

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
December 16, 2024

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Roll call indicated the following present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Treasurer Glen Conklin, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: Interim City Administrator Tony Graff, Police Chief Ed Clark, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen, Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Alderwoman Jennifer Methvin, Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer, Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he received a text message from Alderwoman Methvin, and she is excused from this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Held on November 25, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Held on November 25, 2024, per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on December 2, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

(#2) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from Regular Meeting Held on December 2, 2024, per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Soliman asked to deviate to Committee/Liaison Reports under item number twelve.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: Alderman Cipiti thanked all the residents who participated in the Christmas Lights Decorating Contest. He also thanked the participants for their hard work and dedication into decorating their homes.

Alderman Cipiti announced the winners, which were as follows:

Finalist - 1812 Burry Circle Drive- Winter Wonderland.

Finalist - 2101 Greengold Street – Three Community Trees with Blow Ups with an Angel Tree, Hope Tree, and a Wish Tree with a Manger in the window.

Finalist - 1919 Burry Circle – Lots of Lights with a large Santa on the roof.

Fifth Place – 20420 Spruce Street – Classic Warm White Lights with Grinch, Santa, reindeer, and sleigh. They received a Gift Certificate to Beggar's Pizza

Fourth Place – 16640 Zausa Drive – Skating Rink, Candy Cane Light, with Peanut Characters. They received a \$30 Gift Certificate to Don Rafa.

Third Place – 532 Elsie Ave. – Looney Toons with Mickey Mouse Characters. They received a Gift Card to Dragon Light.

Second Place – 1720 Raynor Avenue – Gingerbread Forest and Santa seen from Space. They received a Gift Card to Southern Café.

First Place - 1824 Dearborn Street – Log Cabin Christmas – They received a Gift Card to Fritz Pour House.

Kurt Fife, resident at 1824 Dearborn Street, approached the podium, thanked everyone, and then commented that he appreciated the award, but most of all he wanted to say how grateful he is to live in Crest Hill.

Alderman Albert commented to all the participants that he appreciates all they do for the community and the children. He also commented that he received a message from a resident regarding his decorated home and said that we do not know what everyone is going through during the holidays and seeing the lights and children's smiles is exactly why we decorate our homes. He also congratulated all the winners.

Alderman Oberlin commented that she drove around and seen more homes decorated this year than ever has and wanted to say she appreciates it and thanked all.

Alderman Gazal commented that she had a lot of fun driving around looking at all the homes with her daughter and agreed we do not know what others are going through and this brings a smile to your face. She then congratulated everyone.

Alderman Dyke thanked and congratulated all participants and winners and said how much he appreciated it.

CITY ATTORNEY: Attorney Stiff had no agenda items but was happy to answer any questions. There were no questions. Attorney Stiff then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Interim City Administrator Tony Graff requested to TABLE the Approval of the Amendment to the Employee Personnel Manual – Section – 9: Safety & Equipment Use Regarding Cameras in the Workplace Policy per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

He commented that they received some additional language after working with the Local 150 Union and the Labor Attorney. He would like this back on the agenda for the January 6, 2025, meeting.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Oberlin seconded by Alderman Gazal, to TABLE the Approval of the Amendment to the Employee Personnel Manual – Section – 9: Safety & Equipment Use Regarding Cameras in the Workplace Policy per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen requested Approval of Pay Request #23 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,013,747.42 per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderman Oberlin, to Approve Pay Request #23 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,013,747.42 per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen requested to Approve the Purchase of a Ford F-350 Pick Up for the Street Division in the Department of Public Works for a Total Amount of \$50,091.00 per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

Alderman Dyke commented that he would still like to know what repairs are needed on the truck that we are replacing. Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen commented that the initial assessment of the vehicle they were told \$4,000.00 worth of engine issues, and if the engine needs replaced that would be the \$4,000.00. Alderman Dyke commented that he keeps hearing maybe or might have issues and not an exact issue.

Treasurer Conklin commented that he would like to remind the Council that this is within budget, and they will need to replace vehicles annually, otherwise they will have an entire fleet of very aged vehicles.

(#5) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve the Purchase a Ford F-350 Pick Up for the Street Division in the Department of Public Works for a total amount of \$50,091.00 per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Cipiti, Dyke.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being five (5) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman had no agenda items but was happy to answer any questions.

Alderperson Oberlin commented at the intersection of Gaylord and Theodore, where the lit-up sign is, right past there is a mangled utility box laying there and would like to know the status of that. Engineer Wiedeman commented that it was hit when the guardrail was hit by a drunk driver and the guardrail has been replaced but he is not sure if the utility company has been contacted, and he would look into that.

Alderman Dyke asked if we were reimbursed for that guardrail? Engineer Wiedeman commented that he is unsure since it was handled by Public Works, but he assumes that if an insurance payment came back there would be notes and they can look into this.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: There were no agenda items.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Ed Clark requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) Chapter 10.01 (Article 10 Crest Hill Vehicle Code), Division V (Special Weight Limits) by Repealing Sections 10.01.10-503 and Replacing it with New Sections 10.01.10-503 through 10.01.10-506 of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

(#6) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) Chapter 10.01 (Article 10 Crest Hill

Vehicle Code), Division V (Special Weight Limits) by Repealing Sections 10.01.10-503 and Replacing it with New Sections 10.01.10-503 through 10.01.10-506 of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Ordinance #2010

Police Chief Ed Clark requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Service Agreement between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Oxcart Permit Systems, LLC for Services Related to the Online Permitting of Overweight and Oversized Loads on Roadways within the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Service Agreement between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Oxcart Permit Systems, LLC for Services Related to the Online Permitting of Overweight and Oversized Loads on Roadways within the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution #1274

Chief Clark introduced the newest officer, Kaden Lewis. He was sworn and starts the Police Academy January 6, 2025. He is from Coal City and is a Wilmington resident for several years. Kaden approached the podium and thanked everyone for giving him this opportunity and commented that he worked very hard to be where he is and there is no place he rather be and he is excited to serve the community and meet everyone.

Mayor Soliman welcomed Kaden to the City of Crest Hill.

Many Council members welcomed Kaden, as well.

Alderwoman Gazal welcomed Kaden and thanked him for his service and blessed him.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman wished all the residents a Blessed and Merry Christmas and wished everyone a Safe and Healthy New Year.

CITY CLERK: City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to Approve a Resolution Approving Renewal for the Independent Contractor Agreement – HR Dave Strahl per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

Treasurer Conklin asked if the Council would entertain a 3% increase. Alderperson Oberlin asked what the total would be with the increase and Treasurer Conklin stated that it would be approximately \$101/hr.

Alderman Cipiti asked why that was not in the agenda. Treasurer Conklin commented that he did not craft that, but they can take the agenda as suggested or written, but it is the pleasure of the Board.

Attorney Stiff commented that Exhibit A would be amended to \$100.94 per hour.

(#8) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderperson Oberlin to Approve a Resolution Approving Renewal for the Independent Contractor Agreement – HR Dave Strahl with a 3% increase per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #1275

City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested Approval of the Property Tax Rebate Application per the memo dated December 16, 2024. Treasurer Conklin concurs with Finance Director Glenn Gehrke's recommendation to the Council to not approve the action.

Treasurer Conklin commented that this process must go through Will County, and it becomes burdensome to make an exception and if we make one, we could be inclined to do more, and they are just following the Council's rules.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he spoke to the Finance Director regarding this and upon the conversation he emailed the Interim Administrator to place this on a later date to be discussed and think there is a miscommunication since there should be nothing to take action on this evening.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that maybe this should be tabled and made a motion.

Mayor Soliman commented that it would put our timeline back even farther if we table this.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke asked for clarification if the Council would like him to stop or place on hold the Tax Rebate Program or continue with it. He then commented that there were multiple applications that came in that were not accepted. It was then commented that if we place a hold to discuss the rebates it is very doubtful that the rebates will go out by March 17, 2025. Finance Director Gehrke commented that when you take your place in line out of the queue, you go to the end of the line.

Alderman Albert clarified with Alderman Jefferson that he was meaning to take this into discussion for next year's rebate program. Alderman Jefferson commented that he did want this conversation for next year's Tax Rebate Program.

Alderwoman Gazal rescinded her motion to TABLE this agenda item and then made a motion to deny the approval. Alderman Dyke commented that he would make a motion to concur with the Treasurer's recommendation.

(#9) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to take Staff's Recommendation to DENY the Application for the Property Tax Rebate per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Jefferson.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being six (6) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to Approve the List of Bills Issued Through December 17, 2024, in the Amount of \$1,111,030.78 per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

(#11) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Kubal, to Approve the list of bills issued through December 17, 2024, in the amount of \$1,111,030.78 for Council approval per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the Regular and Overtime Payroll from November 18, 2024, through December 1, 2024, in the amount of \$271,067.74 per the memo dated December 16, 2024.

Treasurer Conklin wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Alderwoman Gazal asked Attorney Stiff if we could put the use of the Community Room back on the agenda and figure out the rules for the use of the Community Room.

Attorney Stiff commented that about a year ago, he drafted a form, rules, and policies. There was a discussion at a work session, and he was asked to information from the Village of Romeoville, which he did and gave to the former interim administrator, and he believes it has fallen through the cracks. He also commented that there were issues with insurance, but he will get this paperwork to the Interim Administrator and have this on an agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderperson Oberlin wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and she hopes the year of 2025 brings everyone a great year and pays it forward because the smallest things can bring the biggest joys.

Alderman Cipiti wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Alderman Albert wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He also congratulated Mayor Soliman and his wife, Vicky, on being grandparents again. Mayor Soliman thanked Alderman Albert and commented that they were blessed with a beautiful grandson on November 27th, and mom, baby, big sister, and son-in-law are all doing well.

Alderman Kubal wished a Happy Holidays to all.

Alderman Dyke commented that it easy to get wrapped up in the gifts, but he hopes everyone realizes the real reason for the season and wished everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Alderman Jefferson wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season. He then commented to the residents that there was nothing that could be done this year for the Property Tax Rebate Program, but it is on the agenda for next year.

Alderwoman Gazal wished everyone a very Happy New Year and hopes that your Christmas is filled with love, joy, and many blessings.

Alderperson Oberlin congratulated Alderman Cipiti on the good job doing the Holiday Lights Contest.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

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

(#11) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to adjourn the December 16, 2024, Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Methvin.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2024.
As presented _____
As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR

DRAFT