies.

ROLL CALL

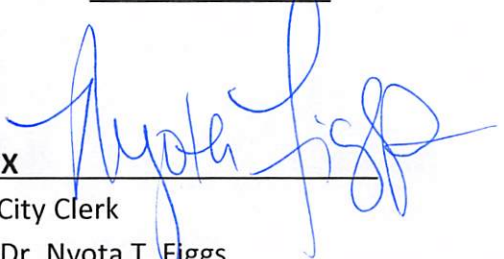
YEAS:	5	ALDERMEN:	Navarrete, Tillman, Williams, Gardner, Patton
NAYS:	0	ALDERMEN:	None
ABSENT:	2	ALDERMEN:	Wilson, Smith

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Jones Mayor Jones reported that he asked Alderwoman Wilson and Alderman Smith if they wanted to come back in the zoom and vote. Mayor Jones reported that Alderwoman Wilson stated she was kicked out of the meeting. Mayor Jones reported that Alderman Smith did not respond.

Adjournment Alderman Patton moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Williams at 10:31 a.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

X   
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City Clerk  
Dr. Nyota T. Figgs