

**Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, May 3, 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 6:03 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>Present</b> |
|                 | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Wanda Rodgers</b>          | <b>Absent</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**

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School. Alderman Perez announced the Fiesta in the Park event to be held the coming weekend at Jirtle Park from 1:-4:00 p.m.

Alderman Rodgers – absent.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. He announced the collaboration of Wards 4, 5, & 7 on a garage sale event on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced there would be no ward meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.

Alderman Merrick announced the third annual Mothers' Day Pop Up event on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Smith Park from 1-3:00 p.m., and the touring picnic table, community paint project that would be launched at the Fiesta in the Park event.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

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

COS Zerante announced that the City-wide Cleanup event would be held the next Saturday at the Crossroads lot from 9-12:00 p.m. COS Zerante also announced that there were still openings available for the Memorial Day parade. The application for participants was posted on the City's website.

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

None

**MINUTES: MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2023.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** Brassea

**Absent:** Rodgers

**Motion to approve carried.**

**BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF APRIL 2023.**

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$517,118.70.

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Rodgers

**Motion to approve carried.**

- 1. RESOLUTION #2023 – 48: APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY-OWNED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 412 WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Rodgers

**Motion to approve carried.**

Jack Hynes, Director of Economic Development, stated that the Aranda family was looking to close under the option to purchase agreement. Approval to move forward was sought at a sale price of \$10,000.

2. RESOLUTION #2023 – 49: APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY-OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 808 SOUTH HALSTED STREET.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Director of Economic Development, stated that the Southland Chamber was looking to close under the option to purchase agreement. Approval to move forward was sought at a sale price of \$10,000. There was a brief question on the matter.

3. RESOLUTION #2023 – 50: APPROVING THE SALE OF THE VACANT LOTS AT 308 EAST 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET, PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S "LOT NEXT DOOR" PROGRAM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that under the program, residents were allowed to purchase vacant lots at \$1, and that residents would be responsible for cleanup and maintenance of the property going forward.

4. RESOLUTION #2023 – 51: APPROVING AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE FOR ACQUISITION OF THE COLLEGE-OWNED VACANT LOT AT 19701 SOUTH HALSTED STREET.

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve carried.**

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the property was directly north of property owned by the City. Acquisition of the vacant property would provide needed parking space that would make the City's property more marketable.

- 5. RESOLUTION #2023 - 52 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 213 EAST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND 432 WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve carried.**

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the owner of the Eastside property agreed to convey his currently open business property to the City at a sale price of \$200,000. The owner would use the proceeds of the first sale to rehab the Westside property, in order to relocate his business there. The City would either demolish the eastside property or put it to a use that was consistent with the East Lincoln Highway TIF plan. Mayor Gonzalez also made comments on the matter.

- 6. RESOLUTION #2023 - 53 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM MILLENIUM PRODUCTS, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN TRAFFIC SAFETY & SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve carried**

Police Supt. Matthew Gainer gave a Power Point presentation on the installation of automated license plate readers, capable of capturing rear license plate registrations at speeds of up to 100 m.p.h. while covering two lanes. Mayor Gonzalez commented that the \$946,000 cost of equipment would be paid for out of a combination of TIF funds, federal (ARP) American Rescue Plan funds, and possibly Police Dept. revenues. The council discussed the matter.

**7. RESOLUTION #2023 - 54 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF ONE VEHICLE FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Zerante stated that approval was sought for the purchase being made at the recommendation of command staff at the department. Purchase price of the vehicle through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative was \$25,614.00.

**8. RESOLUTION #2023 - 55 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL YARD CLEANING AT THE PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE GARAGE FACILITY.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve table.**

COS Zerante stated that approval was sought have Smitty's Tree Service at \$26,700 do the cleanup, grinding and removal of large trees, branches, and other accumulated matter.

**9. RESOLUTION #2023 - 56 : APPROVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve carried**

Supt. Matthew Gainer addressed the council on his recommendation for Deputy Chief of Police, Arturo Robles. Superintendent Gainer spoke on the background of Deputy Chief Robles and his illustrious twenty-three year career with the City. Deputy Chief Robles stepped forward to have Deputy Clerk Rachel Vega administer the oath of office to him.

Supt. Matthew Gainer addressed the council on his recommendation for Chief of Police, Mikal El-Amin. Superintendent Gainer spoke on the background of Police Chief El-Amin and his illustrious twenty-six year career with the City. Police Chief El-Amin stepped forward to have Deputy Clerk Rachel Vega administer the oath of office to him. Police Chief El-Amin expressed his deep honor for the appointment, and his gratitude to all for their support. Mayor Gonzalez offered his gratitude to Police Chief El-Amin for his years of dedication and service.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:50 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Rodgers**

**Motion to approve carried.**

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk