

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, August 5, 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 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

Alderman Smith announced that she would host a Drive-by Care Package give away on August 22nd between 10:00 and 12:00 noon at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - Absent

Alderman Rodgers announced that she would host a Community Outreach Back to School give away on the coming Saturday (August 8th) between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Park District East Golf Course. The event would be free to all City residents.

Alderman Baikauskas – no announcements.

Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be held on August 26th at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom video conferencing. The alderman would forward the link for the meeting to the Mayor’s Office.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in person in coordination with Park District Commissioner Straczek on August 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting would be held the following Friday (August 7th) by digital video posting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chuck Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on various topics including the City's website, sidewalk repairs, council meeting minutes, and dead trees.

Katherine Mitchell, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on A Poet's Residency, a program in support of poets and their careers.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on the new phone system for City Hall, the status of the Main Street and 23rd Street road improvement projects, and the readiness of the 50/50 Sidewalk Program. COS Zerante also announced "Worried Shoes: a Silent Tribute to Those Lost in Observance of Overdose Awareness Day" to be held on Saturday, August 29, 2020 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

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

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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. ORDINANCE #2020 - 19 : REPEALING SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE #2020-10 REGULATING THE CITY'S REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer addressed the council on the repeal of the current tax rate in the ordinance and the re-instatement of the previous rate.

4. ORDINANCE #2020 - 20 : AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "HEALTH & SANITATION" AND ESTABLISHING FACE MASK REQUIREMENT RELATING TO THE COVID – 19 VIRUS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer summarized the requirements in the ordinance, which would allow the City to issue citations to those businesses that chose not to comply with government mandates related to the Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic. The city council discussed the matter before the vote.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 43 : APPROVING A "WATER PURCHASE & SALES AGREEMENT" WITH THE VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez reported that the agreement was already approved by the Village of Homewood, and the village would be fully connected to the City's water system by December 22, 2022. The water delivery fees in the agreement, that the City would assess to Homewood, would generate new revenues for the City.

6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 44 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE AT 1842 EUCLID AVENUE TO "LUV LOVELL HOLDINGS, LLC."

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the sale price of the property was \$ 10,000. There was brief discussion on the matter.

7. RESOLUTION #2020 - 45 : APPROVING A DONATION TO THE CITY BY FRANCISCAN ALLIANCE, INC. OF 13 PARCELS OF VACANT LAND LOCATED AT THE N/W CORNER OF 15TH STREET & OTTO BOULEVARD FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF A VETERANS HOUSING COMPLEX.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer clarified that the land was located on the N/W corner of the location concerned. Mayor Gonzalez stated that the City would convey the parcels to the Housing Authority of Cook County once Cook County approved the project. The council asked questions on the matter before the vote.

8. RESOLUTION #2020 - 46 : APPROVING A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF COOK GOVERNING THE CORONA VIRUS RELIEF FUNDS GRANT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the agreement provided for the City to seek re-imbusement for qualifying expenses that it incurred in fighting the Corona Virus pandemic.

9. RESOLUTION #2020 - 47 : APPROVING A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH PRIME SPACE CAPITAL, LLC TO INDUCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND REOCCUPANCY OF THE COMMERCIAL FACILITY AT 571 W. 14TH STREET. (former Ultra Foods Store).

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried

Jack Hynes, Economic Director, explained that the agreement would allow the City to provide assistance with certain costs incurred by Prime in the rehabilitation of the vacant property.

10. RESOLUTION #2020 - 48 : APPROVING THE DISPOSITION AND SALE OF CERTAIN CITY PERSONAL PROPERTY (surplus trailer).

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Director, reported the sale price of the trailer to be \$ 4,000. Removal of the trailer from the City owned land and former used car lot would improve the marketability of the property.

11. RESOLUTION #2020 - 49 : APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES GOVERNING THE FY 2020 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (JAG) AWARD.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that under the agreement the City would receive funding allocation amounting to \$ 14,233 for use in support of expenditures for various qualifying law enforcement services. There was a brief question on the matter.

12. RESOLUTION #2020 - 50 : APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY AND PB&PA, UNIT 64, EXTENDING THE POLICE PATROL OFFICERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA)

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the resolution extended the expired bargaining contract another year to April 30, 2020. Some contract items, other than pay, were still under negotiation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m. Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk