

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, March 18, 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 6:06 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	Present
	7 th Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be held on April 6th if the situation with the coronavirus was under control by then.

Alderman Perez - absent

Alderman Rodgers announced that her next ward meeting was cancelled until further notice.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting was cancelled until further notice.

Alderman Brassea announced that his March ward meeting was cancelled, with the hopes that the April 29th ward meeting would be held as scheduled.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting was cancelled until further notice.

Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting would be held by digital media.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante spoke on Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order and on the communications and conference calls with other governmental agencies related to the order. She explained that essential City operations would continue under the order. COS Zerante reported that the City recently did a city-wide mailing on Census 2020; she said the Census Bureau planned to send residents their initial mailing and an immediate reminder mailing by March 24th.

COMMUNICATION BY MAYOR GONZALEZ

Mayor Gonzalez updated the city council on the refinancing of the 2011 Bond Series approved at the February 5, 2020 city council meeting. It was uncertain if the City would proceed with the bond issue due to the impact of the coronavirus on the financial market. A Special Meeting might be necessary for a decision on how the City would proceed.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

No report.

1. MINUTES: MEETINGS OF MARCH 4, 2020.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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 MARCH 2020.

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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 - 12 : RESERVING THE CITY’S VOLUME CAP ALLOCATION IN CONNECTION WITH PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ISSUES AND RELATED MATTERS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the City annually reserved its allocation in the event that a developer might request to do a bond issue to finance a development in the City.

4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 17 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2020 SEWER REPAIR PROJECT.

Alderman Baikauskas 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 Zerante stated that it was the recommendation of the City Engineer to award the project to Calumet City Plumbing in the low bid amount of \$ 94,100.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 18 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT WITH TWM EQUITIES, INC., FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE VACANT CITY OWNED SURPLUS LAND LOCATED AT 2116 STATE STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Director, addressed the council on the one hundred eighty day agreement. There was brief discussion on the matter before the vote.

6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 19 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT WITH SUN EXPRESS, INC., FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE VACANT CITY OWNED SURPLUS LAND AT 300 STATE STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Director, addressed the council on the ninety day agreement. The property would only be used for the parking of trucks. There was brief discussion on the matter before the vote.

7. RESOLUTION #2020 - 20 : APPROVING A DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE VACANT PROPERTIES AT 1613 LOWE AVENUE, 1614 LOWE AVENUE AND 645 HILLCREST STREET.

Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the City would obtain a phase one environmental assessment of the property before marketing the property. There was brief discussion on the matter before the vote.

8. RESOLUTION #2020 - 21 : APPROVING A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT ON THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY AT 525 ASHLAND AVENUE, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel stated that the easement had been reviewed and approved by City Engineer Andrew Smith. The City would retain ownership of the easement. There was brief discussion on the matter before the vote.

9. RESOLUTION #2020 - 22 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR THE REHABILITATION AND REOCCUPANCY OF THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 1341 S. HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS. (former Church's Chicken).

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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Director, explained that the new owner of the property had invested \$ 500,000 in purchase price, and planned to invest an additional \$ 175,000 in property improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:49 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Baikauskas seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to adjourn carried by acclamation.

Rachel Vega, Deputy Clerk