

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, September 21, 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 6:00 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	Present
	7 th Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

None

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Absent

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2022.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: Rodgers

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF SEPTEMBER 2022.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$2,085,416.81.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2022 – 85 : APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO INDUCE THE SALE AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S "ABANDONED PROPERTIES AND ACQUISITION PROGRAM" (APAP).

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.

Mayor Gonzalez commented that the APAP program would allow residents and the community to acquire the twelve properties for \$5,000 each, and to be able to take possession of them within a year or so.

4. RESOLUTION #2022 – 86 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY ACQUISITION OF MULTIPLE PROPERTIES FROM THE COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Smith 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 the Cook County Land Bank no longer desired to have 308 properties, which were located in the City, in their inventory. The City was already maintaining some of the vacant lots and was in the process of acquiring others with structures on them through the City's APAP program. The agreement would allow the City to manage its own properties and market them as desired.

5. RESOLUTION #2022 – 87 : APPROVING A BID AWARD FOR PHASE II OF THE CITY'S 2022 WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD DRAINAGE AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND PROJECT.

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.

COS Zerante reported that this phase of the project would build three detention ponds in the project area. The city engineer recommended awarding the bid to M & J Underground for the low bid amount of \$ 3,399,773.56.

6. RESOLUTION #2022- 88 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF SIX NEW VEHICLES FOR THE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Alderman Perez 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.

Mayor Gonzalez commented that the six vehicles to be purchased consisted of one 2022 Ford Police Interceptor Utility SUV to replace the one that was in an accident, and six 2023 Chevrolet Malibu Sedans for the detective unit. Total cost would be \$169,728.

7. RESOLUTION #2022 – 89 : APPROVING THE CITY'S 2022 FALL CONCRETE RESTORATION PROJECT.

Alderman Zaranti 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.

COS Zerante explained that the restoration project was related to concrete and parkway repairs resulting from water main breaks. J. J. Newell proposed to hold its pricing for the project to the pricing in the original 2020 contract that already existed with the City.

8. RESOLUTION #2022 – 90 : APPROVING THE CITY'S 2022 IDOT-ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION.

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Rodgers 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 explained that the application was a precursor to the final application that the City would submit to IDOT-ITEP for funding of projects promoting connectivity and walkability. The projects were specific to those considered under the Active Transportation Plan and collaborated with under CMAP.

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

9. RESOLUTION #2022 – 91 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #20 WC 26004) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) OF THIS DATE.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Smith 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 made note that COS Zerante spoke with each of the aldermen and reported that there was no need to enter into executive session before taking action on this agenda item.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Gonzalez announced that Police Chief Thomas Rodgers was retiring at the end of the month, having dedicated a total of twenty-six years of law enforcement to the city. The Mayor read a statement outlining the Chief Rodgers' history of many accomplishments while with the City, and thanked him for all his years of faithful service to the City.

Each alderman congratulated Police Chief Thomas Rogers on his retirement, and thanked him for his dedicated service and always prompt attention to their calls relating to matters in their wards.

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, October 8th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday September 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers announced that she would host a Thanksgiving Giveaway in November in partnership with Christ for Everyone Ministry. More information would follow.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a 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. (222 Vollmer, Suite LC)

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

Alderman Merrick announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Friday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District.

Police Chief Thomas Rodgers thanked the city council for its kind words and best wishes. He reminisced on his many years with the City and expressed his deep appreciation for the opportunity he was given to serve the City of Chicago Heights and its residents.

Deputy Chief Mikal El-Amin and Lt. Art Robles presented Chief Rodgers, on behalf of the Chicago Heights Police Department, with a plaque in recognition of his commitment, dedication and years of distinguished service.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m. Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Brassea 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.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk