

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, July 20, 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 6:56 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, August 13th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School. She also announced that another Ward 1 Yard Sale event was being planned.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday, July 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers announced she would host the following events:

a Family Karaoke event the next evening at Commissioners Park from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

a Christmas in July event on July 31st in partnership with Christ for Everyone Headquarters

a Back to School event at the Chicago Heights Park District on August 6th from 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

A Back to School event in the 3rd Ward on August 20th from 12 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host his next ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, July 25th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. The alderman announced the National Night Out 4th Ward Bike Ride event on Tuesday, August 2nd. It would start at 5:30 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Middle School and ride through the 4th ward.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Wednesday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Thursday, July 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no announcement for the next ward meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jackie Stowell, a resident of the City, addressed the city council about a neighboring resident, who was causing problems on her block.

Jewell Mathias, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on the same problem as Jackie Stowell.

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on the subject of the City's tree removal process and also on water loss due to leaks in the City's water system.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported that Local 150 Operating Engineers were on strike since early June. She stated that there were extraordinary projects in progress, in terms of work, some of which included sidewalk and curb repairs. Residents with concerns should call the Mayor's Office. She reported that Bloom Township Center would host a Back Pack Give-A-Way event on July 26th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JULY 6, 2022.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JULY 2022.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,585,572.18.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

- 3. ORDINANCE #2022 – 18 : APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2022 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2023.**

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Perez 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 cautioned everyone to keep in mind that even though expenditures were included in the budget, expenditures still had to come before the city council for approval.

- 4. RESOLUTION #2022 – 69 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 6B PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR THE INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AT 555 EAST 16TH STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS (APPLICANT: BULL MOOSE TUBE CO.)**

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 Somer explained that the company's current tax classification was expiring, and it was applying for renewal of the tax class, which would again provide it with some reduction in its real estate taxes due.

- 5. RESOLUTION #2022 – 70 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT WITH "BOYD FUNERAL SERVICE, LLC" FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1340 OTTO BOULEVARD.**

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 Somer explained that the property was the former Hirsch Funeral Home. Tonya Spriggs, principal of Serenity Gardens Funeral Services, and Nathaniel Boyd, principal of Boyd Funeral Service, addressed the city council. They described their plans to renovate the property. There was an in-depth discussion, including what would ultimately be required by the City for the proposed business to be able to open.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 – 71 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM "M.E. SIMPSON CO., INC." FOR THE CITY'S 2022 WATER LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM.

Alderman Perez 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.

COS Zerante stated that approval was sought to accept the proposal from M. E. Simpson Company for \$ 43,475 for the City-wide water leak detection survey done annually. The survey would cover 185 miles of water main.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. Alderman Smith 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 adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk