

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, March 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 6:06 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, April 8th 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. at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on March 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that she would host her next quarterly ward meeting on Thursday, March 23rd, with the location to be finalized before the end of the week. Alderman Merrick announced a partnership with the Union Street Art Gallery and the Chicago Heights Park District on a picnic table art project in the coming weeks.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Paul Rupright, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the problem of persons soliciting at various stores and locations in the City.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante announced the annual City-Wide Clean-Up Day for Saturday May 13th at the Crossroads Center. COS Zerante also announced the return of the City’s Memorial Day Parade on May 29th. Additional details would be coming in a few weeks.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

none

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2023.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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 FIRST RUN OF MARCH 2023.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,772,263.81.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2023 - 19 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 1208 HALSTED STREET.

Alderman Rodgers 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.

Jack Hynes, Director of Economic Development, stated that the owner of a transmissions shop located in the City was interested in moving his business to this location. There were brief questions on the matter.

4. RESOLUTION #2023 - 20 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 1215 HALSTED STREET.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Merrick 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, Director of Economic Development, stated that the prospective buyer was interested in opening a full service auto shop at this location. Brief question on the matter.

5. RESOLUTION #2023 - 21 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 412 WEST 14th STREET.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick 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, Director of Economic Development, stated that the owner of a restaurant located in the City, was interested in moving his business to this location. Discussion was held on the matter.

6. RESOLUTION #2023 - 22 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS VACANT LAND AT 19840 HALSTED STREET.

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.

Jack Hynes, Director of Economic Development, stated that the prospective buyer was interested in establishing a gas station with retail center at the location. Prem Mulkanoor, of Mulkanoor Development, addressed the city council on the matter. There was discussion on the matter.

7. RESOLUTION #2023 - 23 : APPROVING A CLASS 8 RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 613 CHICAGO ROAD (Fara's Fashion Exchange).

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Brassea 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, Director of Economic Development, stated that the applicant was a small business in the City ten years and was seeking renewal of its Class 8 tax classification status.

8. RESOLUTION #2023 - 24 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR THE CITY'S 2023 "INVEST IN COOK" CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Merrick 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 requested review and approval to submit the "Invest in Cook" Capital Improvements grant application for renovations to the McEldowney Park pedestrian path and bridge. Project cost would be \$ 277,897.95, with a City cost share of \$ 27,790. No discussion.

9. RESOLUTION #2023 - 25 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Smith 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 requested permission to place an order for twelve new vehicles-five for public works and seven for water department. Purchase cost was \$1,125,626.88. There was discussion on the matter.

10. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2023 - 26 : INDUCING THE SALE OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED SURPLUS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve table.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that these were three more APAP properties that the City was ready to close on and convey to the purchasers: 46 W Main, 23 E. 23rd Street, and 438 W 15th Place. No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:47 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