

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

***To be conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020 and extension thereof set forth in Executive order 2020-39. Meeting to be broadcast at City Hall with opportunity made available for public attendance and/or participation subject to social distancing regulations. Attendees must be attired in mask and gloves and may not be experiencing any symptoms of the COVID virus, i.e., fever, cough, sore throat, or uncommon fatigue.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith - announced a neighborhood clean-up event on Saturday, 5th at 9:00 a.m.

Alderman Perez – no announcements

Alderman Rodgers – no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas – no announcements

Alderman Brassea – announced his ward meeting to be by Zoom video conferencing on September 30th. The link to the meeting was available from the Mayor's Office.

Alderman Zaranti – absent

Alderman Merrick – no announcements

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alison McMann, a resident of the City, addressed the city council regarding water flow coming into the City from Pine Lake in University Park, and the vacant Suburban Heights Medical Center building.

Charles Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council regarding tree removal, sidewalks in Ward 5, Covid-19 testing, and the public announcement cable channel.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that the City had done a walk through in Ward 5 and was putting together a list of specific areas of concern that would be addressed.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported on the Brianaland Project recently held at City Hall; the road improvement projects on Main Street and on 23rd Street, which were progressing on schedule; and the 50/50 Sidewalk Project soon to be underway. Participating residents would be receiving a letter from the City Engineer with specific sidewalk project details. Initial steps in the LED Street Lighting Conversion program were taken and the program was underway. Results of the storm water survey for the 202nd Street area were expected to be submitted to the City in a week or two.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

No

1. MINUTES: APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2020.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST AND SECOND RUN OF AUGUST 2020.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2020 - 51 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH A NOTICE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE 2020 TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante reported that the list was comprised of trees on parkways throughout the City--94 dead trees to be removed and 129 trees to be trimmed. Bid notice would be published in approximately a week.

4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 52 : APPROVING DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROPERTIES AT 1663 ABERDEEN STREET AND 14 WEST 24TH STREET.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel reported that with the City's acquisition of the properties, two more abandoned properties would be removed from the neighborhoods and returned to the tax rolls.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, PERSONNEL ISSUES OR THE USE/DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED LAND – IF NECESSARY.

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that he polled the council members, and that there was no need to go into executive session before addressing the next agenda item.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 53 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case # 15 WC 36149) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSIONS AND BY MEMORANDUM OF THIS DATE.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to approve carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:33 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Baikauskas seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Zaranti

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk