

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

The meeting was conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker’s Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020. 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 6:04 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>Absent</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 - absent**

**Alderman Rodgers - no announcements**

**Alderman Baikauskas - no announcements**

**Alderman Brassea - no announcements**

**Alderman Zaranti - no announcements**

**Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting would be held digitally on May 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Mayor Gonzalez reported that the City would soon have medical masks that it would distribute to residents. He stated that the Norcom Dispatch Service Agreement was due for renewal, and the City would be looking at other companies and making price comparisons. Mayor Gonzalez reported that the City would ask Burke Engineering to do a plan study of the costs to alleviate flooding in the 202<sup>nd</sup> Street, Drama Club area. He stated that the City planned to resurface 10<sup>th</sup> Street between Dixie Highway and Ashland Avenue, and would be contacting School District #170 to coordinate the best start date for the project.

#### **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 reported that Davis Concrete was finishing up phase two of the sidewalk project on the north side of the City. She stated that J. J. Newell commenced the asphalt and concrete restoration work at various locations in the City. Both projects were expected to be completed by end of May.

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

None

### **1. MINUTES: MEETINGS OF APRIL 15, 2020.**

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 SECOND RUN OF APRIL 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. RESOLUTION #2020 - 29 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR THE CITY'S 2020 CDBG CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Perez

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the proposed project was the resurfacing and repair of 16<sup>th</sup> Street from East End Avenue to State Street-curbs, gutters, sidewalks and driveways. Cost of the project was estimated at \$ 736,208, with the City requesting the maximum award of \$ 400,000. There was brief discussion on the matter.

**4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 30 : APPROVING THE SALE OF A GRANT OF EASEMENT ON THE CITY OWNED VACANT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1510-1526 OTTO BOULEVARD, CHICAGO HEIGHTS. (Site of proposed cell tower being relocated from St. James Hospital).**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Perez

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the sale concerned the ground lease rights for the subject property. He stated that the City could maximize its revenue by accepting the \$ 345,000 lump sum offer it received, versus the revenue stream over the 55-year term of the lease, because the lump sum was more valuable over the long run. There was discussion on the matter before the vote.

**5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 31 : APPROVING AN "OPTION AGREEMENT" FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE CERTAIN SURPLUS VACANT CITY OWNED LAND LOCATED AT 2116 STATE STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Perez

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, reported that Ladybugz, LLC sought an option to purchase the ten-acre northern portion of the location. There was discussion on the matter before the vote.

**6. ORDINANCE #2020 - 13 ; RATIFYING MAYORAL EXECUTIVE ORDER #2020-1 AND AMENDING CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING "HOURS OF OPERATION" DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS.**

Alderman Zaranti 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the City was required to ratify by ordinance the Mayor's Executive Order of April 17, 2020 calling for the 9:00 p.m. closing of all liquor stores in the City.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:44 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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, City Clerk