

Minutes of the Special City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, JULY 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting held "in person" at Bloom Township Center, 425 S. Halsted Street, Chicago Heights, IL.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor David Gonzalez called the Special meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:39 p.m. The city council meeting immediately followed the close of the Public Hearing that preceded it.

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA**

<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>Present</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Wanda Rodgers</b>	<b>Present</b>
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Ward Christopher Baikauskas</b>	<b>Present</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 – no announcements**

**Alderman Perez announced that her next ward meeting would be held on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield Elementary School.**

**Alderman Rodgers announced that she would host a Back to School event on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Park District East Golf Course. Event would be co-hosted by Alderman Smith and Alderman Merrick.**

**Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. The alderman also announced that he and Park District Commissioner Michelle Baikauskas would host a bike riding event on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. starting from the Chicago Heights Middle School.**

**Alderman Brassea – no announcements**

**Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting in coordination with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.**

Alderman Merrick announced that she would host a vaccination event for ages twelve and above on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bloom High School's McCann gym from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The alderman also announced the Back to School event on August 7th at the Chicago Heights Park District that she would co-host.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on the following topics: the "Vision 2023" committee, water re-use, Thorn Creek Sanitary Basin Sanitary District sewer discharge, and a Metropolitan Water Reclamation District meeting.

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

COS Zerante reported on the following topics: the council chambers renovation that included audiovisual and media improvements, the temporary re-location of council meetings at Bloom Township Center during the renovation, the importance of increasing the rate of vaccination in the City, the new mobile Civic Plus app for the City website, and a ComEd safety initiative grant for \$ 10,000 for the purchase of safety equipment/traffic calming devices on City streets.

#### **REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T. J. SOMER – None**

#### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF JULY 7, 2021.**

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

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** Merrick

**Absent:** none

**Motion to approve carried.**

#### **2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF JULY 2021.**

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 1,629,476.00.

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

**Nays:** none

**Abstain:** none

**Absent:** none

**Motion to approve carried.**

#### **3. ORDINANCE # 2021 - 10: APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2021 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2022.**

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Brassea 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**

The city council discussed the budget during the Public Hearing that immediately preceded the city council meeting.

**4. ORDINANCE #2021 - 11 : AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

**Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick 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 stated that the proposed ordinance would reverse Ordinance 2018-20, requested by the Mayor in 2018 to reduce his salary to one dollar annually for four years. The new ordinance also adopted a revised residency for non-collective bargaining employees. Brief discussion.

**5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 70 : APPROVING A MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF CITY TREASURER.**

**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.**

Mayor Gonzalez introduced mayoral appointee, Laretta Adams, and expressed his great confidence in her and her professional qualifications for the position. Council members expressed their welcome to the new City Treasurer. Deputy Clerk Rachel Vega proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to Laretta Adams.

**6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 71 : APPROVING A 60 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT WITH 303 STATE STREET, LLC FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 291 SOUTH HALSTED STREET (the former Prairie Tire).**

**Alderman Baikauskas moved, 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.**

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated that the owner of 303 State Street, LLC currently owned a business in the City, noting that the owner had invested five million dollars into said business. The owner was now looking to expand his business. No discussion.

- 7. RESOLUTION #2021 - 72 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1889 DIVISION STREET PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP 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 Somer commented that this was the sale of another abandoned property that would be completed once the Cook County tax abatement was granted.

- 8. RESOLUTION #2021 - 73 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2021 TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.**

**Alderman Smith 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.**

COS Zerante reported that the sole bidder was Desiderio Landscaping for a bid amount of \$ 71,000, which included 164 tree removals and 29 stump removals. No discussion.

- 9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 74 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR MEDIA CONSULTING SERVICES WITH MICHAEL TAYLOR MEDIA SERVICES.**

**Alderman Brassea 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 noted how important it was for the City to communicate to the public all the projects, events, programs, and services that were available. Michael Taylor Media Services possessed extensive expertise and would assist the City in developing and delivering news to the public. No discussion.

**10. RESOLUTION #2021- 75 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR SANITARY AND STORM SEWER RECONSTRUCTION AND STREET REPAVING ON D'AMICO AVENUE.**

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Brassea 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 reported that the low bidder on the sewer repairs was M&J Underground in the amount of \$ 32,886.82. Low bidder for pavement repair and repaving was Gallagher Asphalt Corporation in the amount of \$ 176,161.63. Brief discussion.

**11. RESOLUTION #2021 - 76 : APPROVING PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED BY CHRISTOPHER BURKE ENGINEERING FOR EQUIPMENT, INSTALLATION AND SERVICES RELATED TO THE CITY WATER SYSTEM TRANSMISSION MAIN FLOW MONITORING.**

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.**

Mayor Gonzalez explained that the equipment would allow the City to monitor meter water flow and to identify where water loss was occurring. The consulting engineer recommended approval of the two proposals for equipment and installation: Metropolitan \$ 122,353.00 and Airy's Inc. \$ 70,625.75. The Mayor asked that Aquify's monitoring services portion of the proposal be tabled at this time. There was a question on the matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:31 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to adjourn carried.**

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**Lori Wilcox, City Clerk**