

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, February 15, 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 6:31 p.m. immediately following the Public Hearing.

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 Baikauskas	Present
	5 th Ward George Brassea	Present
	6 th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Absent
	7 th Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, March 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers announced that the date for her next ward meeting was to be announced.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti – absent

Alderman Merrick – no announcements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on the Lead Line Survey being conducted by the Water Department, and that an IEPA grant for \$ 50,000 was awarded to the City in support of the survey process. In addition, COS Zerante reported that a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter grant for \$590,909 was awarded to the City. The grant would be used to cover the cost of the Fire Department demo pumper that the City recently took possession of.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea
Nays: none
Abstain: Merrick
Absent: Zaranti
Motion to approve carried.

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

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,619,184.52.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Zaranti
Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2023 - 9 : APPROVING THE SALE OF ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY TO THE VILLAGE OF EAST HAZEL CREST BY THE VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Zaranti
Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez informed the council that the Village of Homewood asked to be able to sell water to the Village of Hazel Crest. The Mayor stated that the original agreement with Hammond listed the City's ability to sell water to additional towns, and that East Hazel Crest was named as one of the towns. The City currently supplied water to Homewood, who in turn would begin to supply water to East Hazel Crest.

4. **OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2023 - 10 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES VIA THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the City was seeking approval to sell four properties that it acquired through the APAP program.

5. **RESOLUTION #2023 - 11 : AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN AND SUPPORT OF THE OLD PLANK TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained that approval was sought for the City to participate in the Chicago Metropolitan Agency (CMAP) feasibility/planning study of the Old Plank Trail Extension Project. The study sought to extend the existing end point of the trail at Thorn Creek in the City, so that it connected to various points in surrounding municipalities for pedestrian and bike travel.

6. **RESOLUTION #2023 - 12 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT WITH THE "SOUTHLAND BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY" FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AT 808 HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Zaranti
Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the agreement allowed the business sixty days to determine whether the property was feasible for the business' intended use. Corporation Counsel Somer recalled that the Cook County Land Bank deeded the property over to the City a few months prior.

7. RESOLUTION 2023 - 13 : APPROVING A GRANT AND FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IHDA) GOVERNING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE "HOME REPAIR & ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM" GRANT AWARD.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Zaranti
Motion to approve carried

COS Zerante reported that an IHDA grant for \$400,000 was awarded to the City for use in a home repair program. The grant targeted those residents meeting the income guidelines based on IHDA requirements. She noted that in some instances the grant could provide up to \$45,000 for repairs and up to \$21,500 for roof replacement. The council discussed the matter before the vote.

8. ORDINANCE #2023 - 3 : AMENDING CHAPTER 11, OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "PERMIT FEES – WATER METERS."

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Merrick
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Zaranti
Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel explained that the amendment would replace old prices stated in the current ordinance with a paragraph stating that the City would order the needed implements, and pass the actual cost on to the customer.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk