

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
December 11, 2023

The December 11, 2023 City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 20600 City Center Boulevard, Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

The following Council members were present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, City Treasurer Glen Conklin, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman John Vershay, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: Police Chief Ed Clark, Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk, Public Works Director Blaine Kline, Interim Employee Relations Manager Dave Strahl, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Finance Director Lisa Banovetz, Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer, Interim Planner Maura Rigoni, Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

TOPIC: Liquor License – Lenny’s Gas N Wash

Mayor Soliman commented that Lenny’s Gas N Wash Division and Weber located at 16664 Weber Road is getting close to opening. He also stated that the owner Len McEnery is in the audience.

Mayor Soliman commented that he met with Len, Police Chief Ed Clark, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dave Stengele and everything is in order along with the background check for the liquor license at this location. He mentioned that this is the 28th Gas N Wash in the area.

Mayor Soliman stated that the owner, Len, was made aware of the rules and regulations and had agreed to them. He also commented that Len had several questions regarding the Places for Eating Tax and our Finance Director Lisa Banovetz had met with him and answered his questions and she gave him phone numbers to contact if needed.

Mayor Soliman commented that the request is for packaged liquor. He also commented that Dunkin Donuts, Ta Canijo Taco Truck, and Beggars Pizza slices will be sold, as well.

Mayor Soliman stated that this is the Council’s choice to create a new package liquor license for this location.

Mr. Len McEnery, the owner of Gas N Wash Division and Weber LLC, approached the podium and introduced himself. He also commented that this is the 28th location, and twenty-seven of these locations are packaged liquor. There will be no on-site open alcohol, even in the gaming areas, and everyone will be carded. The registers are programmed to scan the driver license of the customer for enforcement of liquor sales. Mr. McEnery commented that they like the area and will be a good neighbor.

Mayor Soliman commented that there is over three acres of property, and he will supply over 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel per month. He also stated that there will be six gaming machines at this location, but state law states he can have up to ten gaming machines if he services more than 50,000 gallons of diesel gas per month. Mayor Soliman commented that over time he believes he will reach that goal in diesel fuel sales and will be able to add more gaming machines, up to ten machines.

Alderwoman Gazal asked Mr. McEnery if his ultimate goal was gaming machines. Mr. McEnery commented that gaming is not his primary business it is just part of the business. He also commented that he does hope to qualify for ten machines which means he would have to pump 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Mr. McEnery also commented that he believes gaming is a good fit for his business, there is no drinking, they come and play then leave. He also stated that he feels this adds another piece of security to the business by having people around. This also helps pay the employees well and keep their property clean.

Alderwoman Gazal also asked if he sees truckers parking for a lengthy period and how long do they allow them to stay on the property. Mr. McEnery commented that this is not a truck stop and he does not want them parking overnight. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she understands that but how are you going to control the trucks overnight if the truck drivers are going to gamble. Mr. McEnery commented that they do not have any time limit that they can stay and the reality of it is he does not see truck drivers gaming for a lengthy period of time.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin asked if he would have seating for eating. It was stated that there will be about four tables. Treasurer Conklin commented that this will qualify as a Places for Eating. Alderman Cipiti commented that that would incur an additional tax for the customers eating. Mr. McEnery commented that they are aware of the 2% tax and his accountant has talked to the Finance Director. It was commented that they also pay this tax in the City of Joliet.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for the creation of a packaged liquor license for Gas N Wash Weber and Division LLC.

AYES: Ald. Gazal, Jefferson, Vershay, Dyke, Oberlin, Cipiti, Kubal.

NAYES: Ald. Albert

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Soliman informed Mr. McEnery that the formal vote will take place on December 18, 2023 at the next meeting. It was also confirmed that they are planning on opening on December 22, 2023. Mayor Soliman informed Mr. McEnery that he is welcome to attend the Council meeting on December 18th and address any questions but if he does not attend, he will contact him the next day informing him of the outcome.

Alderman Albert asked if the car wash will have monthly memberships and it was commented that they will have memberships.

TOPIC: Lobbyist Josh Hassert State Update

Mayor Soliman welcomed our State Lobbyist, Josh Hassert, who is in the audience to give an update from Springfield.

Josh Hassert approached the podium, introduced himself, and thanked everyone for having him and gave a brief legislative update on Springfield. He commented that approximately 3,900 bills were introduced in this year's General Assembly and 566 bill passed both chambers and 346 House bills and 220 Senate bills. The General Assembly adjourned their regular assembly on May 26, 2023 and the veto session was the last week in October and the second week in November.

Josh commented that focusing on Crest Hill, our goal was the land transfer of twenty-five acres from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to the City of Crest Hill to build our water receiving facility. To do this, we had to introduce a bill to bring to Representative Avelar and Senator Capell to introduce legislation and this process began in summer of 2022. This passed with zero-no votes in both chambers. This land is necessary to build a receiving station for Lake Michigan water for this to be able to be piped to the city.

He also commented on a few other things that were worked on, which one was getting some grant money pushed through that was backlogged that included \$2,000,000.00 for the City Center building. Josh is happy to report a lot of the grants are moved forward now. He also commented that another grant that was pushed through was a grant of \$400,000.00 for well drilling.

Josh did comment that the \$1,400,000.00 reimbursement for Kelly Avenue will not be available, and he commented that he proposed to reappropriate that and change the language of that for a new project, so we do not lose that money that has been in the budget. He commented that we could try and dedicate it to a new project such as a new light on Weber Road to alleviate some of the traffic off Division Road which could be a \$5-\$6-million-dollar project. He commented that this way we are not losing that money. Mayor Soliman commented that this would be the new road on the backside of the business park that would go out on Crest Hill Drive.

Alderpersion Oberlin asked what were the errors or goals that were not met on the Kelly Avenue project. Josh commented that it was not so much an error. He commented that this project was already a shovel ready project and done with the engineering phase and beyond the bid phase and there was no contact beforehand by DCEO. The goals not meant would mean minority hiring contracts and a project that size need to use minority hiring. He stated instead of losing that money that is where we change the language and reappropriate.

Alderpersion Oberlin asked what the city needs to be doing to see the follow through for this money on the Weber Road project. Josh commented that there will need to be a more dedicated staff following through with these goals when bidding on these things since DCEO is strict on requirements in the bidding process. Alderpersion Oberlin commented that she is asking because she does not want to see this happen again and needs to make sure we apply ourselves correctly, so we do not lose the money.

Alderwoman Gazal commented about the thirteen acres donated to Lockport Township, Police, and Fire, and asked what we did not do that Lockport Township did to receive this. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she is not happy that there is a hundred yards of gun range in her back yard and in her ward and asked as a lobbyist if he can figure out to whom we need to speak. Alderman Dyke asked if it is an indoor gun range or outdoor. Josh stated he did not know anything about this. Alderwoman Gazal commented that it is an outdoor

facility, and this is very disturbing, and no residents were contacted. Josh commented that he will investigate this and find out who they can contact. Mayor Soliman commented that he believes that this project is in the infancy stages, and they do not even have plans yet. Alderwoman Gazal commented that there is a sign placed already and it is a done deal. Mayor Soliman commented that there is a process they must go through as well and there are not architectural drawings yet. Treasurer Conklin commented that they have permission and money. Mayor Soliman commented that is correct, but they have been working on this for years. Alderwoman Gazal commented that this is our opportunity to stop them. Alderperson Oberlin asked if it is in the City of Crest Hill, and they would have to have permission to have that in the city. Mayor Soliman commented that it is on State property. Alderperson Oberlin asked if they would need permission from the City of Crest Hill to open a gun range. Josh commented that he would have to investigate that. He also commented that the State Police are building their Crime Lab behind District 5 headquarters and will be a big project for the area. Alderwoman Gazal asked if there would be any benefits to the City of Crest Hill or if our Police Department can have a benefit in this. Josh commented that this is state property, and it was a hush hush project and did not need any permission or permit process to go through.

Attorney Mike Stiff commented that regarding the Crime Lab the State has taken the position that they have Sovereign Immunity and have no responsibility to the City of Crest Hill to follow our zoning or permit requirements. He also commented that the property that Alderwoman Gazal is talking about where they have sold the property from the State of Illinois to Lockport Township and if they have plans, they will now need to come before us through our permitting and planning process. Since there is a transfer of title then the City of Crest Hill would get control back if it were not the State of Illinois building it. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she understands but would like to do something before it is too late.

Treasurer Glen Conklin asked if we are making any progress on Stateville. Treasurer Conklin commented that they came to an agreement with DOC. Josh commented that the agreement was \$814,000.00 and he suggested that we take that money and refile for the remaining balance and the city did not want to do that and insisted on going for the \$925,000.00. Treasurer Conklin commented that there is Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the State had agreed to, and the city's concern was if we accepted the lesser payment, they would call that good and the city did not want that. Josh commented that his concern was if we do not accept it then we have nothing instead of having \$814,000.00. Treasurer Conklin commented that it is not a soft ask, we are not looking for their money, we are looking for our money. Treasurer Conklin also commented to Josh that our expectation is that you work on the City of Crest Hill's behalf and not theirs. Josh commented that he has been very diligently working on the city's behalf. Josh commented that he thought there was an understanding during session and then heard nothing back and then he reached out to Michael Rocks who is from the Attorney General Office and followed up and was told the agreed upon amount was \$814,000.00. Josh then provided documentation which was accepted and then he spoke to Representative Larry Walsh, and he would ask to put the full amount in the budget and since has had no response. Josh commented that he suggests we take the lesser amount and refile for the additional. Treasurer Conklin commented that we should not have to give up \$110,000.00 that is the city's money, and they agree is the city's money because it is convenient. Josh commented that he is not saying to give it up, but you also have to understand that he is a diplomat in

this and will continue to fight for that, but we were just given a million plus dollar land acquisition for one dollar, so there is some give and take.

Treasurer Conklin also commented that \$1.4 million was allocated for Kelly Avenue and we should ask when repurposing the money into a different project for a little more and set this right. Josh commented that we can talk about additional grant funding to get it reappropriated.

Alderman Albert commented that it would be a good idea to have a meeting with representatives from the Lockport Township Fire District to understand how this project came about and why are we just hearing about it. Josh commented that this would be a good idea to see if this were donated or on a land lease.

Alderman Albert also commented that it is discouraging how the State does not even have to go through our process and they do not even pay their water bill in a timely manner, and they debate all their past water bills. Treasurer Conklin commented that we cannot even shut their water off since it is Stateville. Josh commented that if we can meet with DOC and develop a more intimate relationship with them since they are in our backyard and have things going forward with the State Police land.

Attorney Stiff commented that when he went through the rezoning process, he thought DOC dropped out of the equation and we were dealing primarily with CMS. Alderman Albert asked what CMS was, he was told it is Central Management Services, which manages the state-owned land.

Josh commented that he feels if we can amend the Public Act and change the proceeds of the sale to DOC and see if that would soften their stance on this.

Attorney Stiff asked who we need to talk to, is it CMS or DOC. Josh commented that he spoke with the Director of CMS, Wendy Butler, and feels we need to talk to Representative Manley.

Alderman Gazal asked if it would be helpful for the Council to go to Springfield to meet with our reps and speak to them. Josh commented that it would be more beneficial to meet locally.

Alderman Oberlin commented that there needs to be a two-way street, since we are always told to be neighborly and then they don't even tell us about it, so there needs to be a two-way street and if they want to do something in our city then they need to come and speak to us.

Josh commented that the session starts back on the 16th of January and since this is election year, it would be a good time to get answers.

Alderman Jefferson commented that Stateville is a prison that is in one of the worst conditions in the State of Illinois and he wonders if there is a way to find out what will happen with the prison. Josh commented that they have recently come out with their comprehensive plan and part of that is reinvesting \$70,000,000.00 into Stateville's infrastructure and redoing the round house and modernizing since it is the closest prison to Chicago. Josh commented that he went to the governor's office to get an answer regarding

the rumor of it closing. Josh also commented that there will always be a rumor about it closing. It is an important prison proximity wise, and they want to invest the money to modernize the facility.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he heard that they are going to keep some administration there but not sure on prison population being kept there. Josh commented that there is always a need to keep a prison close to Chicago.

TOPIC: Recommendations to move forward with a purchase order to Cornwell Engineering Group for Corrosion Control Treatment Study

Public Works Director Blaine Kline commented that as part of the ongoing water source change, a corrosion control treatment study is needed to analyze the effects of the different water chemistry on service lines and resident-owned pipes. This study is an IEPA requirement for all Grand Prairie Water Commission members. Cornwell Engineering will use water from our current wells in our system compared to water from Lake Michigan and analyze how the pipes are affected by this change in water sources. Staff will work with a handful of residents to have current pipe segments removed and sent to Cornwell Engineering for analysis. A certified plumber will perform the pipe removal and replacement. This study will determine the most effective chemicals to feed to the distribution system prior to the water source change. Most of this study will be paid in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, but a PO is necessary to begin the project. This project was included in Representative Lauren Underwood's Community Project Funding and an approved amount of \$200,000.00 is to be received as part of the federal budget year which started in October of 2023. This funding could be removed from the federal budget but at this moment it is recommended and approved by Representative Underwood.

Alderman Oberlin asked how they are choosing the homes they will do the study on. Director Kline commented that you must look at some of the older areas which most will come out of ward one since this is the older area. They will reach out to residents, which will be about five or six residents and they will get their pipes replaced with new copper pipes by a licensed plumber.

Alderman Albert commented that some homes in the Richland area were built in the 1940's – 1950's and there could be some homes in this area.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote:

AYES: Ald. Dyke, Vershay, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Well Chemical Feed Upgrade

Public Works Director Blaine Kline commented that as part of the ongoing water system updates, we need to continue and finish our well chemical feed upgrades at the Wells. IEPA requirements call for construction permit applications, drawings, and technical specifications. Strand has prepared our previous well plans, and this would ensure we are compliant with IEPA requirements and wrap up our chemical feed upgrades at all wells. Director Kline commented that there are five wells left to finish at a cost of \$34,200.00.

Alderman Jefferson asked for an explanation. Director Kline commented that when changing the wells, you must change how you treat them, for instance you use gas and now changing to liquid you must submit plans and it would require IEPA approval.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

AYES: Ald. Kubal, Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin, Gazal, Jefferson, Vershay, Dyke.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Janitorial Position

Public Works Director Blaine Kline commented that we have been in our building six months and our initial plan was to have three part time janitors at 19 hours per week at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. We have hired two off the Civil Service list and have not had good luck. He commented that we have a dependable person on staff currently. In talking to staff, and seeing the needs needed in the different departments he would like to move forward with offering the current janitor a full-time position at \$19.00 per hour with benefits.

Director Kline commented that quotes from the previous cleaning vendor came in anywhere from \$5000-\$7500 per month when researched last year. While part-time help is necessary moving forward, it is believed that having one full time janitor dedicating 40 hours a week at City Center would make a substantial improvement in the cleaning operations. Staff has talked about this idea with both administration and police, and all are in favor of this proposed plan. It is recommended that the salary be \$19 an hour for a total of \$39,520 plus benefits.

Alderwoman Gazal asked about the lists and when the lists would be coming. Interim Employee Relations Manager Dave Strahl commented that Director Kline could do the testing as they come in and this process will move quicker. Alderwoman Gazal asked if this person is open to a full-time position. Director Kline commented that they are open to a full-time position, but he would need to discuss more detail with the person.

Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk commented that the part time person is a phenomenal employee and would be beneficial to the city.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for one full-time and one part-time janitorial position:

AYES: Ald. Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal, Vershay, Dyke, Jefferson, Gazal.

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Request to advertise, select, and hire FOIA Audio/Video Specialist

Police Chief Ed Clark requested to hire an FOIA Audio/Video Specialist which was discussed during the budget meeting and would go along with the addition of body worn cameras. There is a great need for this position with the body cameras that will generate more FOIA requests. The salary would be between \$62,500.00 and at the highest \$65,000.00. This salary is in the range of other departments in our area that are doing this exact position. He commented that there will be attention to detail in this position and

handling things that would be pertaining to evidence at some point which is why we went with more of a special position opposed to a clerical position.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if this will be a union position and she was told this is not a union position.

Alderperson Oberlin asked if all of this will work together with other equipment in the squad cars and work interchangeably and not find out later that the cameras do not work with other equipment. Chief Clark explained that we are getting the V700 through Motorola and there will be updating we have to do with the squad cameras but other than that it will go right to the cloud on one platform. She also asked if this works with the security cameras at the City Center and was told it does not work with the cameras within the building. Alderperson Oberlin then asked will this person for this position have anything to do with the City Center security cameras and she was told they would not, and that it is a separate cloud-based system solely based on body camera and work in conjunction with squad car video

Alderman Jefferson asked if this person would work with the dash cam video as well as the body cam. Chief Clark commented that that is correct.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the person would need to have experience. Chief Clark commented that they do not necessarily have to have experience, but it would be helpful. She also asked who would train the person. Chief Clark commented that the person would be trained by Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk and Motorola will train on the redaction software.

