

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, June 15, 2022 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 6:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA**

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 <sup>st</sup> Ward Renee Smith	Absent
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward Sonia Perez	Present
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward Wanda Rodgers	Present
	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward George Brassea	Present
	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7 <sup>th</sup> Ward Kelli Merrick	Absent

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Smith was absent.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers announced the Juneteenth Celebration event at Ashland/Smith Park on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. with music, vendors, and games for all.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host his next ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. He also announced the Band in the Park event on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10<sup>th</sup> Street & Schilling Avenue at 5:30 p.m.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host a ward meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC. He announced the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Garage Sale event on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick was absent.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Aaliyah Merrick addressed the council on behalf of Alderman Kelli Merrick, her mother, who was not present. Aaliyah spoke on the Memorial Day Parade, the Juneteenth Celebration event, and a student art contest.

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

COS Zerante reported on the Juneteenth celebration on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the City's Independence Day fireworks display on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She also reported that mailers would be sent to residents in areas where city projects were taking place, providing hours of work and contractors that would be seen in the areas.

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER**

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the Wall that Heals, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, would arrive and be displayed at Marian Catholic High School from July 7<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2022.**

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

Ayes: Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Smith, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

### **2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JUNE 2022.**

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 2,137,418.43.

Ayes: Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Smith, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

### **3. RESOLUTION #2022 - 63 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1399 WEST LINCOLN HIGHWAY.**

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

Ayes: Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Smith, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Director of Economic Development, stated that MJK Real Estate, having previously entered into an option to purchase agreement with the City, was eager to close on the purchase. Jack Hynes gave the council details and timeframes on the real estate company's plans for the property.

4. RESOLUTION #2022 - 64 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS VACANT LOTS LOCATED AT 2414 HALSTED STREET.

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

Ayes: Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Smith, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer noted that the council approved the sale of the abandoned lots to Vitelli Concrete about a year ago. Issue clearing title on one of the lots delayed the sale. Issue was now resolved, and the City was ready to proceed with the closing. August Anzelmo, attorney for Vitelli Concrete, and Jason Hering, owner of Vitelli Concrete, addressed the council on the matter.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS, PERSONNEL ISSUES, USE/DISPOSTION OF CITY OWNED LAND OR THREATENED OR PENDING LITIGATION (IF NECESSARY).

5. RESOLUTION #2022 - 65 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (CASE # 2017 L 5928) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) OF THIS DATE.

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

Ayes: Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Smith, Merrick

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel stated that he communicated with all the aldermen and no one indicated a need for an executive session, therefore action on the agenda item could be taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:26 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Brassea seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Smith, Merrick

**Motion to adjourn carried.**

---

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk