

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, March 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 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK LORI WILCOX**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**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**

Mayor Gonzalez sent his deepest condolences to the family of Police Officer Gary Hibbs, a twenty-five year veteran of City's Police Department who recently passed away. The Mayor thanked the family for Officer Hibbs' many years of dedicated service to the City.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Corporation Counsel was present in the council chambers and stated that there was no one in attendance for the council meeting.

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

COS Zerante also offered her condolences to the Gary Hibbs family. She announced details of the funeral arrangements, and said that a call would go out to residents making them aware of the arrangements and the funeral procession from the funeral home to the church in his honor.

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

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the City received 100 applications thus far for the Abandoned Property Acquisition Program (APAP). He noted that the City acquired the deed to the car wash across from City Hall, making it possible for a demolition quote to be obtained on the property.

#### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2021**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** none

**Motion to approve carried.**

\*Alderman Rodgers' call dropped at time of roll, however, she was able to call back in shortly and cast her vote.

#### **2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF MARCH 2021.**

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick 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.**

\* Alderman Rodgers' call dropped at time of vote, however, she was able to call back in shortly and cast her vote.

3. RESOLUTION #2021 - 26 : APPROVING AND RATIFYING AN EMERGENCY WATER ISSUE REPAIR IMPACTING THE CITY'S 14<sup>TH</sup> & STATE STREET GROUND STORAGE TANKS. (RESERVOIR).

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 the emergency requiring the City to proceed with repairs on February 18. Airy's Inc. completed the repairs for a total cost of \$ 50,502.48. There was a question on the matter.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE (CLOSED SESSION) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, PERSONNEL ISSUES OR THE USE AND/OR DISPOSITION OF CITY LAND. *(IF NECESSARY)*.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with the council members and there was no indication of a need to go into executive session.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 27 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (case # 17 WC 013155) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AND BY MEMORANDUM OF THIS DATE.

Alderman Rodgers 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.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:24 p. m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Perez 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.

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk