

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Gonzalez called the regular city council meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

***Alderman Mosby entered the council chambers at 7:11 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Mosby was not present for the communications segment of the meeting.

Alderman Perez announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers thanked Police, Fire, and all participants of the 3rd Ward Extravaganza.

Alderman Deabel announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. His next neighborhood watch meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Alderman Amadio announced that his next ward meeting would be held on September 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym of Greenbrier School.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park District Commissioner Straczek on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Torres was absent.

Mayor Gonzalez invited all to the City's annual Sisters City Festival from September 9 – 11th at the Bloom High School grounds. The Mayor thanked all who had participated in the fundraiser that the City had helped host for the Romero family, whose members were victims of a traffic auto accident. Proceeds of nearly \$ 60,000 would go to assist the family.

Mayor Gonzalez recalled the events of the St. James Hospital matter and the concessions that had been obtained because of City and community efforts. With the impending closure of the hospital, the Mayor spoke of how the City needed to plan now how it would maintain its current Fire Department staffing and at the same time update its aging ambulances. The Mayor stated that he was very optimistic that a resolution would be reached.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Suzanne Boyle, a resident of the City, commented on the Mayor's recent Fire Department letter to residents. She spoke about the opportunity for the city council to reach out to bi-lingual students on the opportunity to become members of the City's Police and Fire Departments.

Allen Shander, a retired firefighter and resident of the City, commented on his concerns about reduced firefighter staffing and ambulance downtime due to trips to Olympia Fields Hospital.

Michael Vittori, a retired firefighter and resident of the City, spoke of his great admiration for the passion of the City's police, fire and dispatcher personnel, and of the support and respect that their passion deserved.

Christina Vlietstra, a resident of the City, commented about her concerns over reduced public sector jobs and her concerns over problems with private sector ambulance service.

Linda Shander, both a spouse and a mother of a City firefighter, commented on her concerns about part time staffers and the quality of protection that they offered.

Gordon Moberg, a resident of the City, commented on his concerns about the reduction of police, paramedic, and dispatcher jobs.

Marina Tiberi, a resident of the City, recounted that many years ago her daughter's life had been saved by the quick response of the City's fire department.

Bill Palcek, a resident of the City, commented on his concerns about the proposed reduction of fire and police personnel.

Steve Koenig, President of the Chicago Heights Firefighters Union, commented on the Mayor's letter to residents and about his concerns for the use of part time firefighters and private ambulance service in the City's Fire Department. He stated that he was confident that an agreement that worked in favor of all parties would be reached.

The Mayor spoke about the Ford Heights matter and the village's non-payment to the City for its water account balance. A ninety day shut off notice effective September 15 had been given; however, a temporary restraining order was expected. The City was working with the County and other agencies for assistance and solution in the matter.

Mayor Gonzalez again spoke about the Fire Department matter and his administration's goal to provide the same quality service as always, in spite of rising pension costs and newly mandated pension funding requirements. He stated that he believed that all involved would come together and the City would remain with the strongest fire department in the south suburbs.

REPORT OF CORPORATION COUNSEL – T.J. SOMER

No report.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2016

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the minutes.

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: Deabel

Abstain: Rodgers

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF AUGUST 2016.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2016 - 55 : AUTHORIZING A DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTIES AT 1412 EMERALD AVENUE AND 10 WEST 23RD STREET.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that after acquiring title, the City would submit the properties for demolition under the Cook County Blight Reduction Program. The council briefly commented on the matter.

4. RESOLUTION #2016 - 56 : APPROVING AND RATIFYING AN EMERGENCY SANITARY SEWER REPAIR ADJACENT TO 599 HAMILTON LANE.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

Tena Marquie, Water Superintendent, stated that the repairs would remedy the broken lift station that was non-functioning due to a sink hole and collapsed water main. The council had a couple of questions on the matter.

5. RESOLUTION #2016 - 57 : APPROVING PHASE II OF THE CITY'S 2016 STREET AND CURB REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

Tena Marquie, Water Superintendent, reported that the restorations were to additional areas damaged by water main repairs occurring last fall and to present time. The council had a question on the matter.

6. RESOLUTION # 2016- 58 : APPROVING BID AWARDS FOR THE FOLLOWING ROADWAY RESURFACING PROJECTS:

A. 2016 CDBG WEST SIDE ROAD SURFACING PROJECT.

B. 2016 WEST SIDE SUPPLEMENTAL ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT.

C. 2016 CUB FOOD TIF AREA ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez quoted the following bid amounts for each project and stated that Iroquois Paving was the low bidder on all three projects. Courtney Anderson, City Engineer, planned for the projects to be done by end of year and responded to questions from the council. The council had several questions on the matter.

A. \$ 491,022.30

B. \$ 232,144.90

C. \$ 198,348.57

- 7. RESOLUTION #2016 - 59; APPROVING A BROKERAGE LISTING AGREEMENT WITH COLLIERS, INC. FOR THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED VACANT INDUSTRIAL LAND AT 300 STATE STREET.**

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, explained that the property, acquired through a deed in lieu of foreclosure, was prime property for redevelopment and recommended that it be professionally marketed. The council briefly discussed the matter.

- 8. MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, USE OF CITY OWNED LAND, PERSONNEL ISSUES AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS.**

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Mosby moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to enter into executive session and adjourn the council meeting from executive session.

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Torres

Motion to adjourn was carried by acclamation.

Attest:

Lori Wilcox