

**Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, February 3, 2021 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 6:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK LORI WILCOX**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Alderman Smith - no announcements**

**Alderman Perez - no announcements**

**Alderman Rodgers - no announcements**

**Alderman Baikauskas - no announcements**

**Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, and he would forward the meeting information to the Mayor’s Office.**

**Alderman Zaranti - no announcements**

**Alderman Merrick - no announcements**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Corporation Counsel Somer was in the council chambers and stated that City Hall was open and there was no one present for public participation.

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

COS Zerante reported on the needs assessments by departments that were submitted to the City's grant writers. COS Zerante also reported on: the recent heavy snowfall and the long cleaning process of thoroughfares, Phase 1b of the IDPH's vaccination plan and Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan, and the LED Street Light Conversion project at 99% completion.

Mayor Gonzalez asked COS Zerante to look into funding for a sidewalk for students walking along Chicago Road and Dixie Highway. There was brief discussion on grant funding for an area near the Prairie Green senior living center.

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

Corporation Counsel reported that Bloom Township Center would be open during the day as a warming center for the coming Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2021**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez, Rodgers

**Motion to approve carried.**

### **2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF JANUARY 2021.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez, Rodgers

**Motion to approve carried.**

### **3. RESOLUTION #2021 - 12 : APPROVING A GRANT AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE "STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM."**

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the \$ 200,000 grant would be used to address affordable housing needs and community revitalization efforts. Its primary focus was vacant residential property for rehabbing or demolition, if rehabbing was not feasible.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 13 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM THE HOH GROUP FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE 2020 CDBG ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Project # 2006-062: 16<sup>th</sup> Street from State Street to East End Avenue).

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that the total cost of the proposal was \$ 65,000, which included subcontractors' costs for coring samples and surveying services. HOH would prepare the project design and specifications for the bid package for the 2021 resurfacing project.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 14 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM CHRISTOPHER BURKE & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO PREPARATION OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN PURSUANT TO THE AMERICAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT.

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that the federal act required the City to complete a risk and resilience assessment and to develop an emergency response plan related to the City's water system. Burke's proposal for the engineering services to prepare the five-year plans was for a not-to-exceed fee of \$ \$ 23,500.

6. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 15 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM CHRISTOPHER BURKE & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE PREPARATION OF A WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MODEL.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez explained that a model of the City's existing water system was necessary in order to determine the effects of providing water to its current customers as well as to new towns connecting to the system. The model would provide information on the City's water pressure, on areas where the City was weak, and on what the City needed to do to ensure it was able to meet peak demands. Cost of the proposal was \$ 44,500. No discussion.

7. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 16 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM HBK FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SEWER TELEVISIONING AND REPAIR RELATED TO THE 2020 CDBG ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. (16<sup>TH</sup> Street from State Street to East End).**

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that the cost of the proposal for the engineering services related to the project was \$ 29,000. No discussion.

8. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 17 . APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES PROVIDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE OLD PLANK BIKE TRAIL INTO INDIANA VIA THE INVEST IN COOK GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

**COS Zerante stated that the memorandum of understanding would allow the City to support Sauk Village's request for funding of a feasibility study through Cook County's "Invest in Cook" grant program. There would be no cost to the City other than lending its support and providing input on the study. Brief discussion followed.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:45 pm. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Rodgers**

**Motion to adjourn carried.**

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**Lori Wilcox, City Clerk**