

**Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, July 6, 2022 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 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY CORPORATION COUNSEL T. J. SOMER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Smith announced her next ward meeting would be held on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - absent.

Alderman Rodgers announced a joint venture event with Christ for Everyone Ministries on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at King Park.

Alderman Baikauskas - absent.

Alderman Brassea announced his next ward meeting would be held on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced his next ward meeting would be held in partnership with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no ward meeting announcement.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Attorney August Anzelmo, representing the Chicago Heights Kiwanis Club, was there to personally invite Mayor Gonzalez to the organization's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial Reception on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Anzelmo asked if the City could provide a proclamation in honor of the Kiwanis Club, and hoped that the Mayor could attend and read the proclamation at the celebration. The invitation was extended to the city council as well.

Tom Camilleri and Fran Pena, residents of the City, informed the council about their concern over the occupancy of a house in their neighborhood. They also asked if the City would place speed bumps on their street.

Roxanna Scott, a resident of the City, voiced her concern about the excessive lighting of powerful and dangerous fireworks in her neighborhood during the Fourth of July holiday season.

Yolanda Hill, a long-time resident of the City, thanked the Mayor and city council for the upgrading of the Hill area. She commended them on the great job they were doing.

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

Reported on the City's Fourth of July fireworks celebration. COS Zerante reported on several projects--roadway, sidewalk and sewer--that were simultaneously taking place in the City. Lastly, COS Zerante commented on the beautiful tribute to the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall made possible by Bloom Township Supervisor T. J. Somer and his staff. The memorial wall arrived at Marian Catholic High School on July 5<sup>th</sup> and would depart on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

Corporation Counsel Somer further commented on the Vietnam Memorial Wall display, as well as the motorcade escort, key note speakers, and ceremonies, saying that over twelve communities participated in preparing for the event.

Mayor Gonzalez reported that the estimated budget for fiscal year May 1, 2022/April 30, 2023 would be posted next day, Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. The City would hold a public hearing on the budget preceding the next council meeting, at which the council would vote on the final budget.

#### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2022.**

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the minutes.

**Ayes:** Rodgers, Brassea, Zaranti

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** Smith, Merrick

**Absent:** Perez, Baikauskas

**Motion to approve carried.**

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF JUNE 2022.**

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 2,261,607.34.

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez, Baikauskas

**Motion to approve carried.**

**3. ORDINANCE #2022 - 17 : AMENDING CHAPTER 21-77 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING GRASS AND WEED NUISANCE ABATEMENT.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez, Baikauskas

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Zerante explained that the ordinance amended the length of time required to provide notice for grass and nuisance abatement from ten calendar days to five calendar days.

**4. RESOLUTION #2022 - 66 : APPROVING AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 678 WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** Perez, Baikauskas

**Motion to approve carried.**

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, reported that the developer planned to open a Smoothie King at the location of the former Midwest Title, and also a retail store in the rear. Brief discussion on the matter.

**5. RESOLUTION #2022 - 67 : ALLOCATING EXPENDITURES FOR CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the City received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In response to so many homeowners of the City looking for home repair assistance, the City was planning to set up a program that would give financial assistance as a grant based on need to those homeowners. A \$1,000,000 dollar fund would be set up, and homeowners would be able to apply for up to \$10,000 dollars in assistance. Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago would act as grant administrator at a cost of \$ 200,000. COS Zerante also made remarks on the matter. The city council discussed the matter before the vote.

**6. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2022 - 68 : APPROVING THE SALE OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.**

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer said that approval was sought for the sale of the thirteen APAP properties, for which the city already deeds to or would very soon have.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:57 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas

Motion to adjourn carried.

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk