

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, February 19, 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 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

Alderman Rodgers announced that her next ward meeting would be on March 19 at 6 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 Greenbrier School.

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

Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting was to be determined. and would be announced at the next council meeting.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

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

COS Zerante updated the council on Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, a program that provided free home repairs to City residents. The Restoration list was being prepared for concrete, asphalt and parkway repairs that were needed due to damage caused by water and sewer repair work done previously. The tree and stump removal project was currently in progress, weather permitting. Census 2020 outreach was continuing with additional hosting events throughout the community.

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

Presentation to and discussion by City Council of the proposed Ordinance related to the State of Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act

Corporation Counsel Somer recalled that as of January 1, 2020, the Act legalized the recreational use of cannabis. He provided the city council with a memo summarizing the essential contents of the proposed ordinance on the agenda, and reviewed the contents of and other conditions in the ordinance.

### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve carried.**

### **2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF FEBRUARY 2020.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve carried.**

3. **ORDINANCE #2020 - 5 : AMENDING THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS ZONING ORDINANCE AND REGULATING THE ZONING DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH RECREATIONAL CANNABIS RELATED BUSINESSES MAY BE APPROVED AND OPERATED.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: Perez**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to approve carried.**

This matter was discussed in the Report of the Corporation Counsel segment of the meeting.

4. **ORDINANCE #2020 - 6 : AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING CITY AMBULANCE SERVICE FEES.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Zerante stated that the proposed ordinance contained recommendation for various ambulance fees, based on the City's research and analysis of fees from surrounding communities.

5. **ORDINANCE #2020 - 7 : AMENDING THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING CERTAIN LICENSE FEES.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried**

COS Zerante stated that another analysis on fees was done in the City Clerk's Office. The proposed ordinance contained fee recommendations for general business, certified copies of vital records, and video gaming terminals. Mayor Gonzalez also commented on the matter.

6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 8 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH A NOTICE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE 2020 SEWER RESTORATION RELATED TO THE CDBG ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET AND MAIN STREET.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick 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 explained that the bids were for sewer reconstruction that needed to be performed on 23rd Street and on Main Street before the CDBG Road Improvement Project was begun.

7. RESOLUTION #2020 - 9 : APPROVING A MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD.

Alderman Merrick 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.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that Karen Markey, current 911 Director, possessed the expertise and knowledge that the position required.

Mayor Gonzalez announced that a special meeting was being called for Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the City's need to make a decision on inquiries received from cannabis growers on certain city owned properties.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:35 p.m. Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to adjourn carried**

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**Lori Wilcox, Clerk Clerk**