

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

\*To be conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020 and extension thereof set forth in Executive Order 2020-39. Meeting to be broadcast at City Hall with opportunity made available for public attendance and/or participation subject to social distancing regulations. Attendees must be attired in mask and gloves and may not be experiencing any symptoms of the COVID virus, i.e., fever, cough, sore throat, or uncommon fatigue.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:00 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	Present
	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

Mayor David Gonzalez announced that invited guest Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle was on the line waiting to address the city council. President Preckwinkle gave the council an update on the Cook County's budget, which included no new taxes, and which would invest millions in fair transit, Covid-19 testing and vaccinations, economic support for small businesses, and criminal justice reform. Mayor Gonzalez thanked President Preckwinkle for all her help and support of the City of Chicago Heights and of the South Suburbs.

Alderman Smith – no announcements.

Alderman Perez – no announcements

Alderman Rodgers – no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas – no announcements

Alderman Brassea – no announcements

Alderman Zaranti – no announcements

Alderman Merrick – no announcements

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None—Corporation Counsel Somer was present in the council chambers and stated that there were no guests present who wished to address the city council.

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

COS Zerante praised the efforts of the Public Works Department during the recent difficult weather. COS Zerante expressed appreciation for Cook County Board President Preckwinkle’s outreach programs such as Rebuilding Together, Invest in Cook, and the Cares Funding. Lastly, COS Zerante announced that the City planned to expand the Civic Engage Module for the City’s website, and thus be able to bring residents information on a real-time basis.

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

None—Corporation Counsel stated that a motion to table Agenda Item # 8 would asked for.

**1. MINUTES: MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: Rodgers

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF FEBRUARY 2021.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

**3. ORDINANCE #2021 -   2   : AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A CITYWIDE “GREEN COMMUNITY” AGGREGATION PROGRAM FOR ELECTRICAL LOAD.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante introduced David Hoover, Executive Director with Northern Illinois Municipal Electrical Collaborative, who gave a brief overview on the new "At ComEd Rate" Green Electric Aggregation Program. The program would enable the City to procure 100% renewable energy for its participants at no cost. Additionally, the City would receive an annual Civic Contribution from the supplier; Eligo Energy was offering a contribution of \$ 135,342. The city council asked questions on the matter.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 18 : APPROVING THE FINAL INVOICE FROM J&J NEWELL CONCRETE FOR THE CITY'S 2020 PAVEMENT RESTORATION PROJECT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the invoice included the cost of restoration work at additional locations that were placed on the list of repairs on the project.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 19 : PLEDGING COMPLIANCE WITH IDOT PERMIT AND FEE REGULATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION ON IDOT ROADWAYS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that this resolution, which pledged compliance with IDOT, was approved by the city council every two years. No discussion.

6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 20 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE CITY'S ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET & EUCLID AVENUE.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the recommendation was to have ESI Consultants complete the engineering services and topographic survey at a cost of \$ 47,059. No discussion.

7. RESOLUTION #2021 - 21 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR A SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT RELATED TO THE WEST SIDE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND GRANT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that it was the recommendation of the City Engineer, Andrew Smith, to accept the bid from M & J Underground in the amount of \$ 1,698,855. No discussion.

8. RESOLUTION #2021 - 22 : APPROVING THE SALE OF CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1902 EUCLID AVENUE AND 700 HALSTED STREET PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to TABLE the resolution.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to TABLE carried.

Mayor Gonzalez apologized to the council for asking that the resolution be tabled, stating that he needed more time to review the details of one of the properties.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 6:50 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to adjourn carried.**

---

**Lori Wilcox, City Clerk**