

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, April 20, 2022 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 6:07 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*

***Alderman Merrick joined the council meeting at 6:17 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, May 14th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School. The alderman announced the Fiesta in the Park event on May 1st from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Jirtle Park.

Alderman Rodgers announced several events: Christ for Everyone Ministries event on May 21st from 11:00 to 12:00 pm; a seniors' party on May 6th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the West Golf Course; and a Mother's Day brunch on May 7th from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the West Golf Course.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. He announced several events: the Earth Day Clean-Up event on April 23rd from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at Landeen Park; the 4th Ward Garage Sale event on June 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and the June 24th Block Party from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Landeen Park.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on April 27th at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on April 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced her Mother’s Day Flower Pop-Up event on May 7th at Smith Park.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported that the annual Pavement Restoration project was underway in various areas throughout the City. She announced that Kevin Thomas, the City’s Audio & Visual Media Specialist, would be auditing the City’s website and updating and clarifying it as needed.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the Bloom Township Center Senior Gasoline Relief Program had an overwhelming turn out that day. A second round of gift card give-a-way would commence on Friday, April 22nd.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF April 6, 2022.

Alderman Rodgers 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 FIRST RUN OF APRIL 2022.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 1,667,224.98.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2022 - 8 : APPROVING A ZONING VARIANCE FROM A B-2 BUSINESS DISTRICT TO AN R-3 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 359 WEST 14TH STREET. (Tabled from March 16, 2022).

Alderman Baikauskas 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 reported that Luis Vazquez, property owner, submitted his plans to the City for conversion of the garage to a residential unit, and applied for the building permits to accomplish the project.

- 4. ORDINANCE # 2022 - 11 : APPROVING AN ASSIGNMENT OF THE CITY'S 2022 VOLUME CAP ALLOCATION IN RELATION TO PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ISSUES AND RELATED MATTERS TO OLYMPIC VILLAGE, LLC RELATING TO THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE PURCHASE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT.**

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Brassea 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 reported that the owner of Olympic Village requested that the City assign its allocation to Olympic Village for use in its completion of the apartment complex's renovation project.

- 5. RESOLUTION #2022 - 39 : APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND PARAMEDIC SERVICES WITH THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS.**

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Corporation Counsel stated that the current contract expired April 30th but would be extended to May 31st to allow the parties additional time to analyze the proposed renewal agreement.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 - 40 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A STANDBY GENERATOR FOR THE CITY'S LANSING WATER PUMPING STATION.

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.

COS Zerante explained that the purchase was necessary to the improvements at the pump station, and that permission was sought to award the contract to Genco Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$ 414,595.00.

7. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2022 - 41 : APPROVING AGREEMENTS TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM; TO WIT:

- 1. 1636 Euclid Ave**
- 2. 1217 Washington**
- 3. 82 W 14th Pl**
- 4. 19508 Glenwood Rd**
- 5. 1700 Euclid Ave**
- 6. 555 W 16th Pl**
- 7. 40 Forest**
- 8. 1543 Aberdeen**
- 9. 324 E 25th St**
- 10. 1202 Washington**
- 11. 1947 Division**
- 12. 1304 Campbell**
- 13. 1665 Buena Vista Ave**
- 14. 432 W 17th St**
- 15. 317 W Hickory St**
- 16. 1315 Vincennes**
- 17. 1342 Vincennes**

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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that approval was sought for the sale of the abandoned properties, noting that the City would be ready to close on the properties in 45 to 60 days.

8. RESOLUTION #2022 - 42 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE VACANT LOT AT 223 EAST 16TH STREET PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S "LOT NEXT DOOR" PROGRAM.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer said that the resident planned to fence the vacant lot and maintain it as in the past.

9. RESOLUTION #2022 - 43 ; AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH A NOTICE SEEKING BIDS FOR BEACON HILL DEMOLITION PROJECTS PHASE #3 & #4.

Alderman Smith 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 reported that 18 vacant and blighted properties beyond rehabilitation would be the next phase of the demolition process. Residents in the Beacon Hill area were given an opportunity to review the addresses and were in agreement with the demolitions.

10. RESOLUTION #2022 - 44 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH "PYROTECNICO FIREWORKS, INC." FOR PRESENTATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY FIREWORKS TO BE PRESENTED ON JULY 1, 2022.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 sought approval to enter into the agreement having received recommendation from Jessica Mancina, Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events, who had experience working with the company.

11. RESOLUTION #2022 - 45 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM EARTHWERKS, INC. FOR ADDITIONAL WORK ON THE THORN CREEK STREAMBED MAINTENANCE PROJECT.

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.

COS Zerante stated it was the recommendation of John Caruso, C. B. Engineering consultant on the project, to accept the proposal for the additional work in the amount of \$ 288,780. Brief discussion on the matter.

12. RESOLUTION #2022 - 46 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY'S 2022 SPRING TREE & STUMP REMOVAL PROJECT.

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.

COS Zerante stated it was the recommendation of Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, consulting municipal arborist on the project, to accept the low proposal of Desiderio Landscaping in the amount of \$ 71,622.00. Discussion on the matter before the vote.

13. RESOLUTION #2022 - 47 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW AMBULANCES FOR THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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.

COS Zerante reported that the purchase was through Fire Services, Inc. at a government price of \$ 232,346 for each ambulance. Discussion on the matter before the vote.

14. RESOLUTION #2022 - 48 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR THE INDUSTRIAL FACILITY LOCATED AT 185 EAST 12TH STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS. (Applicant: Sure Plus Manufacturing, Co.)

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, explained that approval of the Class 8 related to the forthcoming sale of the property to P & J Properties, who planned to invest funds in the rehabilitation of the property.

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

15. RESOLUTION #2022 - 49 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case # 19 L 1493) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) FOR THIS DATE.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer communicated with the aldermen and received no indication that there was any interest in an executive session occurring.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 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 adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk