

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, June 2, 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 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Saturday, June 5th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama Stem Academy.

Alderman Perez announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Monday, June 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield Elementary.

Alderman Rodgers announced that she would host a clean-up event on the east side of the 3rd Ward on Monday, June 21st. She invited volunteers to come out that morning.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, June 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. He also announced that he would host the 4th Ward Neighborhood Garage Sale on June 5th from 8 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Brassea – absent

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting in coordination with Park District Commissioner Curtis Straczek on June 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Friday, June 4th. She also announced that she would host a Pfizer vaccine event in collaboration with Howard Brown Health for persons ages 12 and over on Friday, June 4th at Bloom Trail High School between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the Little Calumet River Water Shed community stormwater meetings, CERTs, the Citizens Emergency Response Team program, and his concern over dead trees on private property.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante announced that the Community Tree Planting project was in process, and that she would be contacting the council members to schedule the date of planting, once tree stock and locate were confirmed.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF MAY 19, 2021.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF MAY 2021.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 397,399.83.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

3. **ORDINANCE #2021 - 6 : AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-14 TO CORRECT THE INADVERTANT INCLUSION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY INDEX NUMBERS FOR ANNEXATION.**

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the ordinance.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried

Corporation Council Somer explained that the City became aware that two PIN #'s (32-15-402-002 & 003-0000) were mistakenly contained in the recent ordinance that annexed certain parcels for the Eastern Industrial TIF. This amending ordinance would correct that error by excluding them from the annexation.

4. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 51 : APPROVING A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH "AXON ENTERPRISE, INC." FOR THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY CAMERA SYSTEM.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante requested permission to move forward on another five-year term agreement for a total cost of \$ 631,020. She added that Police Chief Rogers and police staff were extremely pleased with Axon's service thus far. No discussion.

5. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 52 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S "INVEST IN COOK" ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (Euclid Avenue at 26th Street).**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that the Invest in Cook program awarded the City a grant of \$ 477,900 for the project. City Engineer Andrew Smith reviewed all the bids, and made the recommendation to award the project to lowest responsible bidder Davis Concrete for bid amount of \$ 727,320.85. No discussion.

6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 53 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CDBG SEWER REPAIR PROJECT (East 16th Street).

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that consulting engineer Mark Moen, HBK Engineering, reviewed the bids, and made the recommendation to award the project to M & J Underground for the bid amount of \$ 130,817.89. No discussion.

7. RESOLUTION #2021 - 54 : APPROVING THE SALE OF A VACANT CITY OWNED SURPLUS LOT AT 1506 OTTO BOULEVARD PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S "LOT NEXT DOOR" PROGRAM. (Applicant: Ruben Ayon)

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that this was a blighted property, which the City acquired through a deed in lieu of foreclosure. The purchaser hoped to build a home on the lot, which was next door to his parents' home. No discussion.

8. RESOLUTION #2021 - 55 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 304 STATE STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS (to Masco, Inc. d/b/a Behr Paint).

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the resolution related to the council's recent approval of the sale of 14 acres to Chicagoland Garage Builders. Since two of the acres currently served Behr Paint, the City intended to sell those two acres instead to Behr for \$ 100,000. No discussion.

9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 56 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH A NOTICE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE CITY'S 2021 TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported on the forthcoming annual spring/summer parkway tree trimming and tree removal project. Final canvassing of trees would be done soon, at which time the City would be ready to go out to bid on the project.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:32 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Brassea

Motion to adjourn.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk