

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, August 17, 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 6:03 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	Absent
	4th Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5th Ward George Brassea	Absent
	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, September 10th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers – absent.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Monday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea – absent.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park. He announced the Michael Jackson Tribute event for August 27th from 3-6:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick – no ward meeting announcement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on: the recent Back to School events hosted by the aldermen; Alderman Rodgers' Back to School event at King Park the coming weekend; plans to partner with community organizations in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and Mexican Independence Day; and lastly, the progress of the street and sewer projects underway in the City.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2022

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF AUGUST 2022

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 3,716,103.38.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2022 - 74 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE BEACON HILL DEMOLITION PROJECT – PHASE #3.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that it was the recommendation of the City Engineer to award the bid to KLF Enterprises for bid amount of \$ 124,000. The demolitions involved nine properties that were blighted and abandoned. Brief question on the matter.

4. RESOLUTION #2022 - 75 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE BEACON HILL DEMOLITION PROJECT – PHASE #4.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that it was the recommendation of City Engineer to award the bid to Chem Check for the bid amount of \$ 138,000. The demolition involved an additional nine uninhabitable and abandoned homes. Brief comments on the matter.

5. RESOLUTION #2022 - 76 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE CITY'S 2022 50/50 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that it was the recommendation of the City Engineer to award the bid to J. J. Newell for the bid amount of \$ 111,905.60. COS Zerante stated that almost 11,000 feet of sidewalk would be replaced in the annual program.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 - 77 : APPROVING AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY-OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1526 OTTO BOULEVARD (former Star Newspaper Building) AND 65 EAST 16TH STREET. Applicant: Grand Legacy Group, LLC.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated that the standard ninety-day agreement allowed the prospective buyer to do its due diligence in estimating the exact cost to improve the building. Brief questions on the matter.

7. RESOLUTION #2022 - 78 : APPROVING THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN STATE ROADWAYS FOR THE MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE.

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

- Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick
- Nays: none
- Abstain: none
- Absent: Rodgers, Brassea
- Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante stated that September 17th was the parade date, and route would start in the vicinity of Bloom High School and proceed north on Chicago Road to Vollmer Road and finish up at Prairie State College.

8. RESOLUTION #2022 - 79 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE SARATOGA FARMS STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Baikauskas seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

- Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick
- Nays: none
- Abstain: none
- Absent: Rodgers, Brassea
- Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that it was the recommendation of John Caruso, Christopher Burke Engineering, consultant to the City, to award the bid to low bidder Airy’s, Inc. for the bid amount of \$ 868,704. The project aimed to resolve street flooding and back up in the area. Brief questions on the matter.

9. RESOLUTION #2022 - 80 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW DEFIBRILLATOR UNIT FOR THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

- Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick
- Nays: none
- Abstain: none
- Absent: Rodgers, Brassea
- Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante explained the purchase of two defibrillator units and their components from Zoll Medical Corporation in the amount of \$ 80,790.52; the equipment would be used in the fire department's back line ambulances.

10. RESOLUTION #2022 - 81 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY-OWNED SURPLUS VACANT LAND LOCATED AT 807 HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that pursuant to the APAP program, the City had deeds to the commercial building at 731 Halsted and the parking lots that bordered the building. Upon approval, the City would close on the sale, whereby rehabilitation of the property would be done by the new owner. Discussion on the matter occurred before the vote.

11. ORDINANCE #2022 - 21 : APPROVING A PLAT OF SUBDIVISION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 571 WEST 14TH STREET (CubeSmart Self Storage property).

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

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that CubeSmart planned to subdivide the outlots bordering Route 30 for new construction and commercial development.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers, Brassea

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk