

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, February 5, 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 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK LORI WILCOX**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez – absent (Corporation Counsel Somer announced during his report that Alderman Perez' next ward meeting would be held on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.)

Alderman Rodgers announced that her next ward meeting would be on Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenbrier School gym.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held with Park District Straczek on February 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Commissioners Park.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE**

Chief of Staff Zerante reported on Census 2020 and the Complete Count Committee’s outreach efforts to residents. Many community events and projects were planned that would educate, assist, and share information for optimum community and resident participation.

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER**

Corporation Counsel announced that Alderman Perez asked him to announce that her next ward meeting would be held on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Corporation Counsel asked the city council to review the Draft Recreational Cannabis Ordinance that was included in the board packets. He welcomed the aldermen’s thoughts, and said that the matter would come before the council at the next meeting, with possible final action.

**1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2020**

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

**Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick**

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**1. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF JANUARY 2020.**

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

**Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick**

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

2. **ORDINANCE #2020 - 4 : PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000,000 OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS.**

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

**Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick**

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: Perez**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to approve carried.**

Mayor Gonzalez explained that the bond issue was not to finance new money, but the refunding of the 2011 bonds. The new issue would smooth out the debt service payment, and enable the City to better meet its Police and Fire obligations, as well as to fund other projects. Thomas J. Reedy of Stifel Public Finance, and John Balzano of Piper Sandler & Company, provided documents to the council, explained the matter, and answered the council's questions.

3. **RESOLUTION #2020 - 6 : APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS – LOCAL 711.**

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

**Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick**

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Karen Zerante reported that the union membership ratified the four-year agreement. She highlighted some of the changes made and language that was added to the new contract. Mayor Gonzalez stated that his goal was to maintain the same level of service that residents were accustomed to, and to have a full time fire department for many years to come. He thanked the union for the effort and hard work that it put into the negotiations.

**4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 7 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM PSN, INC., FOR ELECTRONIC CUSTOMER BILLING SERVICES.**

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

**Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick**

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez,**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**COS Zerante introduced Les Swintek, Finance Director, who had researched customer billing services, and informed the council on the variety of payment options that PSN offered. Ruth Ponder of PSN gave the council more details on the services her company would provide. Comments were also offered by COS Zerante and Mayor Gonzalez. The council asked questions and discussed the matter at length.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:15 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick**

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to adjourn carried**

---

**Lori Wilcox, City Clerk**