

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, May 19, 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 David 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

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 <sup>st</sup> Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward Wanda Rodgers	Present
	4 <sup>th</sup> Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward George Brassea	Present
	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7 <sup>th</sup> Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez – absent

Alderman Rodgers – no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park District Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. He also announced that he would host the annual 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Garage Sale on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Brassea – no announcements

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

Alderman Merrick announced that a vaccination clinic would be held on May 28th at Bloom High School for students ages twelve and over, as well as for parents. Vaccinations would continue at Bloom Trail High School on June 4th and June 18th.

Mayor Gonzalez reported that he would earmark funds in the 2021/2022 budget for demolition expenditures in the Beacon Hill area, in response to residents' concerns about housing conditions. Also, the Mayor would meet with Prairie State College about the need for sidewalks on Halsted and Vollmer surrounding the campus, and he would earmark funds for this project as well. Lastly, the City would look into placing speed bumps on Serena Drive, where residents complained there was speeding.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mary Kudlo addressed the council on the subject of the senior discount on water bills.

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on a committee to facilitate "greening" of the City, notifications for community clean-ups, the maintenance of City equipment, and the status of the Ford Heights School District # 169 consolidation matter.

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

COS Zerante reported on the collaboration between the City, Prairie State College, and Cook County that accomplished the successful temporary relocation of the DMV Dept. of Motor Vehicles at the college. COS Zerante also reported that she and Police Chief Thomas Rogers researched potential traffic calming devices, in addition to speed bumps, for Serena Drive and other areas in the City. An update and recommendation would be forthcoming at the next council meeting.

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

No Report

#### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF MAY 5, 2021**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF MAY 2021.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

**3. RESOLUTION #2021 - 43 : APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF CITY'S AGREEMENT FOR I.T. SERVICES WITH AIS, INC.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried

COS Zerante stated that the extension was for an annual period and under the same terms, conditions and pricing as the original agreement in 2017. AIS had always performed admirably for the City in the past.

**4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 44 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that it was the recommendation of Andrew Smith, City Engineer, to award the bid to low bidder Iroquois Paving for the bid amount of \$ 457,731.08. Project was estimated to start in June and finish in October. Brief discussion.

**5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 45 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE UNION PACIFIC QUIET ZONE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve** carried.

COS Zerante stated that it was the recommendation of Andrew Smith, City Engineer, to award the bid to low bidder Iroquois Paving for the bid amount of \$ 332,872.09. Project would involve the closing, as well as the improvement, of several crossings. No discussion.

**6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 46 : AUTHORIZING A DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE ABANDONED RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 33 WEST 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve** carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the owner was no longer interested in the abandoned property. The City would acquire and market the property, so that it could be returned to the tax rolls. No discussion.

**7. RESOLUTION #2021 - 47 : APPROVING THE SALE OF A VACANT CITY OWNED SURPLUS LOT AT 146 E. 16<sup>TH</sup> 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, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the owner of the property next to the vacant lot would purchase the property for one dollar. The new owner would be responsible for the real estate taxes and maintenance of the lot. Brief discussion.

**8. RESOLUTION #2021 - 48 : APPROVING A HBK ENGINEERING AS A CITY ENGINEER FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Zerante explained that under the Master Services Agreement, HBK would provide engineering services for special projects related to sewer infrastructure. The City worked with HBK on a number of projects in the past and experienced great results. Brief discussion.

**9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 49 : APPROVING A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 137 E. 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS. (former site of Faso Excavating; applicant: DLM School Bus lines).**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve carried.**

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the owners deeded the abandoned, tax delinquent property to the City, who eliminated the back taxes and made the property marketable. DLM would rehab the property and make it compliant with City Code. Some discussion.

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

**10. RESOLUTION #2021 - 50 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (19 WC 023982) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THIS DATE AND BY MEMORANDUM.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez

**Motion to approve carried.**

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with the aldermen, and no one requested an executive session to discuss Item # 10 on the agenda. Therefore, he believed the council could proceed to take action.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to adjourn by acclamation carried.

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk