

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, January 18, 2023 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 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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 Baikuskas	Absent
	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 her next ward meeting on Saturday, February 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers – no announcements.

Alderman Baikuskas – absent.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on February 8th at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on January 30th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no announcements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the City's water main system, a city manager type of government, and the CERT program.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

None

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2023.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JANUARY 2023.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$4,732,758.23

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2023 – 4: APPROVING A RENEWAL OF THE CITY EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY AND PREMIUM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante introduced Paul Mesirow, Vice-President of Employee Benefits at Alliant/Mesirow Insurance. Mr. Mesirow gave a presentation on the matter, explaining the past year's claims history and resulting costs. It was his recommendation to renew the Blue Cross Blue Shield policy at the renewal date of March 1, 2023 at an annual premium of \$ 703,435, with no changes to the current plan designs. The city council discussed the matter and other plan options for the future.

4. RESOLUTION #2023 – 5 : SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS STATUTES PROVIDING FOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the resolution was a declaration of support for state TIF statutes and the value they provide to cities. Corporation Counsel noted the remarkable development the City was able to bring about because of the TIF statutes.

5. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2023 - 6 : APPROVING AGREEMENTS TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated these seven houses in the Abandoned Property Acquisition Program were ready to go to closing.

6. RESOLUTION #2023 - 7 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE VACANT CITY OWNED LOT LOCATED AT 1935 DIVISION STREET PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S "LOT NEXT DOOR" PROGRAM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the City would sell the vacant lot to the property owner next door for one dollar, relieving the city of the burden to maintain the property.

7. ORDINANCE #2023 - 1 : AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING AMBULANCE & FIRE SERVICE FEES.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the amendment would update language in the ordinance so that it comported with fire emergency transportation services language that was in place throughout the state.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:29 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk