

**Chicago Heights Park District
Park District Board of Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting
November 9, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to Order: The Regular Board meeting of the Chicago Heights Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Upon roll call, the following board members were recorded present: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Mancina, Commissioner Strazcek, and Commissioner Zuniga and President Benavides. Commissioner Nichols-Brown was recorded present at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the Public Hearing on October 13, 2020 by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Mancina, Commissioner Strazcek, Commissioner Zuniga and President Benavides. Commissioner Nichols-Brown abstained. Motion was passed. Commissioner Mancina asked President Benavides could she get the answer from the question she had during the October Public Hearing about how much the park district want to issue from the bond for capital projects verses working cash. Superintendent Perez replied to her question. He informed her that the amount of the bond is a little over \$1.6 million. \$905,000 would go towards capital project fund, \$1.5 million would go toward paying off claims of current bond and \$159,000 would be set aside for reserve. Insurance will be \$20,000.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting on October 13, 2020 by Commissioner Zuniga, seconded by Commissioner Leon. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Mancina, Commissioner Strazcek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. Commissioner Nichols-Brown abstained. Motion passed.

President Report: None given

Treasure Report: None given.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Perez informed the board that his report was submitted to the board in their board packets. Under Covid-19 for the Southern Cook County the park district will be following those guidelines. New restriction for the number of individuals that can gather under Tier 3. Liquor or food cannot be served under the new guidelines. He informed the board that he will keep them posted. He informed the board that it was over #600 cars in attendance at the Trunk or Treat. He stated that the Police Department did a great job. Maintenance Department and Mike DeButch did a great job with the decorations. Cook County Health Department gave the park district #1,200 cloth mask. Mask were issued at the Trunk or Treat. He also informed the board that Chief Darryl Stroud will no longer serve as Chief of the Park District. Chief Shirly Jones will serve as Interim Chief. She has certification classes to attend before she is brought before the Board of commissioners for confirmation.

Attorney Report: None given.

Public Participation: None.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Kyles.

Commissioner Nichols-Brown. Commissioner Nichols-Brown asked if the golf courses and park district have annual Fire Inspections. Superintendent Perez stated that annual inspections are done. She complimented the Program Director, Wanda Rodgers-Spruell and her team for a great job at the Trunk or Treat. She also inquired Superintendent Perez about any park district education training for Commissioners. He informed her that there will be one in January 2021 and he would get more information for her.

Commissioner Leon: None given.

Commissioner Mancina: Commissioner Manica wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day. Thanksgiving is coming and she thankful to be a part of the park district and work with the Board of Commissioners. She stated that if anyone know of anyone that need assistance for Thanksgiving in ward 5 to please contact her at Jessica60411@gmail.com.

Commissioner Strazcek: None given.

Commissioner Zuniga: None given.

Submission of Bills: On a motion to pay the bills for the month of October 2020 by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. The following nays were recorded: Commissioner Mancina and Commissioner Strazcek. Motion passed. Commissioner Mancina asked about the fee for North Western University if it was the Chicago Heights Park District police? Superintendent Perez stated yes. Commissioner Nichols-Brown asked if there has ever been a description on the credit card statements? Commissioner Mancina stated that would be helpful to have the descriptions of credit card purchase on the bills. Commissioner Strazcek inquired about \$90 for Food Drive Security detail. Chief Jones informed the board that during the food drive (2) officers are brought on to work the special detail. They are paid from petty cash due to the time restraints for additional officers to be paid on the day of the event.

Resolution 2020-06: On a resolution determining the estimated property taxes to be levied by the Chicago Heights Park District Cook County, Illinois for the 2020 Tax Year by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Nichols-Brown. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. Commissioner Mancina and Commissioner Strazcek abstained. Motion passed. Moses Diez from Ram Accounting gave a brief presentation to the Board of Commissioner on the tentative Tax Levey for the CHPD for 2020 tax year.

Resolution 2020-07: On a resolution to ratify the contract agreement between the Chicago Heights Park District and Ram Accounting & Financial Services by Commissioner Zuniga, seconded by

Commissioner Nichols-Brown. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. The following nays were recorded: Commissioner Mancina and Commissioner Straczek. Motion passed. Commissioner Mancina asked Superintendent Perez what was the reason for switching the accounting firm? He replied that the park district will save money. Also, accounts payable and receival staff for the Chicago Heights Park District is out on medical leave and the new accounting firm serves in that compacity. Commissioner Mancina also asked about the 36 hours the new firm is scheduled for them to work on site per week. Commissioner Nichols-Brown asked if there is a time sheet that those employees fill out? Superintendent Perez stated they just work 36 hours a week. No time sheets are signed.

Resolution 2020-08: On a resolution to ratify the contract between the Chicago Heights Park District and Arnold Knox LLC by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. The following nays were recorded: Commissioner Mancina and Commissioner Straczek. Motion passed. Commissioner Straczek asked has the park district gone out to bid for other auditors. Superintendent Perez stated that there is not a requirement to do so. Commissioner Straczek inquired if Arnold Knox LLC have other government bodies as clients. Superintendent Perez stated yes. Commissioner Straczek asked for a list of their other clients. Superintendent Perez stated that it is recommended to change auditors every 4 or 5 years. Commissioner Nichols-Brown stated that it also keeps down corruption. Commissioner Mancina stated that this is normal to go out to bid for the best price. Superintendent Perez stated that it not a requirement.

Resolution 2020-09: On a resolution to ratify the contract between the Chicago Heights Park District and Tristan & Cervantes Attorneys at Law by Commissioner Nichols-Brown, seconded by Commissioner Kyles. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. The following nays were recorded: Commissioner Mancina and Commissioner Straczek. Motion passed. Commissioner Mancina asked what the reason was to change Attorneys. Superintendent Perez stated that some conflicts occurred at the last few meetings regarding number of votes to pass resolutions. The legal matter was not explained to the board. Therefore, just wanted to make recommendations for a new Attorney. President Benavides stated that the legal advice for the number of votes should have been brought to the board earlier from the previous law firm. Commissioner Mancina asked if there were any other firms sought out to be presented to the board? Superintendent Perez and President Benavides stated that the previous firm was offered to return to the park district, but they declined.

Ordinance 2020-03: On an ordinance providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,625,000 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2020, of the Chicago Heights Park District, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. The following nays were recorded: Commissioner Mancina and Commissioner Straczek. Motion passed. A presentation was given to the Board of Commissioners by Andrew Kim of TMA Security for the 2020 Bonds and the Park

District Debt Profile. Also, a brief statement was given to the board by the Bond Counselor, Ken Peterson.

Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Nichols-Brown at 7:46 p.m. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Mancina, Commissioner Strazcek, Commissioner Zuniga, and President Benavides. Motion passed.

Secretary

Date