

**Minutes of the Special City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County,  
Illinois held Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting to be held "IN PERSON" at The Bloom Township Center,  
425 Halsted Street, Chicago Heights, IL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gonzalez called the special meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY 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 announced that her next ward meeting would be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that her next ward meeting would be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers announced that she would host a vaccination event on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Chicago Heights Park District.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea – no announcements

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host his next ward meeting in coordination with Park District Commissioner Curtis Straczek on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced she was coordinating a youth painting project, whose theme was a celebration of different cultures. A presentation on the project was given a little later in the meeting.

Mayor Gonzalez announced that the City's financial team was in discussion with its underwriters regarding a ten million dollar bond issue to finance water and sewer infrastructure improvements in preparation for the delivery of new water sales to the Village of Homewood in Spring 2022. Tom Reedy, the City's bond consultant, was present and gave a general summary of the bond consideration that would come before the city council on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF—Karen Zerante**

COS Zerante gave brief updates on the progress of ongoing projects, such as the 2021 Tree Removal & Trimming project and the 50/50 Sidewalk program project.

COS Zerante announced a forthcoming student art project, led by Alderman Kelli Merrick, Ward 7. COS Zerante introduced Aaliyah Merrick, the project's lead artist, who addressed the city council on the project entitled "Pieces of Us Mural." The mural would be painted on the underpass along the Old Plank Trail in McEldowney Park on September 25, 2021.

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T. J. Somer**

None

**1. MINUTES: MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2021.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF SEPTEMBER 2021.**

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 1,757,711.32.

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**3. RESOLUTION #2021 - 99 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AT 432 WEST HICKORY STREET PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S ABANDONED PROPERTY ACQUISITION PROGRAM (APAP),**

Alderman Smith 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 stated the City would close on the sale of the property to V & J Management, LLC at the end of the month.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 100 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SECURITY FENCING AT THE CITY'S DIVISION STREET PUMPING STATION.

Alderman Zaranti 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 C. Burke Engineering, consultant to the City, recommended the acceptance of the proposal from Genco Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$ 40,760, as it met all the requirements of the specifications at the best cost.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 101 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE CITY OWNED VACANT PROPERTY AT 1642 HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS.

Alderman Perez 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.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated that the City went out to bid on the demolition project for the former Kresge's building. It was the recommendation of the City engineer to accept the bid from the lowest, responsible bidder, KLF Enterprises, for a bid amount of \$ 120,000.

6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 102 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM J.J. NEWELL COMPANY FOR COMPLETION OF THE CITY'S FALL PAVEMENT RESTORATION PROJECT.

**Alderman Rodgers 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 Karen Zerante reported that J. J. Newell extended the contract pricing in the City's 2020 Pavement Restoration Project to the City's 2021 Autumn Pavement Restoration Project. The engineering consultant estimated cost of project at \$ 54,760.**

- 7. RESOLUTION #2021 - 103 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM "SITE-DESIGN GROUP, LTD." FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-USE PARK FACILITIES AT 333 DIXIE HIGHWAY AND GREENBRIAR SCHOOL PARK.**

**Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 stated that there was a need in the community for more athletic fields that could be used by both students and public. To this end, the City, Park District, and School District would join their efforts, and start by having the architectural company design various concepts for consideration.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 6:41 pm. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Rodgers seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: none**

**Motion to adjourn carried.**

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**Lori Wilcox, City Clerk**