

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

**\*To be conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker’s Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020 and extension thereof set forth in Executive order 2020-39. 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 6:32 p.m. following the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA**

<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>Present</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 report**

**Alderman Perez – No report**

**Alderman Rodgers – No report**

**Alderman Baikauskas – No report**

**Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be held by Zoom video conferencing on July 29 at 7:00 p.m. He said that the link to the meeting would be sent to the Mayor’s Office.**

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in person in coordination with Commissioner Straczek on July 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park. Masks would be required.

Alderman Merrick – No report

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Corporation Counsel T. J. Somer stated that he was present in the council chambers and that there were two persons in attendance for the meeting.

Maria Sanchez, a resident of the City, addressed the council regarding the requirements of the for sale inspection that she was in the process of.

Emmet Buckles, a resident of the City, was present but did not need to address the council.

**REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE**

COS Zerante updated the council on the street improvement projects in the North End/Serena Hills area and the Main Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street areas. COS Zerante reported that ComEd and Nicor had published a list of 24 hour emergency alert phone numbers, and the list was posted on the City's website and Facebook page. Persons could call those numbers with any questions or concerns about repairs.

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER**  
None

**1. MINUTES: APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 1, 2020.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Merrick

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JULY 2020.**

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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.

There was a question on the bills related to repayments to video gaming operators.

**3. ORDINANCE #2020 – 18 : APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2020 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** none

**Motion to approve carried.**

Mayor Gonzalez made note that the budget ordinance was explained and reviewed in the public hearing that preceded the city council meeting.

**4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 39 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER TO TRANSFER MONEY BETWEEN THE VARIOUS CITY FUNDS.**

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 explained that the resolution allowed the City Treasurer to move money between city funds as needed, with the understanding that the monies would be returned to the original fund where the monies were withdrawn from before the end of the fiscal year.

**5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 40 : APPROVING A CENSUS PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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 resolution would allow the City to create various programs aimed at improving participation in the census by offering incentives to residents who had not yet completed the census form. There was discussion on the matter before the vote.

**6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 41 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR LED LIGHTING PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY AMERESCO.**

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 reported that the program provided for the replacement of all sodium lights in the City with LED light fixtures, and for the installation of a Sensus network set-up. The City would start with Sensus' lighting software, and could acquire other Sensus software later. Savings in energy costs would preclude any out of pocket expenditure for the program.

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, USE OF CITY PROPERTY OR PERSONNEL ISSUES.**

**7. RESOLUTION #2020 - 42 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (19 WC 006756) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THIS DATE.**

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that he polled the aldermen, and they were ready to move on the agenda item.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:11 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.

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk