

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
December 26, 2023

The December 26, 2023 City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 20600 City Center Blvd. Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

The following Council members were present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, City Treasurer Glen Conklin, Alderman Scott Dyke (7:01p), Alderman John Vershay, Alderman Darrell Jefferson (7:01p), Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: City Attorney Mike Stiff

Absent were: Police Chief Ed Clark, Finance Director Lisa Banovetz, Public Works Director Blaine Kline, Interim Planner Maura Rigoni, Interim Economic Development Director, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Building Commissioner Don Seeman, Interim Employee Relations Manager Dave Strahl.

TOPIC: Places for Eating Tax Update

Alderman Cipiti commented that there was a large list of unpaid Places for Eating Tax, and he would like to have an update.

Mayor Soliman commented that he can give an update regarding the Liquor and the Tobacco Licenses. He commented that they have been working very hard on the administration side and almost all the liquor license holders have paid the Places for Eating Tax.

He gave an update of the delinquent accounts as of Thursday, December 14, 2023:

- Firewater there 2023 taxes are paid in full
- Tiffanys Bistro paid in full for their Places for Eating Tax but owe ½ of gaming machines payment from VGT
- Both Speedways are paid in full for their Places for Eating Tax and they have paid for their tobacco license, but we are still waiting for liquor license payment (which is in the mail) Video Gaming is in arrears and there is also an outstanding lien from 2017 that was missed when PIN were changed at closing when the property sold to Speedway.
- Dollar General has not paid tobacco and has a lien that is still outstanding, and many calls have been made.
- Seigle's has not paid the March Place for Eating Tax payment, and are saying they had no sales in the month of March, which they will need to supply an ST1 form, to show that no money was brought in. There is no money owed but there is an issue with either the State or LocalGov.

Alderman Gazal commented that she wants an update on the businesses that were delinquent with the Places for Eating Tax and not the liquor and tobacco licenses. Mayor Soliman commented that the food establishments without a liquor or tobacco license go through the Clerk's Office. Alderman Oberlin commented that no license will be issued without payment that is why the mayor is updating on the Liquor and Tobacco. City Clerk Christine Versha-Hall commented that the renewals for businesses and burglar alarms have all been mailed out and the licenses are not due until January 31, 2024.

Treasurer Conklin commented that the issue will be if someone is in arrears and has a liquor license the liquor license can be revoked but if they are a restaurant with a business license and are in arrears the license cannot be revoked, he believes. Alderman Oberlin commented that this is why we do not issue ANY license if the establishment is in arrears.

Attorney Mike Stiff commented that we have leverage as of now and if they are paid up for their Places for Eating Tax their license will be issued but then we roll into the year 2024 and they stop paying again we now have the issue again and how do we enforce this if they already have their license. Attorney Stiff commented that we must take steps to try and revoke the license. Treasurer Conklin commented that Director Banovetz, Commissioner Seeman, Mayor Soliman and Clerk Versha-Hall have made many efforts in contacting these businesses. He also commented that with Siegel having an issue and not owing money that we should possibly make an exception. Alderman Oberlin commented that that is different since they do not owe the city any money.

Alderman Gazal commented that there was an administrative hearing on December 20, 2023 and Director Banovetz forwarded a list to the City Council and asked what happened at the hearing. Treasurer Conklin commented that Manager Strahl gave a status summary which stated which ones have paid.

Mayor Soliman commented that the other business that still owes is Crusade Burger and information was sent out to the City Council, and if they reopen payment will need to be paid for liquor and tobacco but Places for Eating Tax was paid.

Alderman Cipiti asked if the Clerk's Office has any updates regarding the licenses. Clerk Versha-Hall commented that the licenses for the Clerk's Office side are not due until January 31, 2024 and we will check with Director Banovetz or the contact person we were given. Alderman Cipiti asked if they are coming in to renew their licenses. Clerk Versha-Hall commented that as of now we have not received any and they have until January 31, 2024 to renew and the renewal letters just went out in the mail.

MAYORS UPDATES:

Mayor Soliman commented that he was asked to do a promotion for the referendum for Lockport High School. He stated that Bob McBride the superintendent asked if he could come and give an update to the City Council and make everyone aware of the referendum. He is planning to attend Tuesday, January 2, 2024 to give a presentation.

Mayor Soliman also commented that Ron Romero will not be here on January 2, 2024 and Jeff Prah will be here, he was here at the last meeting. Mayor Soliman commented that Jeff is willing to sign a contract going forward. He also commented that he asked him to come January 8, 2024 and meet the City Council and answer any questions the Council may

have. He commented that Jeff will have an intern come in starting in March to do the meetings.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if Ron Romero has trained Jeff. Mayor Soliman commented that they came in on a Saturday and trained Jeff for two hours.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Stuart Soifer, a resident, commented that he is concerned about the mayor's response, and he gave the impression that he did not care about any licenses except his liquor licenses. Mayor Soliman explained that under the Mayor's Office he is only responsible for the issuance of the liquor licenses and all others would go through the City Clerk's Office. Stuart asked if he does not care about the other licenses. Mayor Soliman commented that he did not say he did not care about the other licenses but there are 400-500 other licenses that will go through the Clerk's Office. Stuart commented that as the mayor you are responsible for everything in Crest Hill. Mayor Soliman commented that he is correct.

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

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Executive Session 7:23 p.m.

(#2) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson to reconvene from the executive session on Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11).

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Vershay.

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

Reconvened 9:43 p.m.

Mayor Soliman informed the City Council that there are inner city buses coming from Texas. He asked for all the City Council to email him their response. Alderwoman Gazal asked if they could talk about it now. Alderman Dyke commented that we either pass an ordinance or the mayor does an executive order but one of the two need to be done. He asked for an informal vote to have a work session regarding this topic. All were agreeable to have this on the January 8, 2024 Work Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2023

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR

DRAFT