

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, October 7, 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 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY CITY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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| 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 she would host a neighborhood clean-up event on Saturday, October 10th at 9:00 a.m.

Alderman Perez - no announcements

Alderman Rodgers - no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas - no announcements

Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be held on October 28th via Zoom; info for the meeting was sent to Mayor's office.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park District Commissioner Straczek on October 29th 7:00 pm. Masks and social distancing were required for the meeting.

Alderman Merrick - no announcements

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gary Miller, Code Enforcement Director, stated that he was present in the council chambers and that there was one person in attendance for the meeting.

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council regarding the local bike trail, diseased trees in the City, and the cable television bulletin board.

Mayor Gonzalez provided procedural details on the tree program, adding that the City planned to develop a program for the removal of diseased trees on residential property, beginning with those properties belonging to seniors.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways “Invest in Cook” grant, which the City received in the amount of \$ 477,900 for the Euclid area. COS Zerante also reported on the City’s tree removal and maintenance program, the soon to be completed IDOT Chicago Road project, and the Halloween Trick or Treat hours.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Absent

1. MINUTES: APPROVAL OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2020.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Smith

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF SEPTEMBER 2020.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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. RESOLUTION #2020 - 63 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2020 TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT.

Alderman Perez 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 it was the recommendation of City Engineer Andrew Smith to award the bid to Desiderio Landscaping for the bid amount of \$ 79,325.

4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 64 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR CULVERT REPAIR IN THE VICINITY OF 10TH STREET & CAMPBELL AVENUE.

Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that C. Burke Engineering, consultant to the City, recommended awarding the bid to H. Linden & Sons for \$ 381,315. The culvert repair would be performed before the 10th Street Repavement Project was begun. There were questions on the matter by the city council to which COS Zerante responded.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 65 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR SEWER REPAIR IN THE VICINITY OF 10TH STREET & CAMPBELL AVENUE.

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 stated that HBK Engineering, consultant to the City, recommended awarding the bid to H. Linden & Sons for \$ 50,095. The sanitary and storm sewers running through the project area would be repaired before the 10th Street Repavement Project was begun.

6. RESOLUTION #2020 - 66 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM MINUTEMAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES FOR SECURITY CAMERA UPGRADES AND REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS CITY FACILITIES.

Alderman Merrick 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.

COS Zerante reported that 22 new cameras would be installed at the Police Station at a cost of \$ 47,341.82. Additional cameras would be installed at various locations in the City at a cost of \$ 15,413.54. There was brief discussion on the matter before the vote.

7. RESOLUTION #2020 - 67 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 2222 EAST END AVENUE.

Alderman Perez 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, recommended that the City move forward on the sale and grant the Class 8 real estate tax incentive sought by the purchaser, who would be investing in the rehabilitation of the property.

8. RESOLUTION #2020 - 68 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AT 304 STATE STREET.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Perez 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 stated that the ninety-day option agreement with Chicagoland Garage Builders quoted a purchase price of \$ 500,000. The company would do shipping from the site, and eventually build a warehouse for storage of its building materials. Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, responded to the council's questions before the vote.

9. RESOLUTION #2020 - 69 : APPROVING A RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR LKQ CORPORATION LOCATED AT 551 EAST LINCOLN HIGHWAY, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.

Alderman moved Zaranti, 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, explained that the tax classification would bring the substantial Ford Heights School District taxes down to a more standard level for the business.

10. RESOLUTION #2020 - 70 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case # 20CV01893) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AND BY MEMORANDUM OF THIS DATE.

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

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

Nays: Zaranti

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that Corporation Counsel Somer communicated with the city council and reported that there was no need to go into executive session for discussion before the vote.

11. ORDINANCE #2020 - 21: AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPTING A REVISED PERSONNEL MANUAL (EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK).

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

COS Zerante explained that the intention of the new handbook was to ensure that the City was compliant with labor law and other statutes governing the work place, such as FMLA and sexual harassment laws. The document also provided specificity to language as well as a few other changes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:55 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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