

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
March 23, 2026

The March 23, 2026, the City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 20600 City Center Blvd. Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

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

Also Present were: City Administrator Blaine Wing, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, Community & Economic Development Director Daniel Ritter, Police Chief Ed Clark, Public Works Director Gary Richardson, Assistant Administrator/HR Director Ashley Monroe, Attorney Mike Santschi.

**MAYOR**

There were no agenda items.

**CLERK**

There were no agenda items.

**TREASURER**

There were no agenda items.

Mayor Soliman asked for professional courtesy to move up the Public Works department item on the agenda since there is only one short report. There were no objections.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

1. Approving an Ordinance for Construction on State Highway for Permit Work to be Performed by Employees of the City of Crest Hill in Lieu of Surety Bond

Public Works Director Gary Richardson explained the need to update the City's surety bond with the State of Illinois for construction, maintenance, and emergency work conducted on state-maintained right-of-ways. The ordinances are valid for a two-year period and streamline the permit insurance process. The previous ordinance was last updated in 2021, and the state requested updates for 2026 and 2027.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote to approve an ordinance for construction on state highway for permit work to be performed by employees of the City of Crest Hill in lieu of surety bond.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

### 1. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Draft Budget Presentation

City Administrator Blaine Wing acknowledged the comprehensive work by staff and directors in preparing the draft budget. He highlighted several what he called headwinds facing the City, including inflation, rising fuel costs, health insurance increases, risk management insurance costs, and electricity rate increases. Additional pressures include increases from the Wescom joint dispatching service due to collective bargaining agreements.

Administrator Wing emphasized this was a draft budget presentation, with detailed staff responses to follow at the next meeting. Some topics would require closed session discussion. He noted the budget is balanced with a slight surplus and includes up to \$8.5 million in potential capital projects requiring Council direction at the March 30th meeting. The budget also includes staff improvements, some of which would need closed session discussion.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke presented the budget overview, explaining the general fund revenues of \$13.9 million and balanced expenditures. The budget shows a slight surplus of \$5,308. He detailed various fund breakdowns including motor fuel tax (\$1 million revenue with \$982,000 in projects), non-home rule sales tax (\$2.3 million), and enterprise fund (\$17 million balanced).

Director Gehrke explained the capital replacement program (\$955,000 revenue, \$874,000 expenditures for equipment including a snowplow and Kubota or Gator vehicle), water sewer capital projects (\$18 million expenses with \$10 million in IEPA loan reimbursements), and capital improvements (\$8.5 million in potential projects requiring Council prioritization).

City Administrator Blaine Wing presented staffing highlights, including three new superintendent positions (water, wastewater, and operations), two crew leader promotions requiring union negotiation, and converting two part-time inspector positions into one full-time position. The budget includes a 2% cost of living adjustment for non-union employees and introduces merit-based evaluations tied to anniversary dates rather than fiscal year dates.

For union employees, police contracts include a 3.5% increase plus steps for the final year of current agreements. Local 150 contract negotiations will begin in April or May as that contract expires at the end of April.

Administrator Wing highlighted water project revenue increases of 22% due to ongoing construction projects, a website refresh scheduled for June/July (first update since 2016), and engagement of a grant consultant expected to significantly increase grant funding opportunities.

Assistant Administrator/HR Director Ashley Monroe detailed revenue sources, noting the \$13.9 million represents a 9% increase from the prior year due to utilizing non-home rule sales tax for general operations. Major revenue sources include state income tax (30%), sales tax, non-home rule sales tax, and franchise taxes (\$1.2 million). She emphasized the low property tax contribution at only 8% of total revenues.

Alderwoman Claudia Gazal stated that she agreed with the pay increase to coincide with the employees' hiring date but was curious about employees who have been around multiple years. City Administrator Wing stated that those employees would use an artificial start date of May 1<sup>st</sup> to coincide with the beginning of the fiscal year. Employees starting within the last year would have their hiring date as their review date, which would include any cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and merit increases.

Alderman Nate Albert asked the origination of the sales tax revenue projections. Administrator Wing stated those projected numbers came from the Illinois Municipal League (IML). The latest projected numbers came out in July.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the City Council will be going through the budget by department and line by line. Administrator Wing stated that each department will be going over their budget, but not line by line. It's more of an itemized process he explained, going over big items, like printers but not paper clips and pens for office supplies, for example.

Alderman Darrell Jefferson stated that the merging of two part-time inspectors into one full-time inspector position makes sense for the budget. He noted that this is the first time he is hearing about the administrative intern and engineering assistant positions. Administrator Wing stated that this is the first time that all of Council is hearing about them because they are in this draft budget. The City is budgeting \$20,000 for the administrative assistant intern so the City gets a more qualified individual at a much lower cost. The engineering assistant position would only be for half the year and budgeted thusly. This came about because City Engineer Ron Wiedeman has made it known that he is retiring in a couple of years and Administrator Wing is not sure if it is in two, three or four years. We do need to move forward sooner rather than later as we have a lot of projects, the Lake Michigan water coming to Crest Hill being one of the biggest projects the City has going on right now. Currently, Crest Hill engineering has a department of one, City Engineer Wiedeman.

Mayor Soliman wanted to thank the City Administrator, the Finance Director and recently the Assistant City Administrator/HR Director for working on the budget for the past several months. He praised the balanced budget and conservative approach, noting the City's strong 75% police pension funding compared to many communities in the 20-40% range. He also stated that it is going to be a busy season.

Mayor Soliman asked City Administrator Wing to give a timeline for April. Administrator Wing stated that the City is looking at a date of April 20<sup>th</sup> for the Public Hearing as well as the adoption of the 2026 budget. Next week's work session will be used to go over the budget of each department, going over the concerns of Council and then the City will have three weeks to finalize the budget.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke commented that the City should be proud that they jumped into the Lake Michigan water alternative early at a lower rate. He stated that area communities are now looking into switching to Lake Michigan water, but at a much higher rate.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

1. Discuss 3-year (2026-2028) Code Abatement and Vegetation Control Contract

Community & Economic Development Director Dan Ritter presented the results of an RFP for code abatement and vegetation control services, posted January 13th and closed February 10th. The services include grass cutting, trash pickup, and mattress removal for code enforcement situations after proper notification to property owners.

Three submittals were received, with two complete and on-time proposals. Staff recommended Precision Property Pros based on most beneficial costs and a well-prepared plan. The company is locally based at 520 Pasadena Avenue in Crest Hill, providing additional community benefit.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote to approve the staff recommendation of a 3-year (2026-2028) Code Abatement and Vegetation Control Contract with Precision Property Pros to be placed on the April 6, 2026, City Council meeting for approval.

AYES: Ald. Kubal, Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin, Gazal, Jefferson, Deserio, Dyke.  
NAYES: None.  
ABSENT: None.

2. Plan Commission Recommendations on a Special Use permit for a Massage Establishment Business Known as Muscle Methods LLC at 2206 Weber Road

Community & Economic Development Director Dan Ritter reported the Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval of a special use permit for Muscle Methods LLC at 2206 Weber Road. He explained that massage establishments require special use permits to ensure they are legitimate businesses, addressing potential stigma issues.

Alderman Albert asked if the individual units have one address with different unit numbers or if they were all separate addresses. Business owner Melissa Polchlopek answered that the units are all separate addresses.

Melissa Polchlopek, addressing the Council, is a licensed massage therapist for thirteen years and certified in holistic health, focusing on mobility, range of motion, and chronic pain management. She is excited to expand her working space in this new location and looking forward to helping more people.

Mayor Soliman asked if Ms. Polchlopek was the sole employee of Muscle Methods LLC and Ms. Polchlopek stated that she was.

When Alderwoman Gazal asked if Ms. Polchlopek would be running both the Joliet and Crest Hill locations, Ms. Polchlopek explained she operates from Joliet currently but is relocating her business to Crest Hill when her Joliet lease expires at the end of March.

Alderman Mark Cipiti asked when she expects to open her business. Ms. Polchlopek stated that she was hoping to open April 1<sup>st</sup> as long as the business inspections go well.

Mayor Soliman confirmed that Ms. Polchlopek has all of her certifications. Community & Economic Development Director Dan Ritter stated that there is a condition of the special use permits that states if a new employee is hired, they would have to supply their license and go through a background check to make sure everyone is legitimate.

Mayor Soliman commended the professional presentation and legitimate nature of the business, distinguishing it from establishments that create negative connotations. He added that this business will be something great for the City of Crest Hill. Ms. Polchlopek stated that she looks forward to changing that negative connotation that goes along with massage. Mayor Soliman stated that he hopes that she is there for a long time and is able to hire additional staff also.