Alderwoman Gazal asked when the officers will have their body cameras. Chief Clark commented that he would like to have it before June of 2024, but we must have them up and running by 2025.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

AYES: Ald. Gazal, Jefferson, Vershay, Dyke, Kubal, Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin.

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Request to purchase Motorola V700 Body Worn Camera System

Police Chief Ed Clark requested to purchase the Motorola V700 Body Cameras. He commented that they looked at two of the main companies that provide these body cameras, which were Axon and Motorola. Both are similar when it comes to actual field operations, but Motorola was chosen because they are licensed per camera and Axon is per user. He explained that if we purchased twenty-four cameras and we add more officers on, we would have to purchase more licenses at an additional cost. Chief Clark commented that another reason we chose Motorola is our in-car camera system and radios are Motorola. Also, the records management system is Motorola.

Chief Clark commented that with the execution of the grant we received from Senator Cappel's office these will be purchased free and clear.

Attorney Mike Stiff commented that the Motorola document does not have a section where signing is needed like the Axon document. Attorney Stiff commented that if there are any other contractual terms with the agreements that they get ran past him first.

Alderwoman Gazal asked how they work. Chief Clark commented that there is a docking system, and the officers will remove them from the docking system and place them on their person and as soon as they turn on their lights in their squad cars all cameras turn on and operate. Chief Clark also commented that if the officer is in the field and something happens, they will need to have to push a button to activate their camera.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the cameras are on all the time. Chief Clark commented that they are recording all the time but if you do not hit the button then you will need to go through Motorola to retrieve that video footage. Deputy Dobczyk commented that it is continuously recording and when the button is activated it will go back 30 seconds. It will take time for the officers to get used to this. Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that we have a physical server in the squad cars, and we have already had two hard drive failures and we were able to fix them and since we will be going to a cloud base server it is an insurance policy that we will not lose any footage.

Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that each of the companies has a three-year upgrade system for free and this is a benefit since they are always on.

Alderman Oberlin asked if there is a manual override to cancel the camera and not record. Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that in the car there is, but the Chief commented that it would be a violation of orders. Alderman Oberlin commented that she is asking if these have the capabilities to manually override and not if you can. Attorney Stiff commented that the school resource officers at a school are required for non-criminal encounters and that the cameras must be turned off and not be recording. Deputy Chief Dobczyk stated that it is his assumption that it can be done since they would need to turn it off when entering a washroom.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the officers would need to sign an agreement. Chief Clark commented that when they read and accept the policy, they are signing off that they agree with that. Deputy Chief Dobczyk reminded the Council that they have been wearing microphones with squad car cameras for the last five years.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote:

AYES: Ald. Dyke, Vershay, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal.

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Approval of MiTime Software Module

Interim Employee Relations Manager Dave Strahl commented that it was brought to his attention that there is no module to enter time. He also commented that we have gone to a manual time clock system, but this would allow employees to enter their time based at the workstation or GEO fencing through their phone, and this will allow to enter a request for time off as well. We currently use miPay for payroll purposes and civic systems for budgeting purposes and this is one of the modules that they offer to purchase.

Alderson Oberlin commented that she does not think an employee should be able to clock in on their cell phone and they should only be able to clock in at their workstation on their computer. Manager Strahl commented that Geo fencing would allow people to log in with their cell phone at a designated certain location like the parking lot. He also commented that GEO fencing would only be available to employees who work in the field and not at the office. Alderson Oberlin said that it is not recommended for everyone. Manager Strahl commented that he would not recommend this for everyone and would only be available for a select few individuals.

Alderman Dyke asked if we have a seven-minute window if running late. Manager Strahl commented that we do have a policy but that if someone keeps pushing the seven-minute window on a regular basis we would have a counseling meeting with them.

Alderman Cipiti commented that he does not think we should have the seven-minute window at the start of a shift unless you are monitoring how many times per year, they are allowed to be late. He also commented that he thinks we should make a new policy taking away the seven-minute window and make employees aware of the change with the new system. Treasurer Conklin commented that we could monitor the employees and see if this is a one-time issue or a constantly recurring issue. Alderson Oberlin commented that she believes that the seven-minute window is inviting corruption.

Manager Strahl commented that it was created for record keeping and we are not necessarily giving you seven minutes to be late.

Alderman Cipiti commented that if you have several of these late clock-ins in a year then you need to have accountability for that tardiness when everyone else is expected to start at a certain time and be punctual.

Alderson Oberlin asked if we have any employees that work from home, and it was stated that we do not have employees that work from home and there is no work from home policy. She also commented that there should be no one with clock-in capability from home since no one is working from home and she is not sure how one can take a water bill payment from home.

Manager Strahl commented that we are in the customer service business and need to be present when the customers walk in. He also commented that he is not a big advocate about working from home but does understand that there could be a special circumstance if there was a need to work from home.

Alderson Gazal asked does this program have the capability to track time off. Manager Strahl commented that this program would give the opportunity for one to request vacation and will need to be approved. Alderson Gazal commented that with this program we can track vacation and sick time. Manager Strahl commented that sick time is more of a spur of the moment kind of time that cannot be planned but we can tighten up the vacation time and personal time may not be spur of the moment, but it can be planned.

Alderson Oberlin asked who would be approving this time. Manager Strahl commented that the request would go to the employee's supervisor, and they would approve it.

Alderman Cipiti asked if this program would keep track if an employee has used their sick time and requests to use sick time would it automatically be denied since they are out of time. Manager Strahl commented that it would not be allowed if they are out of time.

Treasurer Conklin commented that sick time will be managed differently so that it is not just someone playing sick. He also commented that you are allowed so many sick days, but that does not mean you use them and if that is the case then that is a problem and a chronic abuser of available benefit.

Alderman Vershay commented that our employees know they are supposed to be here from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Why are we always checking on these employees now and questioning what they are doing? He also asked do you want to be like 'big brother' and watch everything they do now. He also commented that you are going to have unhappy employees. Treasurer Conklin commented that yes, we will, but it will be the abusers. Alderman Vershay asked do we not trust the people; all we are going to do is upset the people and that is not good. He also commented you already have people watching everything they do, like how many photocopies they make, and it is getting to be a madhouse.

Alderman Oberlin commented that the reason we are here is because the system has been abused and no one is punching in.

Manager Strahl commented that with manual time clocks someone must enter that time manually and with this program we save time, and no one must manually figure the time. Manager Strahl commented that he would hope since these are adult jobs that people would be adults and make sure they are here but unfortunately individuals have shown in time that that is not the case. He also commented that if this were his business, he would want to pay the employees correctly for the time they are working. Alderman Gazal agreed with Manager Strahl and commented that this is taxpayer money. Alderman Oberlin commented that the same thing should be for overtime and overtime should be preauthorized and not take it upon yourself to say you are going to work an extra hour today.

Alderman Gazal asked if the overtime here is preauthorized or if the employee just does it. Treasurer Conklin commented that it depends on the department but not everyone and not in the Treasurer's Office. Alderman Cipiti commented that if one person does it that is one too many.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he is trying to not be critical but saying we are behind the times is an understatement. He also commented that you are paid for the time you are working, if you start at 8:00 a.m. and you clock in at 8:01 a.m. then you are late.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote:

AYES: Ald. Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal, Gazal, Jefferson, Dyke.

NAYES: Ald. Vershay.

ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

White Smoke and Ash located at 2301 Plainfield Road approached the podium and introduced himself. He also thanked the Council and stated that he does understand how important the work session meetings are and he does see the passion and time put into this and thanked all for allowing him to see this process.

MAYORS UPDATES:

There were no mayor updates.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES:

There were no committee updates.

Mayor Raymond Soliman asked to deviate from the regular agenda for an executive session on threatened litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

(#1) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to go into an executive session on threatened Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Dyke, Vershay, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being eight (8) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Session called at 8:55p.m.

(#2) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson to reconvene from the executive session on threatened litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Vershay, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal, Dyke.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being eight (8) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Reconvened 9:14 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2023

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR