

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday March 21, 2018 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 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1st Ward Walter Mosby	Present
	2nd Ward Sonia Perez	Present
	3rd Ward Wanda Rodgers	Present
	4th Ward Joshua Deabel	Present
	5th Ward Richard Amadio	Present
	6th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7th Ward Sylvia Torres	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Mosby had no announcements.

Alderman Perez announced her next ward meeting would be held on Monday, March 26th at Garfield School at 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Rodgers announced her next ward meeting would be held on April 12th at the Chicago Heights Park District at 6:00 p.m.

Alderman Deabel announced his next two ward meetings would be on Monday, March 26th and Monday, April 23rd at Roosevelt School at 7:00 p.m. The alderman's next neighborhood watch meeting would be held on Wednesday, June 13th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. He announced the Earth Day Clean-Up on Saturday, April 21st at McEldowney Park.

Alderman Amadio announced his next ward meeting would be held on March 28th in the gymnasium of Greenbrier Elementary at 6:30 p.m.

Alderman Zaranti announced his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park District Commissioner Straczek on March 29th at Commissioners Park at 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Torres announced that she would host a ward meeting next month, and that she would have the information to the Mayor's Office the next day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council regarding water quality, flooding and storm water infrastructure, and a town meeting in Ford Heights on April 10th.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF – Karen Zerante

COS Karen Zerante reported that the City had been awarded a \$ 350,000 grant by the Choice Neighborhood Program; funds would be used for community planning. She also reported that the City had been awarded a \$ 250,000 grant from IHDA's Abandoned Residential Property Municipal Relief Program. The funds would be used to maintain and secure vacant property throughout the City.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2018

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF MARCH 2018.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2018 - 7 : AMENDING THE CITY ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RETAIL TOBACCO SALES AS A "SPECIAL USE."

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel T. J. Somer explained that the ordinance would be used to regulate tobacco sales in the City, to ensure such things as not permitting the sales too close to schools or parks, or too numerous in one area. Brief commentary on the matter followed.

4. RESOLUTION #2018 - 17 : APPROVING THE CITY'S 2018 CDBG ROAD RESURFACING APPLICATION AND PROJECT.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Courtney Anderson, City Engineer, stated that the City applied for the maximum amount of \$ 400,000, and that the funds would be used to resurface and reconstruct Hickory Street west of Chicago Road and Euclid Avenue from Hickory Street to 26th Street. Brief discussion followed.

5. RESOLUTION #2018 - 18 : APPROVING THE DEMOLITION OF CERTAIN VACANT CITY OWNED SURPLUS PROPERTIES.

Alderman Amadio moved, and Alderman Mosby seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that demolition of the vacant properties would be an improvement for the area; proposals to demolish would be back before the city council. He reported that the Cook County Sheriff's RENEW Program had offered to do the demolition of the Hayman Hawkins building at no cost to the City. Discussion on the matter followed.

6. RESOLUTION #2018 - 19 : APPROVING THE DEMOLITION OF THE FIRE DAMAGED VACANT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 1539-1541 CHICAGO ROAD.

Alderman Amadio moved, and Alderman Mosby seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Discussion on the matter occurred during discussion on the preceding agenda item.

7. RESOLUTION #2018 - 20 : APPROVING THE 2017 HUD “CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS” PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT.

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante made note of the grant award in her report earlier in the meeting. Mayor Gonzalez commented that the City was one of only six communities in the country to receive an award. The grant would go towards revitalization of the City’s East Side Neighborhood.

8. RESOLUTION #2018 - 21 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE/DONATION AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 1340 OTTO BLVD. (former Hirsch Funeral Home).

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

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer commented that if the property were acquired, the City would move quickly to secure the building. The City intended to use the historically significant building for public purposes. The council discussed the possibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 p.m. Alderman Torres moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Mosby, Perez, Rodgers, Deabel, Amadio, Zaranti, Torres

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk