

**Minutes of the Special City Council Proceedings of the  
City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting to be 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 6:07 p.m.

**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>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 announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - absent

Alderman Rodgers - no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced the opening ceremony of the Jesse Brown VA Outpatient Medical Center at 211 Dixie Highway on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick - no announcements.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on the importance of reactivating the "Vision 2023" Planning Committee and the benefits of water reuse (recycling).

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

COS Zerante announced the following events: the start of the City-wide Street Sweeping and Tree Removal programs; the "Substance Abuse Awareness Day" at City Hall on Saturday, August 28th 6-8 pm., in partnership with the Breanaland Project; the Police Department's "Coffee for Champions" event in partnership with Dunkin' DoNuts on August 20<sup>th</sup> to raise funds in support of Special Olympic in Illinois.

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL – T.J. SOMER**

None

**1. MINUTES: MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 2021.**

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

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

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF AUGUST, 2021.**

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 1,631,044.28.

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

**3. RESOLUTION #2021 - 85 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2021 "50/50 SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM."**

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.

COS Zerante asked for approval of the bid award to low bidder M&J Underground for bid amount of \$ 340,840.50, as recommended by Andrew Smith, City Engineer.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 86 : APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING (CMAP) GOVERNING ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY IN ITS "NEXT PROGRAM – PUTTING PLANS INTO ACTION."

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Brassea 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 this was part of the City's intergovernmental agreement with CMAP, whereby the City received a grant providing technical assistance in the development of a Comprehensive Plan. In this next partnership, CMAP and the City would collaborate in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan that was developed.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 87 : APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINIOS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LABOR COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DETENTION AIDES.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.  
(If NECESSARY)

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Brassea 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 agreement was for a four-year term and was effective May 1, 2021. She gave an overview of the substantive changes to the agreement, such as overtime and wage issues.

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION. (IF NECESSARY)**

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with the all of the aldermen, and he received no indication that there was any need to go into executive session before taking action on Agenda Item #6.

6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 88 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (CASE # 18 WC 30010) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE (CLOSED SESSION) OF THIS DATE AND BY MEMORANDUM.

Alderman Brassea 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:35 pm. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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