

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, March 1, 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 6:02 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 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, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers – no announcements.

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

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on March 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on March 27th at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no announcements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

none

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

none

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

none

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick 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 FEBRUARY 2023.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,045,196.17.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2023 - 4 : APPROVING THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN – EAST LINCOLN HIGHWAY TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that this ordinance approved the actual Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan. The district would run on Route 30 from State Street to Halsted Street.

4. ORDINANCE #2023 - 5 : DESIGNATING THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA FOR THE EAST LINCOLN HIGHWAY TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE TAX INCREMENT ALLOCATION REDEVELOPMENT ACT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel explained that this ordinance designated the actual geographic area of the TIF. A map of the TIF area was provided to the council.

5. ORDINANCE #2023 - 6 : ADOPTING TAX INCREMENT ALLOCATION FINANCING FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS EAST LINCOLN HIGHWAY TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that this ordinance was the actual adoption of the TIF district for that area. A public hearing was held, and the required legal notices were provided.

6. ORDINANCE #2023 - 7 : RESERVING THE CITY'S VOLUME CAP IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ISSUES AND RELATED MATTERS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel stated that this was the City's annual reservation of volume cap rights. The volume cap allocation in 2023 was \$3,228,600, and could be used to sponsor industrial revenue bonds for private contractor and developer projects, such as the recent seventy-five million dollar Olympic Village purchase and rehabilitation project.

7. RESOLUTION #2023 - 14 : APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF THE OPTION AGREEMENT WITH MAGNUM FREIGHT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE VACANT INDUSTRIAL LAND AT 2116 STATE STREET.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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, reported that Magnum Freight was seeking a sixty-day extension, so that it could continue to do its due diligence in ensuring the property was in compliance.

- 8. RESOLUTION #2023 - 15 : APPROVING AN “ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS” GRANT AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (FEMA) TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT “PUMPER” TRUCK.**

Alderman Zaranti 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 Zerante asked for the city council’s formal acceptance of the Assistance to Firefighters grant for \$590,909.09 and the City’s cost share of \$59,090.91, for total project cost of \$650,000.

- 9. RESOLUTION #2023 - 16 : AMENDING THE CITY’S SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH “REBUILDING TOGETHER CHICAGO METRO” GOVERNING THE “HOME REBUILDING PROGRAM” GRANT THROUGH ARPA.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that the original agreement set forth a \$10,000 maximum expenditure. The amendment would modify the language, providing the right to exceed said maximum at the discretion of the City, if circumstances dictated.

- 10. RESOLUTION #2023 - 17 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR THE “2023 COOK COUNTY BLOCK GRANT DEVELOPMENT (CDBG) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve table.

COS Zerante reported on the 2023 CDBG application for road resurfacing work in 2024. The project area included sections of Buena Vista Circle, Thorn Street, and Aberdeen Street. The application was for \$400,000, with a City cost share from capital funds for \$912,534, for a total project cost of \$1,312,534.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, USE OR DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED LAND OR PERSONNEL ISSUES (IF NECESSARY).

11. **RESOLUTION #2023 - ____ 18 ____ : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #21 WC 028398) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION OF THIS DATE AND BY MEMORANDUM.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with all the aldermen, and did not receive any request that there was a need for executive session for discussion relative to the agenda item.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:22 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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