

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1st Ward Walter Mosby	Present*
	2nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	3rd Ward Wanda Rodgers	Present
	4th Ward Joshua Deabel	Present
	5th Ward Richard Amadio	Absent
	6th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7th Ward Sylvia Torres	Present

***Alderman Mosby entered the council chambers at 7:07 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Gonzalez gave an update on the St. James Hospital issue. Franciscan Alliance was not willing to provide a free standing emergency room as the communities were requesting. Talks also included ambulances with advance support being provided by St. James, and an urgent care center that would provide all types of lab work. It was hoped that an agreement could be reached in the next seven to fourteen days.

Alderman Mosby announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Barack Obama School of Leadership. He also stated that he, and Belinda Mosby, Chicago Heights Park District President, and Believe in Brotherhood would host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Sesto Park.

Alderman Perez was absent

Alderman Rodgers announced that her next quarterly ward meeting would be held on March 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District. She asked department head to attend.

Alderman Deabel announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Roosevelt School. His next neighborhood watch meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Alderman Amadio was absent.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held with Park District Commissioner Straczek on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Torres announced the Earth Day/Month event on Saturday, April 30, 2016 and May 14, 2016 at Wilson School and Golden Towers. She asked that persons willing to volunteer could leave their phone number on her phone.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Frank Perez, President of the Chicago Heights Lions Club, presented the Mayor and City Council with a road sign in recognition of the club's centennial anniversary next year. He stated that the club would also donate trees for planting from 19th Street to 26th Street as one of the centennial projects being planned.

E. F. McNamara, Jr., a resident of the City, addressed the council about the problem of a train that blocked traffic across Euclid Street, Chicago Road and Western Avenue on February 26th.

Laura Brown, Meals on Wheels Kitchen Manager, informed the council that the program continued to deliver meals five days a week to the homebound. She invited the city council and citizens to visit the program site at City Hall, where they could help serve a meal and visit with seniors.

Chuck Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the some ways to avoid the problem of lead in drinking water.

Macaria Fortson, Master Sergeant with the Illinois State Police, gave recognition to the Chicago Heights Police Department, and in particular to Sgt. Mario Cole, Lt. Mikal El Amin and Ofcr. Tom Somer, for their phenomenal efforts in a 2012 police investigation.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – LISA APRATI

No report

REPORT OF CORPORATION COUNSEL – T.J. SOMER

No report

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Alderman Mosby moved, and Alderman Torres seconded, a motion to approve the minutes.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF FEBRUARY, 2016.

Alderman Mosby moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2016 - 8 : APPROVING A BROKERAGE AGREEMENT WITH "CELL AT AUCTION" FOR THE AUCTION OF THE CITY CELL TOWER GROUND LEASE AT 431 W. 14TH STREET

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Torres seconded, a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: Deabel

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez introduced the matter and Bud Blinick, a representative from the auction company, gave the council an explanation on how the process worked. The council asked questions and discussed the matter before proceeding to the vote.

4. RESOLUTION #2016 - 9 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL BY GSG CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AT 20937 S. WESTERN AVENUE.

Alderman Mosby moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, the City's Economic Development Consultant, informed the council that commercial development was being planned for the front half of the site, but that environmental clean-up for the back half was necessary for any further development. Cost was estimated at \$ 147,090. The city council asked questions before proceeding to vote.

5. RESOLUTION #2016 - 10 : APPROVING DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE AGREEMENTS FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES. (properties at 601 Beacon Blvd & 566 W. 16th Place)

Alderman Mosby moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that acquisition of 601 Beacon Blvd. was for demolition under the blight reduction program, and 566 W. 16th Place was a vacant lot that the City had outstanding liens against.

6. RESOLUTION # 2016- 11 : APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE Chicago Heights PARK DISTRICT FOR THE DONATION OF USED CITY SURPLUS POLICE DEPARTMENT SQUAD CARS.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Torres seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez commented how it made sense to donate the vehicles to the park district, whose police force helped to patrol the local parks, and Police Chief Rogers stated his agreement. Alderman Deabel requested that the phone numbers of the park district police be posted at every park for the public's information.

- 7. ORDINANCE # 2016- 5 : APPROVING AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF 15 EAST INDEPENDENCE AVENUE FOR THE NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A DIALYSIS CENTER.**

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Mosby seconded, a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, the City's Economic Development Consultant, briefed the council on the matter. Howard Powers, of Weitzman Realty, gave details on the project to the council and answered their questions.

- 8. ORDINANCE #2016 - 6 : AMENDING CHAPTER 34 & 43 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING PLUMBING AND WATER USE CONSERVATION.**

Alderman Zaranti moved and Alderman Rodgers seconded a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Amadio

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the ordinance adopted the Illinois Plumbing Code in its entirety, and updated language in the City's water conservation ordinance, thereby making the City Code compliant with state statute.

- 9. ORDINANCE # 2016- 7 : AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING BUSINESS LICENSES.**

Alderman Zaranti moved and Alderman Rodgers seconded a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Perez, Amadio
Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez explained that the ordinance addressed businesses that had delinquent debt to the City. It would allow the City to give notice that businesses have to be current with all bills owed to the City or they will lose their business license within thirty days of notice.

10. ORDINANCE #2016 - 8 : AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING BUILDING REPAIR ESCROWS.

Alderman Rogers moved and Alderman Mosby seconded a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ayes: Mosby, Rodgers, Deabel, Zaranti, Torres
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Perez, Amadio
Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the ordinance added a line in the City Code stating that escrows which do not exceed \$ 500 may be waived at the sole discretion of the Director of the Code Enforcement Department, in an effort to save time, money, and labor.

11. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO NEWLY PROMOTED POLICE SGT. MARIO COLE AND LT. MIKEL EL AMIN.

Police Chief Thomas Rogers addressed the council summarizing the two officers' careers and history of exemplary service in the City's police department. Mayor Gonzalez and the city council congratulated the officers and acknowledged their achievements.

City Clerk Lori Wilcox administered the oath of office to Sgt. Mario Cole and Lt. Mikel El Amin.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Mosby seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk