

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
May 18, 2026

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the City of Crest Hill 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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, City Treasurer Jamie Malloy, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, and Alderman Nate Albert.

Absent were: Alderman Angelo Deserio, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Mayor Soliman stated that he received messages from Alderman Deserio, Alderman Cipiti and Alderman Kubal who were unable to be present. They were excused. It was determined by City Attorney Mike Stiff that with six Council members present, there is a quorum for tonight's meeting.

Also present were: City Administrator Blaine Wing, Police Chief Ed Clark, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Assistant City Administrator/HR Director Ashley Monroe, Community & Economic Development Director Dan Ritter and City Attorney Mike Stiff.

4. CITIZEN/SPECIAL REQUEST/PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Lockport Township Fire District Life Safety Awards

Lockport Township Fire District Chief John O'Connor appeared before the Council to present the Lockport Fire District Award for Exemplary Action to two Crest Hill Police Officers. Chief O'Connor explained that this award—the only one the fire district confers upon non-fire district personnel—recognizes citizens or individuals who demonstrate exceptional initiative, skill, or character through actions worthy of special recognition.

Chief O'Connor described two separate incidents in 2025 in which Crest Hill police officers responded to cardiac arrest calls and immediately initiated CPR. The first incident occurred on November 21, 2025, on Kelly Avenue, involving Officer Brett Williams, who was initially dispatched for a seizure call later determined to be a cardiac arrest. The second incident occurred on December 18, 2025, on Theodore Street, involving a 74-year-old male found unresponsive

with head trauma in his basement. Chief O'Connor noted that the fire district's recognition criteria require that a patient not only regain a pulse and spontaneous breathing prior to ambulance arrival at the emergency department, but also that the patient walk out of the hospital without long-term neurological deficits—a standard both cases met.

Chief O'Connor thanked Police Chief Ed Clark and the Crest Hill Police Department, noting that this level of cooperation between police and fire personnel is characteristic of their ongoing partnership. Mayor Soliman thanked Chief O'Connor for attending and acknowledged the daily collaboration between the fire and police departments.

2. Lockport Township Back-to-School Fair Program

Lockport Township Supervisor Alex Zapien presented a proposal for a partnership between Lockport Township and the City of Crest Hill to host a Back-to-School Fair in Crest Hill. Supervisor Zapien provided background on the program, explaining that the Township has hosted annual back-to-school fairs providing free school supply kits to residents, with the fair's location historically influencing which residents attend. After adding a Romeoville location the prior year, feedback prompted the Township to introduce a third location in Crest Hill for the current year.

Supervisor Zapien outlined that approximately 80 percent of Crest Hill falls within Lockport Township, a higher proportion than either Lockport or Romeoville. He described a prior challenge in which a small number of Crest Hill residents who fell outside the township boundaries called to register and had to be turned away.

The formal proposal included three elements: (1) use of a City of Crest Hill facility as the event location; (2) outreach assistance from the City to reach Crest Hill residents who fall outside the township boundaries; and (3) a request that the City financially cover the cost of supply kits for any non-township Crest Hill residents who register, at approximately \$24.85 per kit. The event would be capped at 100 total attendees and is anticipated to take place in July during daytime weekday hours. A small group of community vendors, including the White Oak Library, the fire district, and the police, would also be invited to participate.

Alderman Oberlin expressed enthusiasm for the program and offered her personal assistance as a retiree. Alderman Albert inquired about walk-in attendees, and Supervisor Zapien explained that walk-ins are accommodated when possible with available supplies and that the Township provides referrals to other area back-to-school fairs. Alderman Jefferson noted that he has operated a similar back-to-school supply event in Cook County since 2005 funded through donations and suggested that donation sourcing could potentially reduce costs. Supervisor Zapien acknowledged the flexibility and expressed openness to incorporating donated items, particularly backpacks, in future years.

Mayor Soliman expressed support for the partnership and indicated the matter would be discussed further at the upcoming work session, drawing a parallel to existing cooperative efforts such as the shred event, Winterfest, and the Easter Egg Hunt. The Council indicated consensus to pursue the partnership and directed that details be coordinated through appropriate channels.

3. Proclamation–Building Safety Month May 2026

Community and Economic Development Director Dan Ritter read the proclamation on behalf of Building Commissioner Don Seeman, who was unable to attend the meeting. The proclamation recognized the month of May 2026 as Building Safety Month under the theme “Built to Last.”

Director Ritter on behalf of the building department, noted a record number of permits issued—more than at any time since 2008. Council members offered additional commendations to the building department team, specifically recognizing Building Commissioner Don Seeman, as well as Jake, Adam, Zoe, Ky, Atefa, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Consultant Ron Mentzer and consultant Donald Morris for their collective contributions.

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to approve the proclamation for building Safety Month.

Aldersperson Oberlin made a motion to Approve the Building safety month proclamation. Seconded by Alderwoman Gazal. Roll Call: Ayes: Dyke, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Albert. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deserio, Cipiti, Kubal. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Soliman asked Council to defer to the first agenda item under the Mayor’s report for a proclamation for motorcycle awareness month for May.

7A. MAYOR’S REPORT:

The proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month for May 2026 was read in portions by Council members. The proclamation recognized the 39th anniversary of A.B.A.T.E. (A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education) of Illinois, Inc. The proclamation was brought forward at the request of Alderman Deserio, who was absent.

Alderman Albert made a motion to Approve the Motorcycle Awareness Month Proclamation May 2026. Seconded by Aldersperson Oberlin. Roll Call: Ayes: Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Albert, Dyke. Nays: None. Absent: Cipiti, Kubal, Deserio. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Soliman presented a framed copy of the proclamation to Lisa MacLean of Will County A.B.A.T.E., who accepted on behalf of the organization. Ms. MacLean briefly addressed the Council, noting A.B.A.T.E.’s ongoing work in driver’s education outreach to high school students, advocacy in Springfield regarding emerging issues such as

autonomous vehicles and e-bike regulation, and the availability of motorcycle safety courses at Joliet Junior College and Kankakee Community College for as little as \$20.

Council discussion touched on the prevalence of distracted driving and the particular vulnerability of motorcyclists. Alderwoman Gazal asked about available training courses, and Ms. MacLean confirmed that courses at the college level are accessible and affordable, advocating that riding course completion should be a requirement for all motorcyclists.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one approached the podium to make public comments on the agenda items.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Soliman asked if any of the Council members wished to have any items removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Alderman Dyke requested to remove item 6N (Approval of the List of Bills Issued through May 31, 2026, in the Amount of \$,524,815.54.) from the consent agenda.

Alderman Jefferson requested to remove item 6J (Approval of the Lidice Memorial Budget FY 26-27 for the 84th Lidice Memorial Ceremony that will be Held on June 7, 2026.) from the consent agenda.

Mayor Soliman proceeded to read the consent agenda items:

- 6A. Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on April 27, 2026.
- 6B. Approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting Held on May 4, 2026. Mayor Soliman stated that there is a correction to page 115, which is on the dias.
- 6C. Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on May 11, 2026.
- 6D. Approve a Resolution Approving a Master Contract between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and V3 Companies for Professional Construction Services for the 2026 Construction Season for a not to Exceed an Amount of \$646,245.00. **Resolution #1418**
- 6E. Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 12 (Streets and Sidewalks), Chapter 12.28 (Construction of Utility Facilities in the Rights of Way), Sections 12.28.150 and 12.28.230 of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances. **Ordinance #2062**
- 6F. Approve a Resolution Approving the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill and The Grand Prairie Water Commission Establishing a Joint Improvement Program. **Resolution #1419**

- 6G. Approval of a Special Event Police Services Contract with Double “J” Sports Bar, Inc.
- 6H. Approval to Purchase a New Single Axle Dump Truck from Lindco Equipment Sales, Inc., through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract, in the Amount of \$273,251.00.
- 6I. Approval to Purchase a New 2026 Elgin Pelican Sweeper, through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract, in the Amount of \$334,860.00.
- 6J. Approval of the Lidice Memorial Budget FY 26-27 for the 84th Lidice Memorial Ceremony that will be Held on June 7, 2026. *(REMOVED for Discussion)*
- 6K. Approve the Azavar/LocalGov Agreement to Process the City’s Places for Eating Tax (PFET) with the City of Crest Hill, Will County, IL not to Exceed an Amount of \$9,000.00.
- 6L. Approve the CivicPlus Agreement for the City’s Website Update Project with the City of Crest Hill, Will County, IL for the Next Three (3) years not to Exceed an Amount of \$27,883.25.
- 6M. Approval of the Regular and Overtime Payroll from April 20, 2026, through May 18, 2026, in the Amount of \$312,137.98.
- 6N. Approval of the List of Bills Issued through May 31, 2026, in the Amount of \$,524,815.54. *(REMOVED for Discussion)*

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items, excluding items **6J**, and **6N**.

Alderman Albert made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Alderperson Oberlin. Roll Call: Ayes: Gazal, Oberlin, Albert, Dyke, Jefferson. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cipiti, Kubal, Deserio. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Soliman commented that they would now discuss the items that were removed from the Consent Agenda to discuss separately.

- 6J. Approval of the Lidice Memorial Budget FY 26-27 for the 84th Lidice Memorial Ceremony that will be Held on June 7, 2026.

Alderman Jefferson requested this item be pulled from the consent agenda, raising two concerns: (1) the use of City funds to film the event, and (2) the absence of documentation formally connecting the City to what he characterized as a privately organized event held on private property. He acknowledged the event’s historical significance but expressed that the City’s ongoing financial and operational involvement warranted clearer

formal documentation, particularly given that City staff had previously performed maintenance on private property.

Mayor Soliman stated a gentleman who was a member of Crest Hill staff for many years provided his own equipment and filmed the Lidice event (and the Veteran's Memorial Day event) at a nominal cost. He stated in the last couple of years they have used Road to Eternity to film those two events for those who could not personally make it to the events.

Alderman Oberlin added that the Lidice Memorial, now in its 84th year, predates the City's incorporation, is open to the public, and is a deeply historical part of the community.

Alderman Jefferson stated that the fact there is no paperwork connecting the Lidice monument to the City and that the event is held on private property is still a concern for him. He would like to see the property owners take part in the event, in terms of name and also financially.

Alderman Albert made a motion to approve the budget as presented.

Alderman Jefferson stated that this item can be approved but wanted paperwork to be presented to the Council or discussed in an upcoming work session. Alderman Oberlin noted that she had recently initiated outreach to the property owners Chicago-area contacts requesting documentation, though a response had not yet been received.

Alderman Dyke suggested that the City explore the possibility of relocating the Lidice Monument to City-owned property, noting that the monument had been vandalized twice at its current location and that a planned park adjacent to City Hall could provide an appropriate setting. He proposed bringing the matter to a work session and engaging with the Czechoslovakian organization to discuss the idea.

Alderman Gazal stated that she is open to any ideas about this issue and favored Alderman Dyke's ideas of moving the monument to City property. She also mentioned the opportunity of the City buying the Lidice property. She wants to make sure that the City is protected by having something documented on paper, so that it is safe for staff to be on private property for this event. The Council needs to work together to make changes that will make a difference.

Alderman Oberlin stated that she doesn't know how the owners of the Lidice property would feel about the City wanting to buy the property or move the monument. She stated that two years ago she arranged to have somebody else come in privately to take care of the lawn. Originally the park district was managing lawn maintenance, but she doesn't know what happened to that agreement. The man she asked to take care of it is still overseeing it today.

Alderman Albert stated that there is an approval process happening for an event that is two weeks away. He wanted to know if the longer-term detailed questions could be addressed through a future work session rather than delay approval.

Alderwoman Gazal stated that if an Alderman had an item removed from the consent agenda, then it can be discussed. Alderman Albert stated that there was a motion for approval ten minutes prior.

Mayor Soliman stated that there is a motion on the floor and acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised and agreed that a work session discussion would be appropriate, including inviting representatives of the Czechoslovakian organization. He noted that any relocation would require the organization's cooperation and willingness, given the monument's long-standing historical and cultural significance. He indicated the City is still several years away from completing the adjacent park due to funding timelines.

Alderman Albert made a motion to Approve consent agenda item 6J, the approval of the Lidice Memorial Budget FY 26-27 for the 84th Lidice Memorial Ceremony that will be Held on June 7, 2026. Seconded by Alderperson Oberlin. Roll Call: Ayes: Dyke, Gazal, Oberlin, Albert. Nays: Jefferson. Abstain: None. Absent: Deserio, Cipiti, Kubal. MOTION CARRIED.

- 6N. Approval of the List of Bills Issued through May 31, 2026, in the Amount of \$,524,815.54.

Mayor Soliman stated that before he asks Alderman Dyke to speak, he was made aware of a typographical error in the consent agenda item itself. It stated the amount as \$524,815.54 and it should have been \$1,524,815.54.

Alderman Dyke requested this item be pulled to ask two questions. First, he inquired about a line item for water fountains totaling \$7,159.96 from Menards. City Administrator Blaine Wing explained that the City had been leasing water filtration units in several public works buildings purchased by a former Public Works Director, incurring ongoing monthly costs. He indicated that units normally priced at approximately \$3,000 each were purchased for approximately \$1,700 each, with an additional 11 percent Menards rebate reducing the effective cost further. A total of four units were purchased, and the same drinking fountain standard used in City Hall and the police department will now be applied across public works buildings and the new wastewater treatment facility, resulting in significant annual savings. Second, Alderman Dyke inquired about a line item described as an "unmanned vehicle" for \$14,532. Administrator Wing confirmed this was the police department's drone.

Alderwoman Gazal made a motion to Approve consent agenda item 6N, the Approval of the List of Bills Issued through May 31, 2026, in the Amount

of \$1,524,815.54. Seconded by Alderman Dyke. Roll Call: Ayes: Oberlin, Albert, Dyke, Jefferson, Gazal. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cipiti, Kubal, Deserio. MOTION CARRIED.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall provided the resolution and ordinance numbers:

- 6D: Resolution 1418
- 6E: Ordinance 2062
- 6F: Resolution 1419

7. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & ELECTED OFFICIALS

7B. CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Approve a Block Party Application on Essex Ct for Joshua Resto on Sunday, August 8, 2026.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall reported one block party application received for a resident on Essex Court, requesting a party on August 8, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., with closure of Essex Court to Borio Drive.

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to approve a block party application on Essex Ct for Joshua Resto on Sunday, August 8, 2026.

Alderman Gazal made a motion to Approve a Block Party Application on Essex Ct for Joshua Resto on Sunday, August 8, 2026. Seconded by Alderman Jefferson. Roll Call: Ayes: Albert, Dyke, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin. Nays: None. Absent: Kubal, Deserio, Cipiti. MOTION CARRIED.

7C. CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:

There were no items to report.

7D. CITY ATTORNEY:

There were no items to report.

7E. CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Alderman Gazal questioned the recent purchase of audio-visual equipment for the Council chambers cable room. Alderman Gazal asked why AVI wasn't hired for a study and to go over the system before the purchase was made. She further asserted that the Council used to give approval every time there was something needed for the AV system and cable room. Administrator Wing explained that AVI, which is now Forte Solutions, sent a vendor proposal for over \$80,000, and by consulting with a neighboring municipality, he was able to source equivalent equipment for

under \$8,000. Administrator Wing noted that he had raised the general topic of AV equipment needs in February and that cameras were at end-of-life. As cameras fail, he is switching them out with new ones. Alderwoman Gazal expressed concern that such purchases should be communicated to the full Council in advance, and only emergency purchases fall within the administrator's authority. She also asked if the neighboring municipality has the same system that Crest Hill does or are we trying to copy a system that is different from the City's system. Alderwoman Gazal reiterated the importance of proactive communication with the Council before purchases are made since it is taxpayer money. When asked who is responsible for installing the new cameras, Administrator Wing stated that he is working with various vendors to get pricing for the installation now. He also stated that we had several of the same actual components that Romeoville had replaced within the last three years. Administrator Wing also stated that the ordinance she is quoting is the emergency clause, but there is also a regular clause that states the City Administrator can purchase items up to \$20,000.

City Administrator Wing addressed a question raised by Alderman Jefferson regarding the role and scope of authority of City committees, specifically in the context of the Lockport Township Back-to-School Fair presentation, which was directed to the full Council rather than routed through the events committee. Alderman Jefferson requested a work session discussion to clarify the defined responsibilities and duties of the City's committees. Administrator Wing agreed to bring the matter to a future work session.

7F. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

1. Approval of the Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management Agreement

City Administrator Blaine Wing presented this item, noting that Clarke Environmental had made a presentation at a prior work session and that the council had moved the item forward for approval. The agreement covers mosquito management services for the period 2027 through 2029.

Alderwoman Gazal made a motion to approve the Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management agreement for 2027-2029. Seconded by Alderman Albert. Roll Call: Ayes: Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Albert, Dyke. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cipiti, Kubal, Deserio. MOTION CARRIED.

7G. CITY ENGINEER:

Alderman Dyke thanked Engineer Wiedeman for keeping him informed regarding ongoing projects in Ward 1, including work on Oakland Avenue.

7H. FINANCE:

There were no items to report.

7H. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Ed Clark provided two updates. First, he reported that the department held its inaugural awards ceremony the prior Thursday, honoring Officer Williams and Officer Gorski for the cardiac arrest incidents recognized by the Lockport Fire District, as well as Sergeant Smith, Officer Sandoval, Officer Tough, and Sergeant Fenoglio for a critical incident in 2022, each receiving lifesaving awards and a medal of honor. Officer Tetlow received both a medal of honor and a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in that incident. Approximately 60–65 individuals attended, including officers, fire department personnel, and Wescom dispatchers, and that the families of the honorees were very appreciative.

Second, Chief Clark reported that the department's Cop on a Rooftop fundraiser for Special Olympics, held the following day, raised \$4,700 at the event, bringing the department's running total to \$12,000 for the year. Chief Clark noted a possible upcoming rowing challenge event as an additional fundraising opportunity.

Mayor Soliman commended Chief Clark on the successful awards ceremony, noting that Officer Tetlow's attendance was particularly meaningful.

7J. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Community & Economic Development Director Dan Ritter provided an informal update on the QuikTrip development project, reporting that abatement work had recently been completed on the property. Engineering and building plans are expected to be submitted within the next few weeks. The developer is hoping to complete utility disconnections within the following month and aims to begin demolition in early July.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Alderperson Oberlin announced that the 84th Lidice Memorial Ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the memorial site. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be relocated to City Hall. The Czechoslovakian school will provide refreshments, and all are welcome to attend.

Mayor Soliman announced that the Veterans and Police Memorial Committee invites all residents and council members to the 39th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25, 2026, beginning with a short concert by the Frankfort Brass Band at 1:40 p.m., followed by the formal program at 2:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Calvin Lee, a U.S. Army veteran of 20 years and current ROTC director at Joliet Central High School. The program will honor veterans who have passed, as well as the department's two slain police officers

killed in the line of duty, with family members expected to attend. Light refreshments will follow in the community room. In the event of rain, the program will be held inside City Hall. Seating and tenting will be provided outdoors.

11. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Alderman Albert wished residents a happy Memorial Day weekend and encouraged attendance at the Memorial Day and Lidice events.

Alderwoman Oberlin echoed those sentiments, encouraging the public to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day and to thank veterans for their service.

Alderman Dyke encouraged residents to visit a cemetery or memorial on Memorial Day and reminded the public that honoring veterans is not limited to a single day of the year.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Linda Dyke addressed the Council to note that the week of May 4–10 is observed nationally as Municipal Clerks Week, and that the clerk’s office deserved recognition for maintaining official records, minutes, and keeping city government organized. She thanked City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall and the clerk’s office staff on behalf of the community. Mayor Solomon acknowledged that the proclamation opportunity had been missed and thanked the clerk’s office for their ongoing work.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, and no action needed from an executive session, a motion for adjournment was in order.

Alderman Dyke made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Jefferson. Roll Call: Ayes: Gazal, Oberlin, Albert, Dyke, Jefferson. Nays: None. Absent: Cipiti, Kubal, Deserio. MOTION CARRIED.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2026,

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR