

**Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
By Zoom conference call with public participation at Chicago Heights Municipal Building, 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Vincent Zaranti, as most senior alderman and in the absence of Mayor David Gonzalez, called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Absent
Council:	1st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	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

***At 6:18 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Zaranti acknowledged that Alderman Rodgers had joined the meeting.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Zaranti on behalf of the Mayor and City Council extended condolences to Alderman Sonia Perez in the death of her sister Corina Lopez, and called for a moment of silence.

Alderman Smith announced that she would hold her next ward meeting on Saturday, February 12th at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez – absent

Alderman Rodgers – no ward meeting announcement

Alderman Baikauskas – no ward meeting announcement

Alderman Brassea announced that he would hold his next ward meeting on February 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Greenbriar School.

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

Alderman Merrick announced that she would hold her next ward meeting in February. The alderman's ward meetings would be held in person and on a quarterly basis going forward.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rodney Bradford, a resident of the City, addressed the council on a Freedom of Information request that he submitted to the City.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF – Karen Zerante

COS Zerante reported that the vaccination clinic at City Hall, in partnership with IDPH, on Saturday, January 15th registered over two hundred applicants. She reported that the City would host another vaccination clinic the second weekend of February. Information would be posted on the city website. COS Zerante deferred to Fire Chief Jeffrey Springer, who proudly announced the appointment of Capt. Anthony Mascolino as Assistant Fire Chief effective immediately. The council offered its congratulations.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL – T.J. SOMER

Corporation Counsel Somer, who serves as Bloom Township Supervisor, stated that the Covid-19 testing site at Bloom Township Center started that day. Hours for the clinic were Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except Wednesday hours were 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. Both rapid and PCR testing were offered.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2022.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JANUARY 2022.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

3. **RESOLUTION #2022 - 7 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WITH "TRIA ARCHITECTURE" RELATED TO THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE AND WATER DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that Tria Architecture would analyze the current and future needs of the two facilities, and do a Space Needs Analysis to determine how the facilities could be renovated or reconstructed to accommodate current and future uses. Proposed cost was \$ 22,850.

4. **RESOLUTION #2022 - 8 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH GRAND CAPITAL NORTH AMERICA, LLC, TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 560 AND 570 WEST LINCOLN HIGHWAY, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated these were the former sites of Lorenzetti's and Enterprise Car Rental. The company, already a developer in the City, wished to acquire the properties for future development, of which the City would have a say. There was discussion on the matter. The council had questions on the matter before the vote.

5. **RESOLUTION #2022 - 9 : APPROVING A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE AT 1902 EUCLID AVENUE PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer said that the City already had title to the property, since the initial purchaser did not follow through on the purchase. This sale would be to a second applicant.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 - 10 : APPROVING A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH UNITED ROAD TOWING FOR CITY TOWING SERVICES.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Police Chief Thomas Rogers recommended that the City extend the current five-year contract for another five years. The Police Department used the company, also known as Xpert Towing, for all of its accident tows, and the service was excellent and pricing competitive. Fire Chief Jeffrey Springer seconded his recommendation.

7. RESOLUTION #2022 - 11 : APPROVING AN AWARD FROM THE MORTON ARBORETUM FOR THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that Morton Arboretum announced that the City was approved for a \$ 15,000 grant funded through the IDNR Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service. The grant would fund the physical inventory of all trees in public spaces, identifying species and condition. Recommendation of tree plantings and replacing would come at a later phase in the project. There was discussion on the matter.

8. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2022 - 12 : APPROVING PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS CITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that the proposals were for engineering services related to the following projects:

- sewer repair projects in the D'Amico area and on Scott Avenue for \$ 44,000;**
- sewer repair projects in the Hill/Euclid area and W. 16th Street for \$ 54,000;**
- roadway improvement projects in the Hill/Euclid area and W. 16th Street for \$ 439,029;**
- roadway improvement projects in the D'Amico area and on Scott Avenue for \$ 305,500;**

COS Zerante stated that the projects would come before the council in the spring for approval of the work to be done. There was brief discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk