

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, May 4, 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 6:05 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 Baikauskas joined the meeting at 6:16 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 had no ward meeting announcements.

Alderman Rodgers announced that she would host her next ward meeting with Pastor Franklin, Christ for Everyone Ministries, on Saturday May 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. He announced the Memorial Day Parade on May 30th, and the 4th Ward Garage Sale event on June 4th.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on May 27th 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 May 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that she would host the Mother's Day Flower Pop-Up event on May 7th, and the 7th Ward Garage Sale event on May 14th.

Mayor Gonzalez made note that the City administrators had a major discussion regarding areas, such as Saratoga and 202nd Street, where water from heavy rains entered into residents' basements. The City planned to meet with engineers to strategize a plan that concentrated on those areas needing primary attention.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charles Dieringer addressed the council on the City's tree inventory, natural gas/electric vehicles, and the proposed veterans' home.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante announced several events: the city-wide Community Clean-Up Day on May 14th; the Memorial Day Parade on May 30th; and the annual fireworks display on July 1st.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Corporation Counsel Somer announced that the City of Chicago Heights, Bloom Township and School District 170 were sponsoring a Town Hall meeting on June 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Middle School. Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President, would be present to present a report of the current activities in Cook County.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF April 20, 2022.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Perez 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 APRIL 2022.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 586,952.61.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2022 - 12 : AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING THE ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSES.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Perez 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.

COS Somer explained that the ordinance prohibited the issuance of business licenses for cannabis smoking lounges until the City had an idea of the proper controls that should be placed on the activity, and until it knew what other communities were doing in that area. Brief discussion on the matter.

4. ORDINANCE #2022 - 13 : AMENDING CHAPTER 35 OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES AND AUTHORIZING THE LATERAL HIRING OF POLICE OFFICERS.

Alderman moved Baikauskas, 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.

Chief Rogers explained that the ordinance would allow the City to hire police officers who were police officers already, elsewhere. This would greatly assist in alleviating the problem the department was experiencing in recruiting a sufficient number of entry-level police officer applicants.

5. RESOLUTION #2022 - 50 : APPROVING CERTAIN STATE ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE CITY'S INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY TO BE CONDUCTED ON JULY 1, 2022.

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.

Jessica Mancina, Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events, gave the council specific details on the road closures.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 - 51 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM GREAT LAKES URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH A CITY TREE INVENTORY.

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 reported on the Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management project, that would conduct and create a GIS tree inventory for trees in public spaces in the City, in accordance with its proposal for \$ 63,250. A grant through Morton Arboretum would reimburse the City \$ 15,000 of these costs. Discussion on the matter before the vote.

7. RESOLUTION #2022 - 52 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 10 EAST JOE ORR ROAD

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Baikauskas seconded, a motion to TABLE the resolution.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to TABLE approved

Mayor Gonzalez asked for a motion to table the resolution.

8. RESOLUTION #2022 - 53 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 711 W. 15TH STREET.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rogers 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, reported to the council on the proposed sale of the abandoned commercial property, which the City took ownership of for purposes of redevelopment. Kevin O'Connor, attorney for the purchaser, addressed the council and gave a description of what the buyer intended to do with the property. The council asked questions, and a discussion around the matter took place.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:05 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Perez 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