

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020.

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 DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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| Mayor: | David Gonzalez | Present |
| Council: | 1 st Ward Renee Smith | Present |
| | 2 nd Ward Sonia Perez | Present |
| | 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

Mayor Gonzalez announced that the Mayor's Office Facebook site was updated to remove non-essential information and ensure the site had accurate detail regarding COVID-19 resources. The Mayor spoke about the operational plan for personnel and City Hall remaining closed to the public until April 30th following the Governor's "Stay at Home" extension. He spoke about the City's efforts to secure PPE equipment for the Police and Fire Departments, and about the City's efforts to support PADS for the homeless and at risk population.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that, due to the current financial market, it might be possible for the City to enter the bond market the following week for the refunding of the 2011 Bond Series (approved at a previous council meeting). A decision on the matter would be made at the end of the week based on the most updated municipal market information.

Alderman Smith announced that her ward meetings were cancelled due to the public health emergency.

Alderman Perez—no report.

Alderman Rodgers—no report.

Alderman Baikauskas—no report.

Alderman Brassea—no report.

Alderman Zaranti—no report.

Alderman Merrick announced that her ward meetings were held by digital media, and could be accessed on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

(Corporation Counsel Somer was present in the council chambers for the purpose of entertaining any members of the public who wished to listen to the meeting or actively speak in public participation. He reported that there was no public in attendance at the meeting).

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reiterated that the council members and their residents were urged to contact the Mayor’s Office with any concerns. Calls were being responded to, and essential staff was on duty.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that he polled the aldermen and it was the consensus that an Executive Session would not be necessary for the council to take action on Agenda Item #6.

1. MINUTES: MEETINGS OF MARCH 18, 2020.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick 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.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF MARCH 2020.

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. RESOLUTION #2020 - 23 : REJECTING ALL BIDS SUBMITTED FOR THE CITY'S 2020 LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Perez 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.

Mayor Gonzalez explained that the sole bid amount of \$ 107,325 exceeded the engineer's estimate of \$ 67,000. It was decided to rebid the project, and to reach out to more bidders.

4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 24 : APPROVING A RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 222 DIXIE HIGHWAY, CHICAGO HEIGHTS. (Stack's Restaurant).

Alderman Zaranti 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.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the renewal of the tax classification would be for another ten-year term. The classification would reduce the business owner's real estate taxes from \$ 99,846 to \$ 64,390. There was a brief question on the matter to which Jack Hynes, Economic Director, responded.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 25 : APPROVING MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHICAGO HEIGHTS LIBRARY BOARD.

Alderman Perez 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.

Mayor Gonzalez announced that his appointees to fill two vacancies on the board were Adele Palombi and Michelle Aldana, both residents of the City.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, USE/DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED LAND OR PERSONNEL ISSUES (IF NECESSARY).

6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 26 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (CASE # 15 WC 26384; 26385; 26386 & 20 WC 03594) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (and by memorandum) FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THIS DATE.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 6:35 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

Rachel Vega, Deputy Clerk