

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, June 7, 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 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, June 10th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School, and that Ward 1 would participate in the city-wide garage sale on June 10th.

Alderman Perez announced she would not host a ward meeting in the months of June and July, and that Ward 2 would participate in the city-wide garage sale on June 10th.

Alderman Rodgers announced she would host a CPR Training class on June 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District. Alderman Rodgers announced the Juneteenth celebration to be held on June 17th from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Smith Park.

Alderman Baikuskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikuskas on Monday, June 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School, and that Ward 4 would participate in the city-wide garage sale on June 10th. Alderman Baikuskas announced the Music in the Park event on June 26th at Landeen Park.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on June 20th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Police & Fire Training Center in Olympia Plaza.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Commissioner Straczek on Monday, June 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park, and that Ward 6 would participate in the city-wide garage sale on June 10th.

Alderman Merrick announced that Ward 7 would participate in the city-wide garage sale on June 10th. Alderman Merrick noted that the Juneteenth celebration on June 17th at Smith Park would include activities such as horse rides, petting zoo, and the picnic table painting project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Billie Davis, a resident of the City, inquired about repairs to her street.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

none

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

none

MINUTES: MEETING OF MAY 17, 2023.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Brassea

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF MAY 2023.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,790,349.34.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

- 1. RESOLUTION #2023 - 63 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 164 HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL. (Tabled from May 17, 2023).**

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.

Corporation Somer stated that it was the unanimous consensus of the aldermen that out of two proposals received, the aldermen chose to consider the proposal of Evoke, which wished to establish a state licensed cannabis dispensary at the location.

2. **RESOLUTION #2023 – 65 : AMENDING THE AGREEMENT WITH MILLENIUM PRODUCTS, INC., FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A CITYWIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY/SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM.**

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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.

Police Supt. Matthew Gainer reported that the amendment was due to a change order, which resulted in new cameras, better software integration, and extended warranties for the City.

3. **RESOLUTION #2023 – 66 : APPROVING AGREEMENTS TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED SURPLUS PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.**

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.

Corporation Counsel stated that approval was sought to close on nine additional properties. He remarked that thus far the City closed on 120 properties, with 180 more to go.

4. **RESOLUTION #2023 – 67 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2023 STORM SEWER INLET & CATCH BASIN CLEANING PROJECT.**

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 that it was the recommendation of engineering consultant John Caruso to accept the low bid of M & J Underground for \$ 517,759.00. COS Zerante stated that this four-year project would alleviate street flooding and take strain off the storm sewer systems.

5. **RESOLUTION #2023 – 68 :** **APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY’S 2023 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT 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 reported that it was the recommendation of City Engineer Andrew Smith to award the bid to D Construction for \$367,364.95 for road improvement on Holbrook Circle. There was a brief question on the matter.

6. **RESOLUTION #2023 - 69 :** **APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #22WC016740) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AND BY MEMORANDUM FOR THIS DATE.**

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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he had discussion with all the aldermen, and that there was no request to move into executive session before taking action on the item.

7. **RESOLUTION #2023 - 70 :** **APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COOK COUNTY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN VACANT LAND PARCELS.**

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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 explained that the agreement allowed the City to exchange one City lot at 1334 Wentworth Avenue for HACC's twenty vacant lots at 12th Street and Claude Court. HACC would incorporate the lot into the expansion of its Sunrise Housing Development.

8. RESOLUTION #2023 - 71 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE HAWTHORNE LANE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that it was the recommendation of engineering consulting John Caruso to award the bid to Iroquois Paving for \$347,702. Additional inlets, manhole structures, and pipe would be provided to alleviate flooding in the Hawthorne, Willow and Maple Drive areas.

9. RESOLUTION #2023 - 72 : ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS OF COOK COUNTY CLERK KAREN YARBROUGH FOR THE APRIL 4, 2023 CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE CORPORATE OFFICES OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS AND DECLARING THE WINNERS OF THOSE CONTESTS ELECTED FOR THE FOUR YEAR TERM COMMENCING JUNE 7, 2023.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough, as the formal election authority, declared the winners of the recent municipal election, and issued Certificates of Election based on her findings. The City's resolution would adopt those same findings.

10. ORDINANCE #2023 - 15 : APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CITY CLERK TO SERVE AS "CITY COLLECTOR".

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 stated that state law and city ordinance provided that the City Clerk may also serve as City Collector, as has been the case historically. The resolution would permit the new City Clerk to serve as City Collector.

11. MOTION FOR ADJOURMENT SINE DIE.

12. At 6:37 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting sine die.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk

13. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS.

Corporation Counsel Somer asked the City Council to vacate the dias and to line-up center in front of the dias, so that Judge Nichole Patton could administer the oath of office to the aldermen.

Judge Patton administered the oath of office to the city council collectively.

Judge Patton administered the oath of office to Cassandra Everett, newly elected City Treasurer.

Judge Patton administered the oath of office to Rachel Vega, newly elected City Clerk.

Judge Patton lastly administered the oath of office to Mayor David A. Gonzalez.

Corporation Counsel Somer asked the new city council members to resume their seats on the dias, and for Treasurer Everett and Clerk Vega to take their seats at the department head table.

14. CALL TO ORDER OF NEWLY ELECTED AND SWORN CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the newly elected Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:45 p.m.

15. ROLL CALL BY CITY 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

16. COMMUNICATIONS.

The elected officials remarked on their past terms and on their forthcoming terms.

Mayor Gonzalez congratulated all the newly elected officials and said that he looked forward to the next four years with the council as his team. Mayor Gonzalez reflected on past terms and accomplishments. He spoke of his biggest priorities in the new term, which were to keep neighborhoods and residents safe, providing Police with every resource to accomplish that, and retail economic development along Western Avenue. He thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Rachel Vega, City Clerk