

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

**\*To be conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker’s Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020 and extension thereof set forth in Executive order 2020-39.Meeting to be broadcast at City Hall with opportunity made available for public attendance and/or participation subject to social distancing regulations. Attendees must be attired in mask and gloves and may not be experiencing any symptoms of the COVID virus, i.e., fever, cough, sore throat, or uncommon fatigue.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY 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>Present</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>Present</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**

**PRESENTATION BY COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER DONNA MILLER**

Commissioner Miller spoke regarding the Invest in Cook Program, an \$ 8.5 million dollar program that covered the costs associated with transportation improvements. She recalled that the program awarded the City \$ 477,900 for Euclid Avenue repairs. In addition, the CDBG program awarded the City \$ 300,000 for street improvements, and \$ 742,000 for Covid-19 mitigation.

Mayor Gonzalez thanked the commissioner for all her efforts on behalf of the City, including her assistance in the award of grants and her commitment to the City in the area of Covid-19.

**Alderman Smith – no announcements**

**Alderman Perez – no announcements**

**Alderman Rodgers – no announcements**

**Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held in person on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.**

**Alderman Brassea – no announcements**

**Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in person and in coordination with Park District Commissioner Straczek on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.**

**Alderman Merrick – no announcements**

**Mayor Gonzalez thanked COS Karen Zerante, Bloom Twp. Supervisor T. J. Somer, and everyone who worked so diligently to organize the City's Covid-19 Vaccination event at St. Kieran School.**

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Corporation Counsel T. J. Somer was in the council chambers and announced that, although there were persons in attendance, none wished to take part in public participation.**

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

**COS Zerante reported on the following: the Mayors' Caucus Greenest Region Compact, Commissioner Donna Miller's current walk-in vaccination event, the Rebuilding Together landscaping project at Jones Memorial Center, and the Board of Fire & Police application for testing that was currently available. COS Zerante gave an update on the following: the City's 202<sup>nd</sup> Street engineering study for storm water and flood mitigation, the Civic Plus Mobile App for update of the City's website, and the council chambers renovation project.**

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

**No report**

#### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2021**

**Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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 MARCH & FIRST RUN OF APRIL 2021.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**3. ORDINANCE #2021 - 3 : AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, RESERVING THE CITY'S VOLUME CAP IN CONNECTION WITH PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ISSUES AND RELATED MATTERS.**

**Alderman Perez 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 the City reserved its industrial revenue bond allocation annually as an incentive for a developer wishing to issue bonds to fund a development project in the City. In Agenda Item #6, the City would allocate its bond allocation to Sand Creek Capital, which was completing a \$ 30 million dollar renovation at the Olympic Village apartment complex.**

**4. ORDINANCE #2021 - 4 : ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS PLAN COMMISSION AND APPROVING THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF DEDICATED ALLEY LYING ADJACANT TO AND N/W OF THE CORNER OF 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET & OTTO BOULEVARD) (within the site plan of the HACC veterans home development).**

**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 stated that the vacation of the alley, adjacent to the veterans' home development site, was needed in order to proceed with the project.**

5. **ORDINANCE #2021 - 5 : AMENDING CHAPTER 4 & 26 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH THE COVID RELIEF PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN CLASSIFICATIONS OF FOOD SERVICE & LIQUOR LICENSEES.**

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the ordinance was an effort to provide some relief to businesses hurt by the pandemic. For license year May 1, 2021/April 30, 2022, the liquor and business license fees of qualifying bars and restaurants would be waived at 100%, and the liquor license fees of adult entertainment establishments would be reduced by 50%.

6. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 28 : APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE CITY'S 2021 VOLUME CAP ALLOCATION TO SAND CREEK CAPITAL FOR THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the City would assign its industrial revenue bond allocation to Sand Creek, at no obligation or debt to the City, so that the company could do its bond issue and complete its project at Olympic Village apartments. There was a brief question.

7. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 29 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM J.J. NEWELL CONCRETE TO EXTEND ITS 2020 CONTRACT UNIT PRICING FOR PAVEMENT RESTORATION TO THE CITY'S 2021 PAVEMENT RESTORATION 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 that the project was the restoration of asphalt and pavement that was damaged by sewer collapse or main breaks in the preceding season. The engineer's summary estimated the project at \$ 184,600, based on unit pricing held at the 2020 contract price.

8. RESOLUTION #2021 - 30 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AT 1902 EUCLID AVENUE TO TJL INVESTMENTS, LLC, PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.

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.

Corporation Counsel Somer made note that this was TJI Investment's second property rehab project under the City's Abandoned Property Acquisition Program.

9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 31 : APPROVING THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS OF DARNELL CALICOTT TO THE CITY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND BRANDON D. NABORS TO THE CITY PLAN COMMISSION.

Alderman Merrick 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 announced that he was in the council chambers with the appointees, Plan Commissioner Frank DiGiovanni, and Alderman Baikauskas, who spoke highly of both appointees.

10. RESOLUTION #2021 - 32 : APPROVING THE CITY'S PARTNERSHIP IN THE CHICAGO REGION "PLANT TREES FOR COMMUNITIES" INITIATIVE.

Alderman Zaranti 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 goal was to plant a tree in a public space in each of the City's wards, as a show of support for the initiative. There was a brief question on the matter.

11. RESOLUTION #2021 - 33 : APPROVING A SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH COOK COUNTY FOR THE CITY'S 2020 CDBG ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Project # 2006--062). (East 16<sup>th</sup> Street from East End Avenue to State Street).

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.

COS Zerante reported that approval of the agreement permitted the CDBG process to proceed with funding, noting that the project was scheduled for completion in 2021. No discussion.

12. RESOLUTION #2021 - 34 : APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS - LOCAL 150.

Alderman Zaranti 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 described the changes to the contract, as contained in the executive summary provided to the council. The contract, recommended by the City's negotiating team, related to the Public Works Department and was effective May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2024.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 7:09 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk