

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, November 17, 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 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2nd Ward Sonia Perez	Present
	3rd Ward Wanda Rodgers	Present
	4th Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5th Ward George Brassea	Present
	6th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7th Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that her next ward meeting would be held on December 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host a Thanksgiving Giveaway event on November 20th.

Alderman Rodgers – no announcements.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that his next ward meeting would be held in partnership with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on November 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea - no announcements.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting would be held in partnership with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on January 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park. Alderman Zaranti thanked Mayor Gonzalez for his donation and Park Commissioner Jessica Mancina for her assistance in providing Thanksgiving treats to the residents at Thornwood Apartments.

Alderman Merrick - no announcements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chuck Dieringer, a resident of the City, addressed the city council on the topics of storm water discharge from the landfill on State Street, and the condition of Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District's storm water infrastructure.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported that the Alleyway Cleaning and Tree Clearing project would commence the first week of December in the Euclid area. She stated the culvert maintenance project would commence in about ten days in the 4th Ward/Dixie Hwy. area with Earthwerks as the contractor.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

REPORT OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR: Announce posting of 2021 estimated tax levy.

Les Swintek, Finance Director, provided the council with a Levy Analysis for Tax Levy Year 2021. He reviewed the levy amounts for the three prior years, the 2021 Tentative Estimated Tax Levy, the 2021 Extended Levy, and the Truth and Taxation Increase (Decrease). He pointed out that there was zero net change in the estimated levy from the prior year. He stated that the estimated levy was available for the public's review over the next twenty days in the Treasurer's Office. The council asked questions on the matter.

Mayor Gonzalez noted that the final levy would come before the council at the next December council meeting.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2021.

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Perez 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 NOVEMBER 2021.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills for \$ 1,685,433.12

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

3. ORDINANCE #2021 - 18 : APPROVING CERTAIN BENEFIT PROVISIONS FOR THE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANTS.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion to approve carried.

Mayor Gonzalez explained that because the lieutenants did not have a union or collective bargaining agreement, the City thought it in the best interest of all concerned to formalize the lieutenants' major benefits and payouts in an ordinance form.

4. RESOLUTION #2021 - 122 : APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 6B (SERS) TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR MORGAN LI, LLC COMPANY LOCATED AT 383 EAST 16TH STREET.

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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, explained the requirements of the ten-year, non-renewable tax classification, which was primarily for industrial businesses that experienced a significant drop in revenue. He recommended approval of the ordinance, and further stated that the Cook County board would have final say on the granting of the tax classification.

5. RESOLUTION #2021 - 123 : APPROVING A RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A COOK COUNTY CLASS 8 TAX CLASSIFICATION FOR FOOD4LESS LOCATED AT 1333 WESTERN AVENUE.

Alderman Smith 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development director, explained that the City would be able to recoup seventy-five percent of real estate taxes lost due to the renewal through the City's recently enacted ordinance that permitted the assessment of annual fees to businesses approved for the tax class.

6. RESOLUTION #2021 - 124 : APPROVING A 60 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 560 & 570 W. 14TH STREET. (former Lorenzetti's and Enterprise Rental Car lot) (submitted by Grand Capital N.A., LLC).

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

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, stated that Grand Capital recently developed a new strip mall in the city, and was looking to acquire additional land for another redevelopment. Discussion on the matter took place before the vote.

7. RESOLUTION #2021 - 125 : APPROVING A 60 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 711 W. 15TH STREET (former Brunswick Bowl) (submitted by Star Chamber Investment Group, LLC).

Alderman Smith 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, explained that the company held an Illinois "Craft Grower" license and was evaluating the property for its purposes. Selling price was still to be determined, and the matter would come before the council again for its approval.

8. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION # - 2021 - 126 : APPROVING THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED SURPLUS RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Baikauskas 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 reported that there were eight properties to be conveyed. He expected to have the deeds in 21/30 days, after which the closing would take place.

- 9. RESOLUTION #2021 - 127 : APPROVING A 60 DAY OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS VACANT LAND LOCATED AT 2116 STATE STREET. (submitted by 303 State Street, LLC).**

Alderman Rodgers 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.

Jack Hynes, Economic Development Director, reported that the company owned K & S Tire Recycling in the City, and it planned to use the property in conjunction with its current business. Selling price was still to be negotiated.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:48 p.m. Alderman Rodgers moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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