

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

***To be conducted remotely by telephone conference pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Covid-19 Executive Order #8 dated March 9, 2020 and extension thereof set forth in Executive order 2020-39. Meeting to be broadcast at City Hall with opportunity made available for public attendance and/or participation subject to social distancing regulations. Attendees must be attired in mask and gloves and may not be experiencing any symptoms of the COVID virus, i.e., fever, cough, sore throat, or uncommon fatigue.**

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 CITY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2nd Ward Sonia Perez	Absent
	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 – no announcements

Alderman Perez - absent

Alderman Rodgers - no announcements

Alderman Baikauskas - no announcements

Alderman Brassea announced that his next ward meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020.

Alderman Zaranti announced that his next ward meeting was cancelled, and that he would work with the COS to post notice on the City's website.

Alderman Merrick - no announcements

Mayor Gonzalez had congratulations for two City police officers—Christine Murchek and Mohammad Matariyeh—who received the “Life Saving Award” from the American Police Hall of Fame for their rescue of an elderly women in a recent house fire.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Corporation Counsel T. J. Somer stated that he was present in the council chambers and that there was no public participation.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

COS Zerante reported that the City’s annual leaf pick-up and street sweeping mailer was recently sent to residents. COS Zerante stated that the City’s new employee handbook would be emailed to the council, and that the City would move forward with sexual harassment training as required.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

None

1. MINUTES: APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2020.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 FIRST RUN OF OCTOBER 2020.

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Perez

Motion to approve carried.

3. RESOLUTION #2020 - 71 : APPROVING THE CITY’S 2020-2021 LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL AND PREMIUM

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.

John Marks, Marks & Company, and Tony Evers, the Horton Group, co-brokers on the policy addressed the council, explaining the major factors driving the premium rates in the current market. Safety National would provide a primary liability package that included general liability, auto liability and physical damage, and law enforcement coverage. Gemini Insurance would provide the excess liability coverage. There were other coverages provided for in the quote for a total annual premium of \$ 729,232. The council discussed the matter at length before the vote.

4. RESOLUTION #2020 - 72 : APPROVING THE SALE OF THE CITY OWNED SURPLUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AT 533 ASHLAND AVENUE.

Alderman Brassea moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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, Director of Economic Development, identified the property as the old strip mall behind Zarlengo's business, and that the sale price was \$ 5,000. Zarlengo planned to demolish the mall, and use the property to accommodate the addition of a drive-up window to the business. There was discussion related to the expansion plans of the business, and to specific time limits included in the agreement.

5. RESOLUTION #2020 - 73 : APPROVING A DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE ABANDONED RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1902 EUCLID AVENUE.

Alderman Merrick moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 reported that the City already had persons interested in purchasing the property from the City through the Abandoned Property Acquisition Program (APAP), once the City had acquired the property.

6. **RESOLUTION #2020 - 74 : APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES REGULATING GEMT COLLECTION RATES FOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES.**

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 explained that the City submitted an application to IDHFS for enhanced reimbursement from Medicaid for the City's incurred costs of ambulance service. The agreement would result in increased revenues in 2021 for the City.

7. **RESOLUTION #2020 - 75 : APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COUNTY OF COOK AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTY'S COVID-19 FACE MASK INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

Alderman Merrick 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.

COS Zerante explained that the memorandum would assist the City in the distribution of face masks to residents. The City had already held several mask give-away events, and this would supplement the City's efforts going forward.

8. **RESOLUTION #2020 - 76 : APPROVING A SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR GRANT CONSULTING SERVICES WITH ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING SPECIALISTS, LLC (ACS).**

Alderman Zaranti 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 stated that the company would provide expertise in the research, application, and reporting of federal, state, private and foundation grants. ACS would provide assistance in

forthcoming the FEMA/Covid-19 reimbursement grant, whose application deadline was fast approaching. The agreement contained a flat fee of \$ 20,000 for the service.

9. RESOLUTION #2020 - 77 : APPROVING EMERGENCY STORM SEWER REPAIR & RECONSTRUCTION AT VARIOUS CITY LOCATIONS.

Alderman Merrick 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.

COS Zerante stated that it was the recommendation (of the Public Works Director) to accept the low proposal from M & J Underground for \$ 51,622 for the repair project.

10. RESOLUTION #2020 - 78 : APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case # 19WC26503) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY) AND BY MEMORANDUM OF THIS DATE.

Alderman Baikauskas moved, and Alderman Zaranti 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 reported that he communicated with the aldermen and that no one indicated the need for an executive session in order to proceed with action on the agenda item.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:05 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick 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