Aldersperson Tina Oberlin stated that she likes the way the business is referred to as a “massage establishment” rather than “parlor” to avoid negative associations.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote to approve Plan Commission recommendations on a Special Use permit for a massage establishment business known as Muscle Methods LLC at 2206 Weber Road to be placed on the April 6, 2026, City Council meeting for approval.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

### 2. Discussion Regarding City Treasurer Requests

City Administrator Blaine Wing explained, “I will give a brief overview for what is in the packet summary and then what I just handed out as well might

help Council give some direction and I think Council should talk with the Treasurer as she is here to get any additional insight. This particular item again over the past several weeks, the Treasurer has made a few requests including wanting a copy of each bill that is being paid by the City delivered to her office. During this time, a few requests were refined to having a printed copy of each invoice as it comes in copied and placed in a file then sent over to her. And if that becomes too much work, the Treasurer asked that she no longer wants her digital signature to be used on City issued checks as of this morning and that is the document that I just passed out to Council. The Treasurer asked to no longer..." City Treasurer Jamie Malloy interjected, "Actually, it's as per counsel. It's not that I'm asking, it's as per counsel." Administrator Wing replied, "So, again, you can define Council hasn't made a direction yet. So, Council hasn't made a direction yet." Treasurer Malloy clarified, "I'm not meaning this Council, I'm meaning attorney counsel." Administrator Wing said, "Okay, so you're making it as a direction?" Treasurer Malloy answered, "This was actually a direction made by my attorney." Administrator Wing responded, "Okay, so it sounds like it's no longer a request." Treasurer Malloy stated, "Correct. If I didn't word it right, I didn't mean as per this Council, I meant legal counsel." Administrator Wing replied, "That is very helpful." Treasurer Malloy said, "I apologize. I didn't mean to confuse anything there." Administrator Wing then stated, "I believe then what the Treasurer is per her legal counsel, she is asking, so that is why I took it as a request, when she said she is asking that you no longer use her signature, I did not take that as a directive. But again, she might ask." Treasurer Malloy interjected, "From my legal counsel. Yes."

City Administrator Wing restarted, "Again, what's in the packet, I phrased as a two-part request from the Treasurer at the time that she wanted to have all of the bills as a hard-copy and if not she wanted to have her signature removed from the City-issued bills for the checks that go out to pay our invoices. It sounds like what she is now stating is that her attorney just wants her digital signature not on the City-issued checks." Treasurer Malloy responded, "You're correct. Yes."

Alderman Scott Dyke asked, "So, she'll actually sign them by hand, is what she is wanting to do?" Administrator Wing responded, "No, that's not..." Treasurer Malloy answered, "Correct." Administrator Wing said, "Oh that was not my understanding." Treasurer Malloy reiterated, "You are correct, Scott." Alderman Dyke stated, "That's what I'm reading here. It says if you need my signature on it, please ask me and I will sign it." Administrator Wing said, "Ah, okay." Treasurer Malloy stated, "You are correct." Alderman Jefferson said, "If it says, 'kindly ask me and I will sign it,' that's pretty plain."

Alderwoman Claudia Gazal asked, "Can you explain what is the main issue here because I'm totally confused." Administrator Wing answered, "Yes, I believe the Treasurer is wanting, instead of having the access through our software which her position has along with any Council member who asked to have the Caselle software to look at our bills, to have a hardcopy provided

to her and if that is not I guess an option, she no longer wanted to have her signature on that. As I noted to Council before I started or in this memo that Council, the night that I was appointed the Finance department was placed underneath the City Administrator's direction and per view. So, the Treasurer position no longer is overseeing the Finance department and again, my recommendation is to approve which was the previous request from the Treasurer was if she didn't have a hardcopy of each invoice that she wanted her signature to be removed. It sounds like she was now asking if you need my signature on anything to kindly ask for it to be signed as I would not be asking Council to hold up our whole process for processing bills and to incur late fees or to have thousands of signatures done by hand. I would not be in favor of I guess, this revised request that the Treasurer is now making." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "So, what I need to understand is why the software, why you don't want to use the software?" Administrator Wing answered, "I don't know that she would have to explain that." City Treasurer Malloy answered, "Because with Caselle, as you sign on, and you go into accounts payable there is a red bar that comes up and will say error, and you have to keep re-signing on. It does not just sign you on." Alderwoman Gazal answered, "Okay, so that's the reason." Treasurer Malloy continued, "So, I'm not a fan of Caselle. Scott, I know you also have it. Do you also have...?" Alderman Dyke responded, "I signed in originally to start looking at the invoices and lately I haven't even been able to log on to it. I've been meaning to come in and see either IT or whatever to try to address that, bring my tablet in to see what the issue is because I haven't been able to log onto it either and see." Alderwoman Gazal said, "So, from my understanding, there is an issue that she cannot log in to see, that's why she you're requesting a hardcopy?" Treasurer Malloy responded, "Exactly." Alderwoman Gazal continued, "And can we fix the issue or can we give her hardcopies?" Administrator Wing answered, "So hardcopies is again I've noted would cost the City money and overtime and materials." Alderwoman Gazal asked, "How does it cost the City money? Cause somebody has to print them from outside?" Administrator Wing answered, "Correct. We normally about ninety per cent of our invoices come in electronically so we actually would have to print them." Alderwoman Gazal countered, "Who has to print them?" Administrator Wing stated, "Well, a staff member or we would have to have them printed." Alderwoman Gazal asked, "Oh. So, it's not an outside company that we're paying because you're saying that it costs a lot of money." Administrator Wing replied, "It would cost money. So, currently we do not print them. We are ninety, ninety-five per cent digital and so it would change our process to now have to print to convert a digital invoice to a hardcopy paper invoice." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "I just got lost because you said it's going to cost us money, so we don't have a company that's going to print those requests and print them, somebody from here is going to? So, how is it going to cost us money if the employee is working here, the staff?" Administrator Wing responded, "Staff right now, through our current process, does not print off the full list of invoices. They're ninety-five per cent done digitally so that would now take time and money to actually print them." Alderwoman Gazal asked, "Time and money. How long does it take to print something?" Administrator Wing said, "Well, it depends on which way it comes in. So, when I met with the

accounts payable person, we get our invoices probably five different ways. We have to log into a system to actually pull the bills to actually have them download them and put them into our file. So now that would take us time to get that batch and then print them. It would take time for the ones that are emailed to the departments, the time that they're emailed to the accounts payable individual. The ones that we get handed in, the ones that we get through the mail, so I estimated in my memo potentially thirty minutes per day added on. Our current staff is at capacity so that would either be a new employee to handle that or an overtime. I estimated annually that it would be between \$5,000 to \$6,500 before we factor in the cost of the wear and tear on our copy machines, the paper, electricity and those sort of costs. Currently, our software would allow anybody I guess, once you have access and log in. I log in almost daily Monday through Friday. From time to time, I've had some issues but just call customer service and I've been able to get that corrected. There is no cost and for me as an employee or the Treasurer herself would be able to print off any invoice on her own time without impacting the operations of the City." Alderwoman Gazal said, "Do these invoices get printed every day if she is asking for them what that's like once a week or once a month or how does?" Administrator Wing replied, "I believe her request was once a week. She wanted all the invoices once a week." Alderwoman Gazal asked, "Can we help her fix that problem so? To me, me, if I have my signature is going on something I would like to see. That's me. I don't know about her, I don't know about the past Treasurer, I don't know how it works but to me, if somebody is requesting something it seems like we're complicating everything so why there is no access for her to see what her signature is going on." Administrator Wing stated, "Yep, to me it is extremely disappointing that tonight is the first time that she actually stated that she did not have access. I have probably fifteen emails." Treasurer Malloy interjected, "No, I have told you that before." Administrator Wing stated, "I have fifteen emails and there was not an issue stating that you had problems logging in to Caselle." Treasurer Malloy stated, "I have told you more than one time, in fact, remember when the bill of Ancel Glink came up and I said to you I can't find it. And I said to you then that there's a red bar that comes up as an error message on Caselle where I can't find it and you came back and you said it's on page 217. And I didn't know where you were talking, were you talking about Caselle or were you talking about in the packet then you had said you were talking about in the packet. I told you at that time all I've had is problems with Caselle where it comes up with that red bar that says error on it and I have to keep trying to re-sign on and re-sign on and re-sign on and I can't get on there. Have I put in writing, maybe not, but I have told you." Administrator Wing responded, "Okay. Well, for me, when I had that same problem, it was corrected, there was no issue and I have not heard that you had an issue since that date which was last year when we had that Ancel Glink bill." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "But see like, some of us, some of us are not computer savvy. I'm not, you know. So, I think it's just like this big elephant in this room has got to stop. We're wasting so much time here, constantly the drama that I'm getting sick and tired of and we all of us keep getting dragged into this constantly. No matter what you guys have issues between the finance and your office and her office and her, it's just got to stop. We

keep being dragged and I've said that before, I keep being dragged for negotiation to talk with this and I pulled myself out of this, but now, here we are in work session we're being dragged because there's no communication and now, everybody gets print copies. I was getting print copies. The Mayor gets print copies; the alderwoman gets print copies and now print copies are expensive and we have. I just think we're being a little too nit picking here, too nit picking. The fact is she is elected we like or not, she's elected and she is going to be here for another two years, you know. I've said this before and I'm going to say it again, I have many differences with the Treasurer, but you know what, I got to be the big girl here and I got to try to do my best to work in peace. We need to start working in peace here because this is very draining." Alderman Cipiti asked, "Can we see if this issue with logging in can be worked out and come back to this if it is a problem? I'm sure it can be worked out if it's a user/IT concern. I mean, it shouldn't come to us like this if it. Would that be amenable to both? If you can get regular access and not get kicked out, that would solve this issue?" Treasurer Malloy answered, "Yes. It's frustrating." Administrator Wing stated, "Again, tonight was the first time since last year that I heard she was having log in access issues. Tonight was the first time I heard Scott was having log in access issues." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "Can you please next time, instead of verbally, make sure you put everything in an email so we can have, so he can understand what you're looking for because it's obvious he was not aware that you were having issues logging in so this will avoid this whole thing tonight." City Treasurer Malloy answered, "Yes." Alderman Jefferson asked the Treasurer, "How much input do you have in the process, the process, the billing process? How much input did you have with the budget? How much input does your office have because I'm going by the last Treasurer had." Treasurer Malloy inquired, "Has my office had?" "Yes." responded Alderman Jefferson. Treasurer Malloy said, "None. I had requested to go into Friday's meeting and was denied access." Alderman Jefferson asked, "Oh, why was that?" Administrator Wing answered, "So, the Treasurer's department does not have..." Alderman Jefferson stated, "I'm not asking. No, no, no, that's the Treasurer I'm asking." Administrator Wing continued, "It's not a public meeting and she was not invited to that meeting." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "Well, the past Treasurer used to be invited." Administrator Wing said, "That's fine." Alderman Jefferson asked, "So why is the Treasurer, the elected official, being excluded?" City Administrator Blaine Wing answered, "Because this Council chose to create a finance committee that has two elected officials on it. Those two elected officials were the two invited elected officials. If this Council wants to change the make-up of the finance committee, this Council can give me that direction." Alderman Jefferson stated, "I think that's playing with words." Administrator Wing replied, "It's not playing with words." City Treasurer Malloy stated, "And I was very understanding." Alderman Jefferson said, "You know, I can go back prior to April, the election, and that Treasurer was hands-on with everything, and I, you know, I don't care about personality differences. My job is to protect that position and if you're not going to respect that position or honor that position because you have differences with that person, maybe we need to separate you. I'm just speaking bluntly because the position is an elected position. We've tried to

take the Clerk and Treasurer out of this thing, we've tried, we've tried some things that I thought never would come up, but it's the position, not the person. If you got differences with the person, hey, that's tough. You have to work with people you don't like sometimes, and you have to tolerate people you can't stand sometimes, and I do a lot of that here. So, I'm saying at some point in time you either go blow the bridge up or you go build it. Now, if we're going to blow it up, let's blow it all the way up and quit playing." Administrator Wing replied, "Well, I will say that Council blew it up on June of 2025, the night that I was appointed." Alderman Jefferson replied, "They did that out of personality difference. And this is Crest Hill, they act on emotion, not on professionalism. I'm just telling you that." Administrator Wing responded, "Okay." Alderman Jefferson went on, "I came 2021, I knew that by August 2021." Alderwoman Gazal said, "We didn't vote for the Treasurer not to have any access to any financial, we voted for her to not manage staff. Let's not correct that, let's pull the ordinance so don't put words in my mouth and say I voted her out because I never voted her out. I was one of these votes." Administrator Wing replied, "Okay." Alderwoman Gazal went on, "But it was for her not to manage staff, but the past Treasurer, all the Treasurers, they always went over finance, that's their responsibility. That's why they were elected. This is the extra set of eyes that the people of Crest Hill elected to oversee and look for things that in the past were hidden from us, millions and millions of dollars. Not a couple of dollars, millions of dollars. Let's pull the minutes." Administrator Wing said, "So, all of that may have occurred prior to me being selected. I did not direct Council to; I did not even put an agenda item to change how the Treasurer's responsibilities were to oversee or not to oversee the finance department. All of that occurred prior to..." Alderwoman Gazal responded, "We're not saying that. I feel you're twisting my words." Alderman Jefferson stated, "He's nit picking." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "The Treasurer still has responsibilities we like or not, we have responsibilities, just the way I'm elected I have responsibilities, just like the City Administrator has responsibilities, just the way the Mayor position has responsibilities. Each person has their own positions, okay?" Administrator Wing said, "I agree." Alderwoman Gazal continued, "Nobody should overstep on anyone else. And again, if we don't agree with her, we have bumped heads, you know what and I've told you this and I've told her. We might not like each other, we have differences, which is we're human, we have differences, but we've got to move on, you know. The fact that you're saying we voted her out, first of all, I didn't vote her out from her office. I did vote her out of her handling staff and that will go under you, so the Finance Manager will answer to you and his staff, but she's still the Treasurer. If she asks questions, she's still the Treasurer of Crest Hill, that's number one." Administrator Wing replied, "Yes." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "When you put the finance committee, whatever it's called, you never said to us that the Treasurer would not be a part of it because you just said that we voted for it. Well, from now on when you guys give me a committee and I'm requesting each committee to give me the responsibilities of each committee because every day we find out there's new positions or new rules that I'm not aware of. We were never told that the finance committee will take over the Treasurer, but now I heard

something different tonight.” Administrator Wing stated, “Well, that’s news to me as well.” Alderman Jefferson asked, “Who are the two elected officials on that committee?” Alderwoman Gazal responded, “Them two, right next to you.” Alderman Jefferson stated, “Take one of them out.” Administrator Wing stated, “You guys can give me that direction.” Alderman Jefferson said, “I’ll motion that right now. Remove one of them. Because it doesn’t make sense to me. And the nit picking is, got to stop. I mean, man, this is childish, very childish. And I know how to play with words too. So, playing the word game doesn’t work with me. I’ve been playing with word games for over thirty years of my career. Nothing new here, nothing. There is nothing new here that I’ve never seen before.”

City Administrator Blaine Wing stated, “Well, I would like to have it on the record that I did not make this request, so this was not my request. This was the Treasurer’s request in regard to both the viewing of the bills and to have them printed, as well as the request to have her signature either removed or now it sounds like to have her signature, hard signature on every single check that’s issued.” Alderman Jefferson stated, “I don’t think it’s going to cost anything because people work here for eight hours and you can’t tell me that our staff is busy every minute of the eight hours that they’re working. And if a bill comes in electronically, you have an option and if you click on the top right corner to print, download and what not, you can do that and send it over to her, she can print it herself.” Administrator Wing stated, “I will get her the software so that make sure she can log in and she can print it herself, yes.” Mayor Soliman said, “Okay.” Alderman Jefferson stated, “Don’t bring me into this personal stuff. If it’s not professional, leave it at the door. Don’t bring it to me. This is not a place for personal issues. We handle the citizens of Crest Hill business here.” Mayor Soliman said, “Okay, end of discussion.”

Alderman Mark Cipiti stated, “I have a question or a comment, I guess, depending hopefully this issue with logging in gets resolved and I’m sure will be able to be, but I have a question that kind of goes back to your rationale for not approving, not allowing the bills to be printed due to staff constraints. If that’s how you feel about that, I would like that to be held, to be consistent as far as if a staff member or elected official has access to documents or information electronically then they shouldn’t be for the same reason you’re pointing out shouldn’t have it printed out for them if they have access to it digitally as you’re pointing out regarding the Treasurer’s request.” Administrator Wing said, “Yes, so currently our current operational procedure is not to print it out for our bills. So, I’m not sure what you’re referring to for other, I guess other items or what other employees are doing.” Alderman Cipiti answered, “Well, other all of us up here have access to information electronically, whether it’s through Municode, as an example, but staff print it out per request. I’m just looking at that situation. Isn’t that cause staff, extra work for staff?” Administrator Wing stated, “I believe that’s built into our process. The process…” Alderman Cipiti interjected, “No, it’s not. It was built into our process prior to us getting iPads.” Administrator Wing said, “Okay.” Alderman Cipiti continued, “The main drive for getting iPads was to eliminate and to be

more environmentally conscious, saving on paper and staff and printing and wear and tear on machines to get all of our stuff electronically, which is great. But if someone chooses not to utilize what we've been provided, I'm looking back again at your rationale for not allowing printed bills for the Treasurer cause you're saying that she should have access to it electronically, you follow me?" Administrator Wing responded, "I am and for the bills our current mechanism is to utilize it electronic, for staff to utilize it electronic. If the Treasurer or if any of the elected officials once we, I guess, solve the login issue, they would also be able to print off any page through that software system and again, would not incur staff time to print it." Alderman Cipiti stated, "I understand that. I'm just trying to make the analogy of printing material that is otherwise available electronically and when, I guess I'm just looking for consistent method of handling those situations, not just for billing." Administrator Wing replied, "Sure, so to me any requests that come in, we evaluate those requests. I wasn't here when the iPad got issued. I mean I've implemented that program in other communities, either iPads or laptops, to again save time with staff printing and also the cost of printing, the paper, the delivery. I agree that would still be probably the preferred method to save the time that it takes to print as well as the time and especially if you're telling me that everybody has been issued an iPad that again, that would be the preferred method. It does save staff time, and it does save wear-and-tear on the copy machines, saves staff time on printing. Again, that logic still holds." Alderman Cipiti asked, "But you're only choosing to implement that for the Treasurer in this situation." Administrator Wing claimed, "Well, to me I'm not aware of, I guess, the previous operational situation. I did not, I was not a part of that previous process, so this is the first time, I guess that you're telling me that there's a different process. I looked at this specific process and that is not the way that it's been done, it's been handled. And again, I talked to the accounts payable clerk and about ninety, ninety-five per cent come in electronically so if it's already coming in that way to make it a paper process, it does change our process. If staff is processing, I don't know if you're referring to our Council packets or other things, if they built in a process to provide paper or electronic then there's an either or. With our current billing process, it's electronic. There's not an either or." Alderwoman Gazal asked the City Clerk, "Chris, who gets paper copies in your office like who does it?" City Clerk Chris Vershay-Hall answered, "I can speak for the Council packets. Currently, the Mayor gets one, but he does not use his tablet. Tina gets a copy." Alderwoman Gazal stated, "I used to get a copy, but I stopped." City Clerk Vershay-Hall said, "You stopped it. You get a copy of the, I believe, the bills." Alderwoman Gazal said, "I get a list of the bills and the agenda." City Clerk Vershay-Hall said, "And Scott gets a copy of the bills." Alderman Dyke said, "I get a copy of the list of bills, I get a paper copy of that." Clerk Vershay-Hall stated, "I believe that's all, except for our copy that we have to keep. But I believe that's the only ones that are getting paper copies of the packets for Council. Now work session, I don't know, I can't speak for that because the Mayor Administrator's Secretary does that." Alderwoman Gazal said, "But certain things I do request hard copies as well, not just digital. Yes, I mean on the subject." Clerk Vershay-Hall said, "Correct, but you don't get a full packet, Scott doesn't get a full packet.

And sometimes these packets run like nine hundred pages.” Alderman Cipiti said, “And they’re printed?” Clerk Vershay-Hall replied, “Printed.” Alderman Cipiti asked, “Can we look at the big picture, if we’re really looking at trying to save money, on printing?” Administrator Wing replied, “Yes.” Alderman Cipiti added, “And not limit it to this situation or another situation, It all should be, kind of, looked it in whole.” Administrator Wing answered, “Happy to expand, I guess it would be helpful to know if individuals don’t have the iPad so that again right now it seems like a hybrid, if people don’t have an iPad or device to get it electronically.” Alderman Cipiti said, “We all have them. We were all issued them. It’s not a matter of who has them.” Alderman Dyke said, “I have a tablet and I use it all the time, I just ask for a list of bills. That’s the only thing I ask for to be printed.” Alderwoman Gazal said, “But Blaine, this is our choice. If I want a hard copy every meeting then you’re going to give me a hard copy every meeting because I can say the same thing, well you know what we’re wasting money, I should not give you a raise. That...I was going to explain something here. I’m a person, I’m a Christian person and sometimes it’s really hard to work with some people because they’ve done things to me. I’m a forgiving person, I don’t forget but I’m a forgiving person. But there’s something is what’s right, is right and what’s wrong is wrong and if I have to fight for my worst enemies and stand by them because it’s right, I’m always going to do that. That has been my philosophy for years and I have done that.” Administrator Wing said, “For me, I’m happy to give anybody again as of right now, a hard copy once the bills have been processed, even the Treasurer, once the bills have been processed so we’re not changing our operational process. That, to me, was not the request, it was to inject the Treasurer position which is not what is in the municipal code that I was given once I got here that the Treasurer’s responsibilities or duties are. Again, I’m happy, along with Council, give the Treasurer position a hard copy of the bills once they have been processed.” City Treasurer Jamie Malloy stated, “I don’t mind printing my own. I have no problem with that, as long as I have the ability to get to them. Although, last week my printer cartridge ran out, and I did notify you and you were going to send John from IT down to check my printer. This is for a forty-dollar cartridge that I was going to have to delay days of printing anything just to get a new cartridge because I shouldn’t have ran out of a cartridge that soon. I don’t know why it did, but for a forty-dollar cartridge I’m going to wait a few days so John from IT can come and look at my printer?” Administrator Wing said, “That’s why I also suggested that you just print over to the other copy machine, which there would have been no delay.” Treasurer Malloy replied, “That’s fine, but my computer was never set up that way in February. It was set up to the printer that’s on the side of my desk.” Administrator Wing replied, “Yes, and I offered John’s services that same day which would probably take five minutes to add the copy or other printers that would have resolved that issue.” Treasurer Malloy said, “I got my new cartridge and I’m printing away.” Administrator Wing said, “And I did that same day, ask John and we did order the cartridge and we got your issue resolved. My goal is not to be obstructionist. I actually work with every elected official, if you want a hard copy, I’m happy to get you hard copies. The challenge here is the Treasurer position, through the ordinance, the municipal code that

Council has approved and given me that I'm following the City's rules is that the Treasurer position is not overseeing the finance department, so it's not interjected into this process. She, along with every elected official, I'm happy to give you hard copies as we process the bills." Alderperson Oberlin asked, "Can we possibly have a replacement cartridge there so that if she runs out of ink she doesn't have to wait to get another one? She can put that one in and tell whoever orders them to order another one. That seems to be logical that it's easily accessible that when her ink runs out it's right there and she can replace it immediately and then say order me another backup." Administrator Wing responded, "Most definitely. I think if I recall the printer's only been I guess in service maybe a month or two at this point. I think it came in February and we're today on the twenty-third of March, but can we order one so all she has to do is pop it out and take it, yes. And we do have IT here Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays." Mayor Soliman responded, "Okay." Alderwoman Gazal said, "I just have to make one more comment, Mayor. But just remember that we're all elected in here, including the Mayor. And everything can change in every election and God forbid that we'll have a board that will decide to have the Treasurer back in charge of what it is. So, let's just start working together regardless of the hard feelings regardless. That's from everybody, from you as well. I mean it's just got to start where we cannot keep doing this. I mean this has been the last couple months, I'm like oh my God, it's too much. It's too much." Mayor Soliman said, "Okay."

#### **ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

There were no agenda items.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

There were no agenda items.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Resident Linda Dyke commented that the tension, frustration and hatred is unbelievable, especially during lent, the time of forgiving.

Ms. Dyke also spoke of a business that opened in Joliet where you can go and break dishes to take your frustrations out. She recommended that Council go there to work out their frustrations and then make an appointment at the muscle massage establishment that will be opening next month in Crest Hill to relax.

Resident Sherry Williams agreed with Ms. Dyke. Ms. Williams sits on the county board and stated it seems like there's a problem with the Treasurer, she's not sure why. The tension in the room can be cut like a knife. The residents shouldn't be subjected to this. Ms. Williams stated that adults should act like adults.

There being no further business before the Council, and no action needed from the executive sessions, the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

As presented \_\_\_\_\_

As amended \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR

DRAFT