

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, June 21, 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 CITY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	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 she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, July 8th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - absent.

Alderman Rodgers announced she would host a free of charge CPR Training class on June 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, June 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. Alderman Baikauskas announced the Music in the Park event on June 26th at 4:00 p.m. at Landeen Park.

Alderman Brassea - absent.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Monday, June 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no ward meeting announcement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Ali, a resident of the City, voiced her concern about tree trimming and unkempt property near her home, and a nuisance neighbor.

Donna Counihan, a resident of the City, commented on fast driving in residential areas.

Michael Alexander, a resident of the City, inquired about city code violations and policies.

Susan Boyle, a resident of the City, commented on speeding and parking on Dixie Hwy and Chicago Road near 10th Street.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on the City’s July 3rd Fireworks display at the Bloom High School field. There would be a family fun zone for children with parents or guardians, food and music.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

MINUTES: MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2023

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JUNE 2023

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$2,790,586.78.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

- 1. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2023 - 73: APPROVING AGREEMENTS TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED SURPLUS PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY’S APAP PROGRAM.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported to the council on the additional six properties that were ready for the closing sale.

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

- 2. RESOLUTION #2023 – 74 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #22 WC 27991) 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, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with all the aldermen and no one indicated there was a need to go into executive session before taking action on the agenda item.

- 3. RESOLUTION #2023 - 75 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE LANSING PUMP STATION GENERATOR.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that permission was sought for purchase of a double throw switch and tap box from Okeh Electric Company for \$37,200.

4. ORDINANCE #2023 - 16 : AMENDING CHAPTER 2 ½, SECTION 35.5 (1) OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "IMPOUNDMENT OF VEHICLES".

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the amendment added the terms "fleeing and aggravated fleeing" to the current ordinance, giving the Police Department an important law enforcement tool.

5. ORDINANCE #2023 - 17 : AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "BUSINESS LICENSES".

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that this was an extensive re-write of the current ordinance. The amendment would define due process rights and address other license issues as well.

6. ORDINANCE #2023 - 18 : AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "PURCHASING – COUNCIL APPROVAL."

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel explained that the amendment changed the amount in the current ordinance from \$20,000 to \$50,000 related to purchases that may be made, subject to approval by the city council via the bill run.

7. ORDINANCE #2023 - 19 : AMENDING CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "FORESTRY."

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that the amendment was a substantive revision to the current ordinance. The amendment was made in consultation with the team at Morton Arboretum, and dealt with issues such as other contractors and responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:48 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Rachel Vega, City Clerk