

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL. by Zoom conference call only*

***To be conducted remotely by Zoom 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.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith expressed appreciation for recent projects completed in her ward.

Alderman Perez announced that she would hold her next ward meeting on January 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers expressed appreciation for the completed 16th Street resurfacing project in her ward. She also spoke briefly on the Winter Wonderland event held at the Park District.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would hold his next ward meeting in partnership with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on January 24th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would hold his next ward meeting on Wednesday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Greenbriar School.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would hold his next ward meeting in partnership with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on January 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that her 2022 calendar of meetings and events would be completed by the next meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None – Corporation Counsel Somer was in the council chambers and reported that there was no one wishing to participate in public participation.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on the Streambed and Culvert Maintenance project, saying that tree plantings in the Spring would complete the project. COS Zerante announced that the City and IDPH would host a Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic at City Hall on Saturday (January 15). Persons could call the Mayor’s Office or go to the City’s website for more information or to register.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Corporation Counsel Somer announced that Bloom Township Center would become a full time Covid-19 testing center commencing Wednesday, January 12th, Monday-Friday 8-4 p.m. and Wednesday 1-7 p.m. Both the Rapid and PCR tests would be offered at no cost.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2021.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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 SECOND RUN OF DECEMBER 2021.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 1,135,877.53.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF ENTERPRISE LEASING’S “VEHICLE FLEET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

Representatives from Enterprise Leasing, Jamie Warczynski, Christine LaGrow, and Christina Cortina, gave a slide presentation, which explained the leasing program and its benefits. Enterprise proposed to handle the sale and disposal of the City’s surplus vehicles, provide newreplacement vehicles, and monitor and manage the City’s vehicle fleet on an on-going basis.

The parties would study the matter further, before bringing it before the council in the near future. The council asked questions on the matter.

4. ORDINANCE #2022 - 1 : ADOPTING COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 2021-11 ESTABLISHING CERTAIN COVID-19 MITIGATION MANDATES.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to table 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 order mandated the observance of certain guidelines for mask requirements and social distancing in public spaces. Among the guidelines, proof of vaccination for ages 16 and older would be required at food and drink establishments (for on premises consumption), and at health and fitness centers. Employees of these establishments must show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test on a weekly basis.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 128 : APPROVING A 90 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS LAND AT 1399 WEST LINCOLN HIGHWAY. (Submitted by Mid-America Real Estate Corporation) (Tabled from 12/1/21).

Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated that Mid-America was considering purchasing and re-developing the site at the northeast corner of Western and Lincoln Hwy. There was discussion on the matter before the vote.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 - 1 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COOK COUNTY LAND BANK FOR THE EXCHANGE OF THE CITY OWNED LAND PARCEL LOCATED EAST AND ADJACANT TO 1651 HALSTED FOR THE COUNTY OWNED LAND PARCEL AT 1648 EAST END AVENUE.

Alderman Merrick 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the County wished to acquire the Halsted Street property as parking for at its Golden Tower facilities. The City would market the East End Avenue property for future development. There was discussion on the matter before the vote.

- 7. RESOLUTION #2022 - 2 : APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF THE CERTAIN REAL ESTATE FROM THE COOK COUNTY LAND BANK FOR SUBSEQUENT CONVEYANCE PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM:**
- 1. 1215 Halsted Street (former AAMCO transmission shop).**
 - 2. 1300 Washington Street (residential)**
 - 3. 1317 & 1319 Center Street (residential)**
 - 4. 1316 Lincoln Avenue (residential)**
 - 5. 1320 Lincoln Avenue (residential)**
 - 6. 1509 & 1511 Shields Avenue (residential)**

Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained the City started the process to acquire the properties from the County. Upon conveyance of the applicant's APAP fee of \$ 5000 to the County and upon acquisition, the City would arrange the closings, after which rehab by the new owners could start. Brief discussion on the matter.

- 8. RESOLUTION #2022 - 3 : APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF THE REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 171 W. 10TH STREET AND 1646 HALSTED STREET FROM THE COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY.**

Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the 10th Street property was ideally fit for the City's plans related to business development and community outreach, and the Halsted Street property could be developed for a soccer field or park. Brief discussion on the matter.

9. RESOLUTION #2022 - 4 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED VACANT COMMERCIAL LOT AT 1613 LOWE AVENUE TO ZAK MCGATHEY (New East Side Gym).

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: none

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated that the purchaser planned to improve and landscape the lot for use with his workout facility located next door.

10. RESOLUTION #2022 - 5 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE VACANT COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT 1601 OTTO BOULEVARD.

Alderman Smith 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.

COS Somer reported that the City engineer recommended award of the project to low bidder KLF Enterprises for bid amount of \$ 185,000. Corporation Counsel Somer noted that this was the former Post Office and Walgreens building.

11. RESOLUTION #2022 - 6 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF WINDOWS CERTIFICATE BASED REMOTE ACCESS & MFA TECHNOLOGY.

Alderman Zaranti 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.

COS Zerante reported that approval was sought to move forward with the recommendation of AIS, Inc., the City's IT administrator, on the purchase and installation technology in order to enhance the City's IT system cyber security capabilities. AIS's proposal to the City was a purchase price of \$ 31,290, which would cover software licensing, all programming, onsite implementation and support for remote access and support for all users on its network system.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:33 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk