

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, September 7, 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:	1 st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	3 rd Ward Wanda Rodgers	Absent
	4 th Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5 th Ward George Brassea	Present
	6 th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7 th 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 - absent.

Alderman Rodgers - absent.

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

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Wednesday September 28th at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer Road, Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Monday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Thursday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michelle Loveless, a resident of the City, voiced concerns regarding a nuisance neighbor and an abandoned property near her home; she inquired on the status of the VA housing project.

Carl Wolf, Executive Director of Respond Now, informed the city council on the one and a half million dollar renovation project taking place at Respond Now. He estimated the project would be completed in February, at which time there would be a Grand Re-Opening.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante updated the council on the plans and progress of the City's upcoming Mexican Independence Parade to be held September 17, 2022.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

none

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2022

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: Brassea

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF AUGUST 2022

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,249,575.23

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2022 – 22: APPROVING A PETITION TO VACATE CERTAIN ALLEYWAYS ADJACENT TO 276 EAST 16TH STREET RELATED TO THE CHRIST FOR EVERYONE CHURCH SOLAR PROJECT.

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that after the three alleys were vacated, they would be attached to the adjoining parcels that were part of the solar project.

4. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2022 – 82: APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that once final sale was approved, the five properties were ready for closing, with subsequent rehabilitation to follow.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION;
USE OR DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED LAND; OR PERSONNEL ISSUES (*IF NECESSARY*).

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that he communicated with the aldermen, and no one indicated a necessity for an executive session relative to agenda items five and six, thereby the items could be addressed directly.

5. RESOLUTION #2022 – 83: APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #20 WC 25453) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) OF THIS DATE.

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 – 84 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #21 cv 09996) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) OF THIS DATE.

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

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:28 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Brassea seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez, Rodgers

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk