

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, August 16, 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 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on September 9th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - absent.

Alderman Rodgers announced the finale of her Music in the Park series for August 19th at King Park from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Baikauskas - absent.

Alderman Brassea announced he would host his next ward meeting on August 23rd at the Police Training Center in Olympia Plaza.

Alderman Zaranti - absent.

Alderman Merrick announced that the Union Street Gallery picnic table painting project would continue at the Ward 3 Music in the Park finale at King Park the following Saturday, and then be at the forthcoming Fiesta Chicago Heights festival.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lucyl Caruso, addressed the council on a U. S. Bank matter.

Judge Lloyd Brooks, a judge in the City’s judicial district, introduced himself and stated how he was desiring to arrange a forum for residents to come together for discussion of topics of their choice.

Judge John Fairman, a judge in the City’s judicial district, introduced himself and apprised the council of mental health programs and assistance offered to residents in the district.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported that the Tree Trimming and Tree Removal Program for trees on public streets was still ongoing. COS Zerante also reported on the Fiesta Chicago Heights festival with Our Lady of the Heights Church on September 16 & 17. More information would follow on the City’s website and Facebook page.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

MINUTES: MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 2023

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF AUGUST 2023

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,817,127.97.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

1. RESOLUTION #2023 - 86 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2023 50/50 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (tabled from city council meeting of August 2, 2023).

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante asked for approval of the bid award to low bidder J. J. Newell Concrete for \$312,858. The project was projected to be completed by end of October.

2. RESOLUTION #2023 - 90 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1644 VINCENNES. (Applicant: LaBranche Child Care Center).

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer recalled that the city council recently approved the sale of the City owned property to the applicant. The tax classification would assist the new owner in the rehabilitation and re-occupancy of the property.

3. RESOLUTION #2023 - 91 : APPROVING A CLASS 8 RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1720 CHICAGO ROAD. (Applicant: Vemuri 1, LLC).

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the property was a strip plaza with five businesses. The tax classification would assist the owner in continuing to run the plaza successfully.

4. RESOLUTION #2023 - 92 : APPROVING THE CITY’S APPLICATION FOR THE “OPEN SPACE LANDS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT” GRANT (OSLAD).

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

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that the application was made with focus on the Eastside park project, for which the City had already acquired some vacant lots. Corporation Counsel added that this project would be the first park development attached to Lincoln School.

5. ORDINANCE #2023 - 21 : APPROVING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL LAND LOCATED AT ROUTE 30 & INDIANA AVENUE INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to TABLE the ordinance.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to TABLE carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer asked for a motion to TABLE the ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:23 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Rodgers, Brassea, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Rachel Vega, City Clerk