

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, November 3, 2021 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 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	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

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be held Saturday, November 13th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez - absent

Alderman Rodgers - no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held in coordination with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School. Alderman Baikauskas also announced a community meeting for the Thorn Creek Streambank project for Saturday, November 6th from 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Alderman Brassea - no announcements

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward next ward meeting in coordination with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek would be held on January 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick congratulated Mayor Gonzalez in his nomination and induction into the Bloom High School Hall of Fame; she also reported on the success of the Halloween Costume Giveaway.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Susan Herweck, a resident of the City, addressed the council regarding coyotes and other concerns near her home.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante announced the City would host a community meeting on November 6th at the Park District West Golf course, and that it would inform 4th Ward residents of the upcoming Thorn Creek Streambank Maintenance project. COS Zerante announced the Alleyway Cleaning and Tree Removal project underway in the Euclid area, and that the Veteran's Day Celebration timeframe would be emailed, and also sent by community service announcement by Friday.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2021.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Brassea 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 OCTOBER 2021.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to approve the bills for \$ 889, 385.96.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2021 - 15 : AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING COOK COUNTY TAX CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FEES.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, addressed the council regarding the proposed fees for the City's Class 6 or Class 8 renewal application, as well as for the Class 6B SERS (Sustainable Emergency Relief) property(s) application. There was discussion on the matter.

- 4. ORDINANCE #2021 - 16 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IEPA "PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM" TO FACILITATE THE CITY'S PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

Alderman Rodgers 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.

Mayor Gonzalez explained that the City planned to apply for a ten-year, low interest loan for \$ 3,542,500 in order to finance improvements to all four pumping stations in the City, including the City's station in Lansing. The City expected notification in January if it was selected by the IEPA to be a loan program participant. There was a question on the matter.

- 5. ORDINANCE #2021 - 17 : AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IEPA "PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM" TO FACILITATE THE CITY'S WATER STORAGE TANK REPAINTING PROJECT.**

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Discussion for this ordinance occurred in the discussion of the preceding agenda item. Mayor Gonzalez stated that the loan amount of \$ 3,190,000 was to finance the complete renovation of the State Street above ground water storage tank and the water reservoir. Brief discussion on the matter.

6. ORDINANCE #2021 - 18 : APPROVING CERTAIN BENEFIT CONFIRMATION PROVISIONS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANTS.

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti seconded, a motion to TABLE the ordinance.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to TABLE approved

7. ORDINANCE #2021 - 19 : AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPTING A "WHISTLEBLOWER" PROTECTION POLICY.

Alderman Smith 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 reported that Illinois state statute required the City to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance provided an initial framework, but the City would subsequently write specific policy and procedures for the City's protection policy.

8. ORDINANCE #2021 - 20 : AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUBURBAN TREE CONSORTIUM.

Alderman Baikauskas 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 said Urban Forestry, the City's consultant, recommended that the City join the municipal consortium, which would be of benefit to the City in its Tree Planting project. Membership would also provide other benefits, such as special pricing on purchases. Annual membership fee was \$ 500.

9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 120 : APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT 170 FOR THE SALE OF THE SURPLUS CITY OWNED INDUSTRIAL LOT AT 1614 LOWE AVENUE.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer explained that the school district planned to invest twenty to thirty thousand dollars in the clearing and preparation of the property, and use the site for the relocation of its bus operation.

10. RESOLUTION #2021 - 121 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 6B (SERS) TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR PICO CHEMICAL COMPANY LOCATED AT 400 EAST 16TH STREET.

Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Smith 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, explained that the ten year, non-renewal tax incentive would assist this small business to stay in business. The County would have final say on the granting of the tax classification. Brief discussion.

Mayor Gonzalez announced that the 2021 Estimated Tax Levy would be presented at the next council meeting. He directed the City's finance director to keep the levy level with 2020, with no increase in the City's portion of the tax bill. The Mayor asked area school districts, who received a considerable amount of stimulus funds, to do same in an effort to provide residents with some tax relief.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 p.m. Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Brassea seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk