

**Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, October 5, 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 6:02 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY 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>Absent</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 she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.**

**Alderman Perez - absent.**

**Alderman Rodgers announced a Thanksgiving Giveaway in corroboration with Christ for Everyone Ministries on November 19th. More information would follow.**

**Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, October 24th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. The Alderman announced an open house event at the new Chicago Heights Middle School on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Wednesday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer, Suite LC.**

**Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Monday, October 31st at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.**

**Alderman Merrick announced that she would host a Halloween Costume Giveaway event on Saturday, October 22nd from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Smith Park.**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Chuck Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the council on several topics including the new Veterans home, and water accountability issues.**

**Courtnae Harris, a resident of the city, addressed the council regarding problems at an abandoned property next to her home, and dumping near her home.**

## **REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE**

**COS Zerante announced the coming events such as Trunk or Treat on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Chicago Heights Park District, and the Veterans Day Memorial at the Veterans Mound on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Cos Zerante also reported on the following projects: the sidewalk repair program, the tree inventory being conducted by the City’s arborist and forestry consultant, the annual Fall Tree Program, and the next section of the alley cleaning project.**

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER**

**Absent**

### **1. MINUTES: MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2022.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

### **2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF SECOND RUN OF SEPTEMBER 2022.**

**Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$ 2,083,081.31.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

### **3. ORDINANCE #2022 - 23 : AMENDING CHAPTER 28 – ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING FINES FOR THE UNLAWFUL PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES & TRAILERS.**

**Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the Ordinance.**

**COS Zerante explained that the fine for the unlawful parking would increase from \$25 to \$500, with a subsequent \$750 citation if there was no initial compliance, as an enforcement tool for greater compliance to alleviate a re-occurring issue. No discussion.**

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**4. ORDINANCE #2022 - 24 : AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "HOUSING – EXISTING STRUCTURES CODE".**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**COS Zerante explained that the amendment was specific to color and recommended for historic palette for buildings within those areas of the City zoned commercial, retail, and industrial. No discussion.**

**5. ORDINANCE #2022 - 25 : AMENDING CHAPTER 37 – 87 OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS - MATERIALS."**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**COS Zerante stated that the amendment would bring the City standard of 4" thickness up to the industry minimum standard of 5" thickness for driveways, public or private driveways, and patios. No discussion.**

**6. RESOLUTION #2022 – 92 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED VACANT PARCEL LOCATED ADJACENT TO 525 HAMILTON WOOD LANE, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S "LOT NEXT DOOR" PROGRAM.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated that owners of the adjacent property would purchase the property for the program fee of \$1 and maintain the property going forward. No discussion. No discussion.**

**7. RESOLUTION #2022 – 93 : APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE PB&PA (Unit 64) ON BEHALF OF THE CITY POLICE PATROL OFFICERS**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Mayor Gonzalez noted that a memorandum was provided to the council summarizing the terms of the agreement. Mayor Gonzales stated that the term of the agreement was May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2024, and quoted the scheduled wage increases as stated in the memorandum. No discussion.**

**8. RESOLUTION #2022 - 94 : APPROVING A MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS LIBRARY BOARD.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

**Mayor Gonzalez noted that the appointment of Orlando Baez was recommended by Alderman Baikauskas and Alderman Perez. Alderman Baikauskas gave the council a background on the appointee, and reasons in support of the appointment. No discussion.**

**9. RESOLUTION #2022 - \_\_\_\_ 95 \_\_\_\_ : AMENDING RESOLUTION 2022-90 APPROVING THE CITY'S APPLICATION FOR ITS 2022 IDOT-ITEP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Zerante said that the project pertained to connectivity and walkability for pedestrians, as well as bike travel. After consulting with the grant team, project cost was estimated at \$1,179,078.70, and approval was sought for submission of the application in that amount. No discussion.

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

**10. RESOLUTION #2022 – \_\_\_\_ 96 \_\_\_\_ : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #20 WC 8280) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) OF THIS DATE.**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to approve carried.**

COS Zerante stated that the council members were polled, and all agreed that there was no need to enter into executive session in order to take action on the matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Nays: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Absent: Perez**

**Motion to adjourn carried.**

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Lori Wilcox, City Clerk