

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
PUBLIC WORKS OF CREST HILL  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
June 30, 2025

The June 30, 2025, City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building, 2090 Oakland Avenue, 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, Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman.

Absent were: City Attorney Mike Stiff, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, Interim Employee Relations Dave Strahl, Police Chief Ed Clark, Building Inspector Don Seeman, Community & Economic Development Director Patrick Ainsworth.

**TOPIC: PFAS Discussion**

Mayor Soliman welcomed everyone and explained how the meeting would be conducted.

Mayor Soliman commented that they did not create this problem, but we will have to deal with it, and this is happening all over the United States and PFAS has been around for over fifty (50) years. He explained that anything that is nonstick is due to PFAS, and any rain/reflective clothing has PFAS, so this is not going away and is entering the ground since we have shallow wells.

When the public was notified of the PFAS, it is the same time that they found out and they are looking at people that have experience in this to guide us along with their knowledge.

In 2021, we held four (4) public meetings, the first one was at the Public Works Department, then Chaney Monge School, Richland School, and finally Carillon Lakes Community.

Mayor Soliman commented that the best option for the City of Crest Hill was to join the water commission along with the six (6) communities to bring Lake Michigan water to the City of Crest Hill. He then commented that it took two years to get an allocation from the City of Chicago.

Mayor Soliman then commented that three (3) years ago the City had their water tested and did not receive the results until 2025, and the IEPA gave the City four (4) years to resolve the problem. The City has already invested \$30,000,000.00 into getting Lake Michigan Water and we should have it in the fall of 2030.

City Engineer Ron Weideman gave some history on what could be done.

The city has been addressing the limits on the PFAS and working with the IEPA to get all the approvals and anything we do has to be approved by the IEPA.

It was asked if there are any filtrations that we can add and was told it would not be a good idea since they are noisy, and the wells are in residential areas.

There is a private company testing the water at the wells and we have two (2) residential homes in each ward to monitor the levels of PFAS.

It was stated that PFAS has been around since the early 1940's and the IEPA is giving the City of Crest Hill until 2029 to get this corrected.

Everyone is encouraged to go to the IEPA website and see what residents can do, what products there are to use and check the PFAS limits.

Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen gave a brief report.

Mayor Soliman asked if any of the Council had any comments.

Aldersperson Oberlin commented that she does not take this PFAS lightly after doing her homework on the PFAS and she wants everyone to do their homework and see what they can do to help themselves.

Alderman Cipiti thanked everyone for coming out.

Alderman Albert commented that we did not create this problem that several businesses are responsible for some of these problems.

Alderman Kubal commented that several of the residents in Carillon Lakes are not from this area.

Alderswoman Gazal commented that the residents' concerns are their concerns, as well.

Alderman Jefferson commented that PFAS is very serious.

Alderman Deserio commented that he is looking forward to having Lake Michigan Water.

Alderman Dyke commented that there were a lot of questions that needed answered, that our staff is working and we are also working on getting the City better water.

City Administrator Blaine Wing stated that we will be dedicating a website strictly to the water.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Soliman opened the floor to the residents for comments and questions.

Matt, a resident, asked what the city is going to do until 2030 when we have Lake Michigan Water, and will they be monitoring the wells? City Engineer Wiedeman commented that they are doing a study and the IEPA will need to approve it. It was then asked if there is any burden to the taxpayers, and it was commented that not now but possibly in the future.

John, a resident, asked if all the pipes were going to be lined? Engineer Wiedeman commented that there are certain pipes being lined already.

John also asked if once we get Lake Michigan Water will the lines be flushed and he was told by Engineer Wiedeman that there will be a process but what sections will be first and the timing is unknown at this time. Engineer Wiedeman also commented that the City must be able to hold two (2) days of water in case there a situation happens but anything over the two (2) days the City will need to turn back on the wells.

John asked if the businesses and homes would be able to withhold the pressure, and Engineer Wiedeman commented that the pressure would not change. John then asked if the water tower on Gaylord is back up and running, and it was commented that it is back up and running.

Mike, a resident, asked if the City knew in 2021 of the problem why did they not do anything until 2023? Mayor Soliman commented that they were contacted by the IEPA in 2021 that we may have a problem. Mike then asked why the residents were not notified in 2021 so they could have had the opportunity to move out of the City? Mayor Soliman commented that they did notify the residents with the four (4) public meetings that were held.

Mark, a resident, commented that we knew we had PFAS but did not know the level or how long it had been like that. Engineer Wiedeman commented that the two (2) wells that are testing the highest had no reason that could be causing this.

Mark commented that the residents closer to these wells are getting more, and Engineer Wiedeman commented that all the wells have PFAS in them.

Mark asked if there is still a problem with Lake Michigan Water, and Engineer Wiedeman commented he is not sure.

Mark also asked if the level of Lake Michigan drops. Engineer Wiedeman commented that there is a limit on the amount of water we can pull.

Tony, a resident asked what kind of programs are available to lower income residents? Mayor Soliman commented that they can reach out to Will County Community Concerns.

Linda Dyke, a resident, asked if the City can do anything like the sidewalk program and have a 50/50 program for the water filtration and Mayor Soliman commented that we are waiting for the funding.

Ms. Dyke also commented that since ward one has the wells that are the worst will they be shut down after receiving Lake Michigan Water? Engineer Wiedeman commented that they will be shut down but be available in case we have an emergency situation.

Jessie (Herald News) stated that she wants to know about the lawsuit that is going on. Mayor Soliman commented that he is going to refrain from answering that question since we are still in litigation.

Brad Smith, a resident, who has been a pipe fitter and worked on the shorelines of Lake Michigan would like to know if we are trading one contaminant for another? Mayor Soliman commented that when they took a tour of the location it was amazing the amount of people that are working on the water around the clock. Engineer Wiedeman commented that it will be filtered in two (2) locations in Chicago.

**MAYOR UPDATES:**

There were no updates.

**COMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES:**

There were none.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

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

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

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CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

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RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR