

Minutes of the Public Hearing Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL to receive comment on the City of Chicago Heights proposed budget for corporate and special purposes for the May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Gonzalez called the Public Hearing of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL OF CITY COUNCIL BY CITY CLERK RACHEL VEGA**

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

**3. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS BUDGET FOR CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2023 AND TERMINATING APRIL 30, 2024.**

Mayor Gonzalez gave a slide presentation on the annual budget, having provided a corresponding detailed budget book to the city council. Mayor Gonzalez noted that the budget had been on display for the public's viewing, and proceeded to review and explain items on the following:

- Revenue Budget Summary by Fund Type
- Revenue Budget Summary by Fund Type Compared to Fiscal Year 23
- Expense Budget Summary by Fund Type
- Expense Budget Summary by Fund Type Compared to Fiscal Year 23
- General Fund Revenue Budget by Source Compared to Fiscal Year 23
- General Fund Revenue Budget Summary
- General Fund Expense Budget Summary
- Estimated Fund Balances

**4. CITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT**

Mayor Gonzalez opened up the hearing to the city council, who made comments and asked questions on the matter.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT**

Mayor Gonzalez opened up the hearing to public comment. There was no public comment.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:30 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn the public hearing.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to adjourn carried.

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Rachel Vega, City Clerk

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, July 19, 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 6:31 p.m. immediately following the public hearing.

**ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK RACHEL VEGA**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced the Bloom Township Center Back to School event for July 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Veterans Park.

Alderman Rodgers announced the Park District’s Back to School event for Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the finale of her Music in the Park series for August 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at King Park.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. The alderman announced the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Bike event for August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Middle School, and the re-scheduling of his Music in the Park event, new date to be announced.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p. m. at the Police Training Center in Olympia Plaza.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting along with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no ward meeting announcement.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Michael Alexander, a resident of the City, read a statement that he downloaded from the internet related to the role of Code Enforcement officers.

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

COS Zerante reported on the 2023 Sidewalk program, stating that project specifications were being finalized, and that she would return to the council with specifics in August. COS Zerante also reported on the Tree Trimming and Tree Removal Program. Tree trimming of public trees was currently taking place in the Joe Orr Road area.

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

None

**MINUTES: MEETING OF JULY 5, 2023**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Baikauskas

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

**BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JULY 2023**

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,588,480.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

- 1. ORDINANCE #2023 -     20     : APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2023 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2024.**

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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.

Mayor Gonzalez noted that discussion on the budget was had in the public hearing preceding the council meeting, and that the required Certificate of Estimate of Revenues in the amount of \$110,634,145 was included with the budget.

2. **OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2023 - 80 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.**

Alderman Merrick 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 six more properties were ready to go to closing with the council's approval.

3. **RESOLUTION #2023 - 81 : APPROVING THE SALE OF A CITY OWNED VACANT LOT LOCATED AT 15 EAST 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET VIA THE CITY'S "LOT NEXT DOOR" 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 reported that the resident next door applied to purchase the lot for one dollar as permitted under the program.

4. **RESOLUTION #2023 - 82 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AT 201 EAST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL.**

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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, explained that Cook County had recently conveyed the property to the City. The City sold the property for one dollar to the buyer, who would invest \$500,000 into its rehabilitation.

5. RESOLUTION #2023 - 83 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 1215 HALSTED STREET. (Applicant: Julio Orozco d/b/a "ORO, LLC).

Alderman Merrick 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, reported that the Cook County Landbank conveyed the property to the City. The City sold the property for \$10,000 to the buyer, who would invest \$125,000 into its rehabilitation.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:58 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Perez 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.

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Rachel Vega, City Clerk