

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:00 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 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	3 rd Ward Wanda Rodgers	Present
	4 th Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5 th Ward George Brassea	Present
	6 th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Absent
	7 th Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be on February 3 at 6:00 p.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - absent

Alderman Rodgers--no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be on Monday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be on January 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenbrier School gym.

Alderman Zaranti - absent

Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting was to be determined.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante invited residents to join the City for its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chicago Heights Public Library. Information on the event was available at City Hall and on the City's website.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2020.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the minutes.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JANUARY 2020.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the bills.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2020 - 2 : AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE XIII OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES a/k/a/ THE CITY'S POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: Perez, Zaranti

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the State recently adopted new legislation requiring two provisions be added to local ordinances relative to elected officials of the same board. In order to be compliant with the State, the ordinance added those provisions to the City's ordinance on sexual harassment. The council discussed the matter at length before the vote.

4. ORDINANCE #2020 - 3 : AMENDING CHAPTER 39, ARTICLE X OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 CITY APPLICATION FEES.

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the proposed ordinance clarified the current application fee of 1% to be 1% of property market value but not less than \$ 2500. After the initial term of ten years, the application to renew would carry a fee of 5%. Mayor Gonzalez gave an example of how the fees would apply.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 3 : APPROVING A RENEWAL PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY'S 2020 COVERED HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PLAN AND THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS SERVICES.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

COS Karen Zerante made opening remarks on the matter, and then introduced Paul Mesirow of Alliant/Mesirow Finance, the City's Broker of Record. Mr. Mesirow gave the council an overview of the process and costs of the Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal plan. The council asked questions to which Mr. Mesirow responded.

6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 4 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE SURPLUS CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1552 EDGEWOOD, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried

Corporation Counsel Somer provided a background on the historic property, and reported that at one time it was on the City's demolition list. The buyer proposed to purchase the property for one dollar, and would have two years to complete the renovation of the property, estimated at over \$ 100,000.

7. RESOLUTION #2020 - 5 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR THE CITY'S FIRE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO A DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the Fire Department recommended the acceptance of the proposal of \$ 188,427 from low bidder Dinges Fire Company. The City would use grant funds awarded to the City amounting to \$ 173,154 towards the purchase of the equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:40 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti

Motion to adjourn carried

Rachel Vega, Deputy Clerk