

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2023 HELD VIA  
ZOOM

204 PULASKI ROAD, CALUMET CITY,  
ILLINOIS

CALL TO ORDER      The Council Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order via zoom at 4:00 p.m. by Mayor Jones.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS:                0    ALDERMEN: NONE

ABSENT:            0    ALDERMEN: NONE

Also present were Mayor Jones, City Clerk Dr. Figgs, City Treasurer Gerald Tarka, Deputy Clerk I Jessica Coffee, Deputy Clerk II Quentin Dailey, City Attorney Keri Lynn Kraftner

Public Comments      None

Mayor's Report        None

Social Service Contracts      City Attorney Keri Lynn Kraftner informed the council that according to the Illinois Constitution cities are not able to provide public funds to private Entities. City Attorney Kraftner advised that the city can provide assistance by contracting with the organizations to provide services for the residents. Attorney Kraftner advised the council to mindful of relationships between Aldermen and organizations.

Budget                      There was a brief discussion about the organizations that were chosen to receive a grant from Calumet City to appear by name in the Budget. Treasurer Tarka informed the council the grant is paid from the Special Corporation fund. Treasurer Tarka stated that having a contract between the City and the organization can be added to the process.

Discussion                City Attorney Kraftner advised "if any Alderman is an employee of a company or a business that we are contracting with; that's the problem. So I don't have a problem with the spouse; being honest the issue is that the Alderman is an employee of that organization, that's the problem"

Alderwoman Wilson      "Well first I'd like to say thank you for taking my husband out of it cause I only allow so many times that his name can be brought up before it goes a different way. But at the time I was asked by Pat Walsh was I on the Board for the foundation I said I am not I was not an employee I have been working as a

volunteer program, for this foundation since 2008. In July I was extended an offer because of a State Grant they received and October is when I went on payroll. Prior to that the foundation had submitted all the information to the Treasurers office; the foundation has been receiving this grant even under previous administrations. Everything that Treasurer Tarka said he has a very streamline way of vetting all the non profits. I do understand what you are saying as far as me. We are gonna have to switch the terminology of the Mayor; I am not an employee, I am an Elected Official; you treat us like employees but I am not an employee I am elected. I do have a concern because there are elected officials who have half their family working here in the city and if we are going to start streamlining these kind of processes; I would like to see it done across the board.”

Mayor Jones

“Alderman you listed yourself as an employee in the email of Tomorrows Youth Foundation. I never said you were an employee. I don’t know your status. My whole entire goal in all of this is to clear up an ask Keri Lynn was there a way to create social service contracts in to provider Tomorrows Youth Foundation with the potential grant; it was not to (cut off)”

Alderman Wilson

“Yes Mayor you are correct I am an employee of Tomorrows Youth Foundation but what you stated is I am an employee of the city of Calumet City; I am not.”

Mayor Jones

“I never said that I said your husband was an employee; that was the question about the Tomorrows Youth Foundation and the grant. So Keri Lynn with those items please give a legal opinion on those two items. Please also clear up the whole issue with; the Alderman has mentioned my wife several time as you know there is a State Grant that the Library receives for the Violence Prevention program so I would like a legal opinion that we could share with everyone regarding cause I am just as concerned with the Alderman keep bringing up my wife in this conversation and the city council meetings and other meetings regarding the employment and grants received so include that in your legal opinion.”

Alderman Navarrete

Asked attorney Keri Lynn if there was a difference between donations and grants.

Attorney Keri Lynn

Advised that the terminology needs to be changed to contracts.

Alderman Navarrete

Alderman Navarrete inquired about the laws that the city attorney mentioned and would like them emailed to him.

Alderman Patton

Alderman Patton inquired about being an unpaid voluntary member of an organization and if it would be a conflict of interest if the city gave that organization a grant or donation?

Attorney Kraftner

Attorney Kraftner advised that the matter would have to be looked at on a case by case basis. If the official is receiving any kind of funds or benefits from the organization then that would be a conflict of interest.

Alderman Patton

Alderman Patton mentioned the grants that were provided to residents for

Attorney Kraftner

restoration and asked was that process done correctly.  
Attorney Kraftner requested that the Aldermen send her their specific concerns and examples and she will get back to them with her legal opinion.

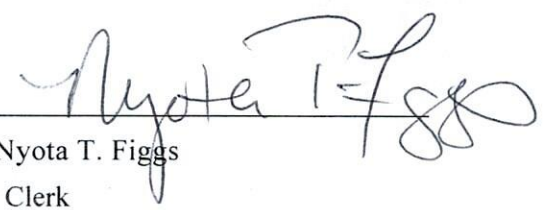
Treasurer Tarka

Treasurer Tarka advised that because the Alderwoman gets a W2 at the end of the year and not a 1099 the IRS considers her an employee.

Adjournment

Alderman Patton moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Williams at 4:50 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED**

X   
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Dr. Nyota T. Figs  
City Clerk