

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, June 16, 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 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Absent
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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be held on July 10th 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 School. The Alderman requested that representatives from the Police and Street Departments attend the meeting.

Alderman Rodgers announced that the Exodus Project, a clean-up event in certain areas of the Eastside of Ward 3, would take place on Monday, June 21st.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park Commissioner Michelle Baikauskas on Monday, June 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.
Alderman Brassea – no announcements

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in in coordination with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on June 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park. The Alderman requested that a representative from the Police Department attend the meeting.

Alderman Merrick – no announcements

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the topics of trees on Vollmer road blocking driver visibility, the removal of the old medical center on the north side, and the upcoming Kiwanis Club meeting.

Alison Mc McMann, a resident of the City, addressed the council on the topic of having a bike trail on Vollmer Rd, and the possibility of residents owning and raising chickens in the City.

Mayor Gonzalez responded that the City would look for available state or federal funding, since the City had an Active Transportation Plan in effect as required. The Mayor asked the city council to consider the question of whether to permit residents to own and raise chickens in the City, an activity that is not permitted in the City Code currently.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE – absent

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T J SOMER

No report

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: Brassea

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

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

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 1,176,404.65.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2021 - 7 : AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-20 WHICH ESTABLISHED FACE MASK REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE COVID -19 PANDEMIC.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 explained that this ordinance repealed the ordinance passed in 2020 requiring face masks in public, but it did not repeal the right of a business or private property owner to require persons who enter their establishments to wear a face mask if it is the owner's desire.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 57 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM METROPOLITAN PUMP COMPANY FOR HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND INSTALLATION SERVICES RELATED TO THE CITY'S LAKE MICHIGAN WATER MONITORING SYSTEM.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the one-time cost to upgrade the water monitoring system was \$ 59,775, and that the monthly cost to maintain the system was \$ 760. The upgrade would offer better ways for City staff to monitor and adjust the system and to receive alarms.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 58 : APPROVING A 90 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE CERTAIN CITY OWNED SURPLUS LOTS AT AND ADJACANT TO 276 EAST 16th STREET. (Applicant: Christ For Everyone Church Solar Project & parking)

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.

Corporation Counsel Somer informed the council that the church proposed to purchase forty-nine lots for its project, with twenty-six lots owned by the City and the remainder owned by Cook County Land Bank.

6. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 59 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 210 WEST JOE ORR ROAD, CHICAGO HEIGHTS (Applicants: LaTasha Smith & Tracy Barnett).**

Alderman Smith 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 Somer stated that the purchasers entered into an option to purchase agreement with the City previously, and now were ready to proceed with the purchase. He said that he would include a Class 8 as Exhibit A to the documents approved.

7. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 60 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CDBG ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Project# 2006-062) (16th Street from State Street to East End Avenue)**

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

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the City Engineer reviewed the bids received, and it was his recommendation to award to lowest responsible bidder, Iroquois Paving, for the bid amount of \$ 852,187, which was lower than the engineer's project estimate of \$ 1,192,000.

8. **RESOLUTION #2021 - 61 : APPROVING A GRANT AWARD AND APPLICATION FOR IHDA'S ABANDONED PROPERTY MUNICIPAL RELIEF PROGRAM – ROUND 5.**

Alderman Zaranti 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.

Mayor Gonzalez noted that the grant of \$ 225,000 was awarded to the City as reimbursement for grass cutting expenditures the City incurred in the maintenance of abandoned properties.

9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 62 : APPROVING A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH "CORNERSTONE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, INC."

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Smith 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.

Mayor Gonzalez explained that the company would assist the City with state and federal grant acquisitions for economic and recreational development opportunities. The company would lobby on behalf of the City for the release of grant funds approved in state and federal budgets, but which grant funds were not released after approval by those governments. There was brief discussion on the matter.

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

Corporation Counsel Somer noted that he communicated with the aldermen and that he received no indication that there was any need for the council to go into executive session before it could take action on the matter.

10. RESOLUTION #2021 - 63 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case # 20 L 002907) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MEMORANDUM FOR THIS DATE

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:41 p.m. Alderman Baikuskas moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to adjourn by acclamation carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk