

**Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, April 19, 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 6:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA**

<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>Present</b>
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Ward Christopher Baikauskas</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Ward George Brassea</b>	<b>Absent</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 announced that she would host her next ward meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Barack Obama School.**

**Alderman Perez – absent.**

**Alderman Rodgers announced that the arrangements for her next ward meeting were being confirmed.**

**Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.**

**Alderman Brassea – absent.**

**Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park. May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to be cancelled due to the holiday.**

**Alderman Merrick – no announcements.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**None**

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

COS Zerante announced that the City-wide Community Clean UP event was scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Crossroads Event Center. Information was posted on the City’s website and Facebook.

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

None

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO NEWLY APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE**

Deputy Clerk Rachel Vega administered the oath of office to Matthew Gainer, newly appointed Superintendent of Police at the previous council meeting. Supt. Gainer thanked Mayor Gonzalez and the council, family members, and the City’s police department, for their show of support in his career and in his appointment.

**1. MINUTES: MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2023.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF APRIL 2023.**

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$2,878,838.30.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

**3. RESOLUTION #2023 - 37 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY’S 2023 SPRING RESTORATION PROJECT.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**COS Zerante asked for approval to accept the proposal of J. J. Newell for \$84,480. She noted that it was the recommendation of Mark Moen, the City's consultant with HBK Engineering, to accept the proposal and that the pricing remained the same as J.J. Newell's 2020 pricing to the City.**

**4. RESOLUTION #2023 - 38 : APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE IAFF LOCAL 711 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY FIREFIGHTERS.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**COS Zerante reviewed the main economic issues of the agreement as listed in the summary provided to the council. Term of the new four-year agreement would be to April 30, 2027.**

**5. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2023 - 39 : INDUCING THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT 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 the resolution.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the subject properties were located at 1943 Adams and 198 Martin Lane.**

**6. RESOLUTION #2023 - 40 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 1340 OTTO BOULEVARD.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Corporation Counsel recalled for the council the option agreement previously approved by the council on the matter. He stated the buyer would invest \$ 700,000 in rehabbing the property. Buyer Tionya Spriggs was present and addressed the council briefly.**

- 7. RESOLUTION #2023 - 41 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED VACANT LAND PARCELS AT 19840 SOUTH HALSTED STREET.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Corporation Counsel Somer recalled for the council the option agreement previously approved by the council on the matter. He stated that the buyer would invest in excess of one million dollars in the construction of a gas station and convenience center. Buyer Prem Mulkanoor was present at the meeting.**

- 8. RESOLUTION #2023 - 42 : AMENDING THE AGREEMENT WITH EVOKE VENTURES GROUP, INC. TO INDUCE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 711 WEST 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried**

**Corporation Counsel Somer recalled for the council the redevelopment agreement previously approved the by council. The amendment would expand the company's voluntary 3% tax to the City relative to the craft grower license it recently acquired.**

**9. RESOLUTION #2023 - 43 : APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH HACC FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF THE CITY OWNED VACANT LOT AT 1334 WENTWORTH AVENUE.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Corporation Counsel explained that HACC, the Housing Authority of Cook County, proposed to build a residential facility on the property.**

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

**10. RESOLUTION #2023 - 44 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (CASE #22 WC 16210) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THIS DATE AND BY MEMORANDUM.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with the aldermen and received no request for an executive session relative to agenda items #10 and #11.**

**11. RESOLUTION #2023 - 45 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (CASE #21 WC 30524) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THIS DATE AND BY MEMORANDUM.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**12. RESOLUTION #2023 - 46 : APPROVING A RENEWAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF POTABLE WATER TO THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel reported that the twenty-year agreement expired May 4<sup>th</sup>. Renewal water rate in the agreement would be \$5.07 per 1000 gallons.

**13. RESOLUTION #2023 - 47 : ADOPTING A CITY FIXED ASSET CAPITALIZATION POLICY.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the new policy would update the City's annual valuation and depreciation policy. The major change was the increase of the minimum threshold of \$5,000 to \$10,000, such as for furniture and equipment.

**14. ORDINANCE #2023 - 11 : AMENDING CHAPTER 41 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING THE LICENSING OF TOBACCO SALES.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the ordinance repealed the current limit of 28, which was the maximum number of tobacco licenses that could be issued by the City. It added specific categories restricting the sale and delivery of drug paraphernalia and the sale of any tobacco outside of its original container. The council discussed the matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 6:30 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez, Brassea**

**Motion to approve carried.**

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**Lori Wilcox, City Clerk**