

**Minutes of the Special City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting held "IN PERSON" at the Bloom Township Center,
425 Halsted Street, Chicago Heights, IL**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the special meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would hold her next ward meeting on Saturday, July 10th at 11 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez – absent

Alderman Rodgers announced a Back to School event for Saturday, August 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Park District's East Golf Course.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would hold his next ward meeting on Monday, July 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. The alderman announced the 4th Ward Bike-a-thon in coordination with Park Commissioner Michelle Baikauskas on Tuesday, August 3rd at 5:30 p.m. starting at the Chicago Heights Middle School.

Alderman Brassea – no announcements

Alderman Zaranti – absent

Alderman Merrick – absent

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Keywana McClinton, Southland Journal, introduced herself and stated that she was there covering the meeting for the newspaper.

REPORT OF CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE (posting of 2021-2022 estimated budget).

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the proposed Budget for May 1, 2021/April 30, 2022 was on display in the Treasurer's Office for public viewing. The Mayor said that a public hearing on the budget would be held on July 21st at 6:00 p.m. preceding the city council meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF-Karen Zerante

COS Zerante updated the council on: the deferral of the Community Tree Planting project; the 2021 Tree Removal and Trimming Project that would soon be put out for bid out; the safety traffic devices grant and installation of that equipment.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the City would soon remove over one hundred parkway trees in the Beacon Hill area, and that fire hydrants would be flushed out and painted. The Mayor stated that about twenty vacant homes would be demolished in Beacon Hill, and he asked for the help of the area's alderman in identifying homes that were of particular concern to residents.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL-T.J. Somer

Corporation Counsel Somer announced that demolition of the old car wash facility across from City Hall would begin the following day.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2021

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF JUNE 2021

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Brassea seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,134,397.16.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

- 3. ORDINANCE # 2021 - 8 : AMENDING CHAPTER 12, SECTIONS 31-33 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND DISSOLVING THE CITY'S 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD. (Effective 12-1-21).**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante City reported that the City would be entering into an intergovernmental agreement with Cook County for the provision of dispatch services to the City. Mikal Elamin, Deputy Police Chief, who was in charge of the project, gave more in depth information on the matter to the council.

- 4. ORDINANCE #2021 - 9 : AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES KNOWN AS THE PERSONNEL HANDBOOK.**

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Brassea seconded, a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the amendment updated some of the language in the handbook and made some changes to education tuition re-imbusement.

- 5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 64 : APPROVING A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR "T. MAIER MECHANICAL CO." 1133 WEST END AVENUE, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick
Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the Class 8 would lower the real estate taxes for the business, which was located in the City for over thirty years.

6. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 65 : APPROVING A 60 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT WITH NITA'S GUMBO RESTAURANT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 19617 S. HALSTED STREET (the former Nino's Pizza).**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick
Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the City received an excellent proposal from the restaurant company, whose representative was present and addressed the council on the matter. Brief discussion.

7. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 66 : APPROVING A 60 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT WITH CLARK CYCLE CO. FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1025 DIXIE HIGHWAY (the former Dollar Store).**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick
Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez and Corporation Counsel spoke on the matter. Clark Williams, owner of Clark Cycle, addressed the council on the matter. There was discussion before the vote.

8. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 67 : AN OMNIBUS RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM; TO WIT:**

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 700 Halsted Street: | 32-17-416-021, 022, 023-0000 |
| 2. 279 Charles | 32-08-112-012-0000 |
| 3. 412 Concord Ave. | 32-30-213-009-0000 |

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. 1848 Euclid | 32-29-103-024-0000 |
| 5. 1504 Hanover | 32-21-311-018-0000 |
| 6. 340 W. 202 nd Street | 32-18-204-034-0000 |
| 7. 1130 Wallace Ct. | 32-20-104-065-0000 |
| 8. 615 Halsted Street | 32-16-300-009 & 010-0000 |
| 9. 330 W. Hickory | 32-19-427-030-0000 |
| 10. 416 W. 15 th Street | 32-19-407-047-0000 |
| 11. 1540 Wallace | 32-21-309-041 & 042-0000 |
| 12. 221 W. 14 th Place | 32-20-301-016-0000 |
| 13. 14 W. 24 th Street | 32-29-221-002-0000 |
| 14. 262 W. 14 th Place | 32-20-306-002-0000 |
| 15. 416 Concord Avenue | 32-20-213-008-0000 |
| 16. 622 Union Avenue | 32-16-301-058-0000 |
| 17. 310 Concord Drive | 32-30-217-001-0000 |

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea,

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the City had one hundred seventy applications in process, which showed the confidence that the applicants had in the City.

9. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 68 ; APPROVING AN INTER - GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE COOK COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF CITY 911 SURCHARGE FUNDS (Effective 12/1/21).**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante and Mikal El Amin, Deputy Police Chief, addressed the city council on the matter; they also spoke on the matter earlier in the meeting during discussion of Agenda Item # 3.

10. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 69 ; APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #18 WC 028502) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AND BY MEMORANDUM OF THIS DATE.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with the aldermen, and he received no request to go into executive session before the vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Brassea seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Zaranti, Merrick

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk