

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 nd Ward Sonia Perez	Present
	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 her next ward meeting would be held on October 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that her next ward meeting would be held on September 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers announced that her ward meeting scheduled for September 19 was rescheduled to Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary Assembly Church.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park District Commissioner Straczek on Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the use of drones, dead trees, storm water issues, and a recent power outage in the sixth ward.

Lorena Varela, on behalf of Comunidad en Accion de Illinois and St. Paul Church, thanked the City for all of its assistance in the Mexican Independence Day Parade.

Kimberly Bentley, a resident of the City, addressed the council on problems she was having at the apartment complex where she lived. Mayor Gonzalez responded that the City planned to call a meeting with the property management, and welcomed Ms. Bentley to attend.

Leon Bell, a resident of the City, offered pictures to confirm Ms. Bentley's statements.

Mayor Gonzalez thanked Lorena Varela for spearheading the Mexican Independence Parade, for which he received great comments on. The Mayor made an inquiry about dead tree removal in Serena Hills, to which COS Zerante responded.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

None

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF SEPTEMBER 2019.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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.

3. ORDINANCE #2019 - 15 : AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING THE WATER RATE FOR ANNUAL USE IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION GALLONS.

Alderman Rodgers 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 explained that under the amendment the Mayor and City Treasurer would negotiate the rate of the excess water usage.

4. ORDINANCE #2019 - 16 : AMENDING CHAPTER 11 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING VACANT PROPERTY REGISTRATION.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Merrick 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the new vacant property registration ordinance would enhance the City's ability to access information on its numerous vacant properties, and would enhance the possibility for revenue generation. Discussion on the matter was held.

5. ORDINANCE #2019 - 17 : AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING VEHICLE FUEL TAXES.

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Merrick 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

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the State recently adopted a fuel tax increase within the State; the new law provided for a .03 cents per gallon home rule motor fuel tax as well. Brief question on the matter.

6. RESOLUTION #2019 - 68 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH IDOT AUTHORIZING FUNDING AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR CHICAGO ROAD AT THORN CREEK OVERPASS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent:

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained the project, which involved the culvert north of Bloom High School. Mayor Gonzalez noted that project cost was a \$ 952,200, of which the City's share would be \$ 6,440.00. Discussion on the matter was held.

7. RESOLUTION #2019 - 69 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH PROPERTY REGISTRATION CHAMPIONS, LLC FOR MANAGEMENT OF A VACANT PROPERTY REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

Alderman Zaranti 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 made opening comments on the matter. Alderman Baikauskas stated that he had researched the matter, and found that many municipalities used the company for the management of their vacant properties. Fees for service would be assessed on the property owners, with zero cost to City. Stan Urban of ProChamps was present and addressed the city council. Discussion on the matter was held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 p.m. Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Perez 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.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk