

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
January 13, 2025

The January 13, 2025, 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, Alderwoman Jennifer Methvin, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also Present were: Interim 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, Administrative Clerk Samantha Tilley.

Absent were: Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer.

TOPIC: Presentation-2024 Audit by Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzan, LLC

Katie from Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon, LLC (WRDR) gave a presentation of the 2024 Audit. This is for the year ending April 30, 2024.

Katie stated that the City of Crest Hill received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate for excellence in financial reporting. This award is for the April 30, 2023, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The fiscal year 2024 was submitted for this award and we will find out soon if this will be awarded.

She also reviewed the Independent Auditors Report. She highlighted that in WRDR's opinion the accompanying financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects the respective financial position of the governmental activities, business type activities, of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the city as of April 30, 2024. This is a clean unmodified opinion on the financial statements.

She mentioned that WRDR does look at the internal controls, but they do not give an opinion on internal controls, their main responsibility is to give an opinion on the numbers you see in the report. Alderwoman Gazal asked for more explanation of the internal controls. Katie commented that the city is made up of many internal controls and they design procedures, tests, and reconciliation and come to the city and test things such as payroll, cash, bond payments made and they look at this and give recommendations if something needs to be improved but their opinion in this letter states they do not give an opinion on those controls just on the numbers.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if that includes the letters that WRDR receives regarding transparency, like the fraud letters. Katie commented that she appreciates everyone who sends those letters back and they do investigate the areas of concern from the letters. If they feel there is a deficiency in it, they will provide a recommendation through the management letter but again it is not an opinion. Alderwoman Gazal asked if they investigated the issue

her letter stated, and Katie stated that they did test but nothing was materially misstated in the financials. Katie commented that again that is a control and would be managed by a person who manages the internal controls. Treasurer Glen Conklin commented that internal controls are managed through the Finance Director, through staff, through the City Administrator. These are things like having two signatures on a check, or how you manage inventory and things like this to make sure there is no corruption.

Katie then discussed the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for just the Governmental Funds. This does not include the Water & Sewer or the Police Pension Fund. She stated that the ending Governmental Fund Balance was \$15,384,057.00 and the net change in Fund Balances is \$341,408.00.

The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for Proprietary Funds, which is the Water & Sewer & Refuse Fund. The operating income, minus the expenses, was \$2,467,677.00 but the actual change in net position was \$5,702,154.00, which is due to the City receiving IEPA loans and a portion of those loans being forgiven.

The Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position for the Pension Trust Fund. This has a net increase of \$3,125,347.00.

She then commented that the City's Total Cash position as of April 30th is \$55,011,329.00 of this \$28,355,794.00 was the Police Pension cash and investments, and the remaining was Governmental Funds and Water and Sewer combined.

Katie highlighted that the City's long term debt as of April 30th with the two bonds that are outstanding, which equal about \$25.7 million and three IEPA loans outstanding of approximately \$16 million with \$1.5 million due in fiscal year 2025.

She then highlighted the Police Pension Plan as of April 30th is 72.56% funded.

Katie commented that a separate audit was done on just expenditures, since the city has expended greater than \$750,000.00 in federal expenditures which makes you subject to a single audit just on this money. The City received approximately \$10,000 of a highway safety grant, covid money approximately \$1,000,000, \$6.6 million of IEPA loans. She said to keep in mind this is money given that was spent down in fiscal year 2024. The total expenditures of federal awards were approximately \$7.7 million in fiscal 2024. The findings stated that it was a clean opinion and there were no material weaknesses or sufficient deficiencies, and no findings related to the federal awards.

She then reviewed the Management Letter and stated that these are recommendations for improvement. One of the recommendations was the Stateville water billing, which is more informational to keep an eye on the outstanding balance which is approximately \$1 million that is owed to the City as of April 30th.

Another one is that there are a few funds that have deficits, and they have been discussed. It is not that the City owes this money, it is where what fund the expense went in did not match where the money came out of, which means there are transfers that need to be made to relieve those deficit fund balances (getting the cash in the correct buckets).

Alderperson Oberlin asked whose responsibility is this and it was stated that it is the Finance Director's responsibility. Finance Director Glenn Gehrke commented that it

typically happens in municipalities, and he is aware and would be fixing this. Alderperson Oberlin commented that she wanted to know who did not do this. Treasurer Conklin commented that the past Finance Director did not clean up prior to her leaving and is normally done at the end of the process in a budget amendment. Alderperson Oberlin commented that she understands the process but wanted to know who the responsible party is and who must fix it.

It was stated that there were a few expenditures exceeding budget for a few of the funds, which are the non-home rule sales tax, debt service, and the police pension fund were all over budget.

Through the payroll reconciliation process and the bank reconciliation process it was noted that there were some variances that could not be explained but were nothing material in nature and this has been discussed with the Finance Director on what needs to be done to correct these items.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke commented that some of the errors were found when he was doing his Caselle training, and these changes have already been put in place, and we will be on track.

Mayor Soliman asked if Crest Hill is in a healthy position financially? Katie stated that yes and if you look back at the ten-year you can see how the city fluctuated throughout the years and the General Fund, which is non-restricted money, has increased. Mayor Soliman then asked if having \$27 million in reserves is healthy? Katie commented that you need to compare the city expenditures, and the city had approximately \$19 million in expenditure and the city has over that in reserves.

Mayor Soliman asked if a Police Pension funded at 72.52% is good for a municipality. Katie commented that yes, she typically sees somewhere in the 60 percent, and 72% is very good for a municipality. Mayor Soliman asked if an AA bond rating is good? She commented that an AA bond rating is very good and of high quality and very low risk of default.

Alderman Cipiti commented that last year's budget was \$6 million deficit, and the general reserves would have been used to cover it and asked if that is a healthy position to be in going forward? Katie commented that it is not something you want to occur year after year, but an off year would be okay, you just do not want that repeated year after year.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke commented that most of the deficits that occur are because we get reimbursed after the money is spent.

Katie then thanked everyone involved in helping with the budget and stated that they did a great job bringing it all together.

TOPIC: A Resolution Approving a Construction Agreement for Ludwig Water Main Replacement from Center to Cora by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County Illinois and Len Cox & Sons Excavation

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that he was approached by the former Interim Public Work Director regarding a section of watermain that was about four hundred feet long and had six breaks in those four hundred feet of section which occurred from that

Duke Fire. He then commented that he received four proposals for fixing that and Len Cox & Sons came in the lowest and this is in the budget.

Alderman Albert commented that when we do the full street repairs, how far out do we go from the main street. Engineer Wiedeman commented that he is connecting the side streets and going an additional block in either direction.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Provide Staff Direction on use of the Attached Policy for the Installation of Stop and Yield Signs

City Engineer Ron Weideman commented that Police Chief Ed Clark and himself have been trying to create a policy for the installation of stop signs. It is a policy based on state statute. They would recommend that we place this policy on our website and the Police Department website along with a stop or yield sign request form. When a request comes in, Engineer Wiedeman and Chief Clark would do a review to determine if a sign is needed. They then would investigate to see if there is enough data, traffic, or accidents that might warrant a stop/yield sign. If there is a warrant, they would report to the City Administrator with a response warranting a stop sign and a proposal will be solicited from a qualified professional engineering firm and will be placed on the agenda for a City Council meeting.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if this policy will be for everyone, or certain individuals and Engineer Wiedeman responded saying that it is for everyone. Alderwoman Gazal then asked what about the pending requests on Knapp Road that she requested, and it was stated that her request for a stop sign does not warrant a sign. Alderwoman Gazal then commented that why did it take nine months to come to a decision? Engineer Wiedeman commented that on November 4, 2024, he answered the question regarding this stop sign and it is in the minutes stating that Knapp Road does not meet warrants for either pedestrian or for traffic. Alderwoman Gazal commented that Chief Clark was going to do a study. Chief Clark commented that after talking to Engineer Wiedeman it did not meet the warrants, which is why this is on the agenda so the City can come to a formalized way to review the stop signs for the control of traffic.

Alderwoman Gazal then asked again, why did it take nine months to come to a decision and she was told the study would be done after the construction was finalized. She then commented that the city keeps talking about safety and it is crazy the way people are driving in that area and using Knapp Road as a cut-through. She stated that maybe not a stop sign but a yield sign because something must be done. Chief Clark commented that stop signs are not meant to regulate speed.

Alderman Jefferson commented that they need to do a real eye test on Knapp Road and see the real dangers of people coming in and out of Willow Falls, Chase Bank, and the strip mall.

Chief Clark commented that he can continue to do traffic enforcement there.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that there needs to be speed enforcement there because she has witnessed it herself using that road and it is like a racetrack.

Chief Clark commented that when he looked at the traffic crash data there were only three accidents in three years, and this does not include Theodore Street or Weber Road.

Alderwoman Gazal asked again why it took nine months to produce a decision. Interim City Administrator Tony Graff commented that it did take too long, and a traffic engineer would need to get involved and get a procedure together which should meet the legalities and justify a sign. Alderwoman Gazal also commented that hopefully it will be for every Council member and not choose, since a Council member asked about the request that was made for the section by Richland School. Alderman Albert commented that he never asked for a stop sign.

Engineer Wiedeman commented that he is always gathering information to bring to the Council but when he goes to gather information, he is told he should have talked to the Council first, he stated that it is a catch 22. He then commented that they always planned to come to the Council, but they needed to do the research to answer the questions asked. He also commented that no money has been spent, just his time. Alderwoman Gazal then asked for the record, if McGilvrey request is on hold now too. Engineer Wiedeman commented that McGilvrey is already under design by a consultant.

Alderman Jefferson asked if there is a weight limit for trucks on Knapp Road? Chief Clark commented that Knapp Road is not a truck route.

Attorney Mike Stiff commented that this should be put on the agenda for a Resolution for policy and procedure. He also commented that they need to do enforcement and giving citations over and over will put the word out there or put a flashing speed sign. Chief Clark commented that they can do a solar powered speed sign. Attorney Stiff also commented that the certain warrants that trigger a potential need for a stop sign need to be listed, as well.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that right now we need to have citations written and that will have the best impact for now and get the word out, but not warnings, actual citations.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote to have a stop/yield policy.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Approve a Resolution for an Intergovernmental Agreement for Funds Received through the CDBG Program for PY 2024 Program Operations for the Oakland Avenue Water Main and Roadway Rehabilitation Improvement from Pasadena to Ludwig between the City of Crest Hill and Will County, Illinois in an amount of \$347,391.60

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that they have applied for a CDBG Grant and have received one in the amount of \$347,391.60 which is to be used for the Oakland Avenue watermain replacement. This is for the Mayor to sign the CDBG contract for this money.

Attorney Stiff commented that this is a resolution approving the IGA and he has looked at this and will walk through this with Engineer Wiedeman. He would also like Chapman and Cutler, LLP, to receive this before it is finally approved by the City, so they have this on their radar and know this does not affect the IEPA Loans.

They will plan on having this on the first official meeting of February.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Resolution Approving an Engagement Letter By and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Chapman and Cutler, LLP for funding through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program as Administered by the IEPA for the Capital Projects Required for the City's Switch to Lake Michigan Water Supply for a not to exceed \$20,000.00

City Engineer Wiedeman commented that the IEPA project plan has been approved which includes all the capital projects required to hook up to the Lake Michigan Water supply and comes to approximately \$33.5 million worth of projects. They are now doing the lining of the watermain on Broadway and part of the watermain on Theodore up to Center Street and possibly Cora Street and this is a \$4 million loan in which IEPA is giving the City \$3.2 million in loan forgiveness. Based on conversations with the non-home rule status, there are certain procedures the City has to follow in order to get these dollars and Chapman & Cutler have done this in the past with us and they are familiar with this, and we would like to engage with them to fulfill all the statutes.

City Attorney Mike Stiff commented that we really need them to help with all the technical requirements. This is a not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Sikich – Engagement Agreement for Professional Services – Internal Controls Phase II

Interim Administrator Tony Graff commented that when a representative from Sikich was here we added phase two, and we are now ready to move onto phase two. This will not exceed \$20,000.00 and would be to take on Modular #1 in their overall professional services.

Treasurer Glen Conklin asked if this is to see what was implemented after that last report several years ago. Interim Administrator Graff commented that it is correct, and they received a list of recommendations, and they are going to review the recommendation with Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl and himself and see if they have been implemented. He feels the \$5,000.00 is enough since a lot of the recommendations have been implemented.

Treasurer Conklin commented that this was an internal investigation of a previous incident but when he reads the proposal it does not sound like that is what is going to happen, and it is a review, recommendation and a report but has nothing to do with an investigation. Interim Administrator Graff commented that it is to see if all the recommendations have been met so far or if additional recommendations need to be made.

Treasurer Conklin commented that this can be done in house to save money, but the original suggestion was not made. Interim Administrator Graff commented that if they all work together with the Finance Department, we can do the work internally. Treasurer Conklin commented that this does not get to the focus on the original request, and if they do not want to make the original request that the work be done internally to see if the procedures have been completed.

Alderman Cipiti commented that he is thoroughly confused since this investigation was done in 2018, which is before his time. Attorney commented that the work done was from the request from Council members. For instance, they stated that we needed a whistleblower policy, and we have that, so this is done but there are others that need done.

Alderman Gazal commented that the request for Sikich was for an incident that happened recently not from 2018. She then commented that they have the report and do not want to go backwards, the person needing to answer the question is the previous administrator and the mayor on why these things happened and the Council was not notified, and that is all when it comes to the 2018 report.

Interim Manager Strahl commented that everything has been taken care of from the 2018 report and policies have been put in place. Alderman Oberlin commented that it is all because of a document that she requested but was told she could have it and never received it and when the document was finally received the document it did not match what was told to the Council.

Treasurer Conklin suggested to table this item.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote to table this item.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

TOPIC: Municipal Plaza-Band Shell-Provide Direction to Staff on How to Proceed with the RFP Received from Williams Architects in the amount of \$37,000.00 for a Scope of Work as Described in the RFP

This topic was tabled until the work session that will be held on January 27, 2025.

TOPIC: Consideration of Cameras in the Workplace Policy – Employee Handbook Addition

Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl commented that this policy was drafted and proposed for approval and incorporation in the handbook, but the policy had additional language added, which gave more detail, and the labor attorney is comfortable with this policy.

Attorney Stiff commented that he reviewed the policy, but it was the labor Attorney John Kelly who worked with them on this policy. He does feel that the city needs to have a policy on cameras and the policy does address what needs to be addressed.

Alderman Cipiti commented that he had concerns about the comments that came back after the meeting with Local 150 representatives where the policy states that the cameras are not intended for the internal use of the city but goes on to say that the cameras cannot be used to monitor the activities of bargaining unit members but feels this language implies that the cameras will be used to monitor activities of non-bargaining unit members.

Interim Manager Strahl explained that the cameras will not be monitored to the point where that is the initiation of an investigation. They will not always look at the video footage, the footage would only be looked at if a claim occurs or something is reported.

Alderman Oberlin asked how long that footage will be held before it is destroyed. Chief Clark commented that it is held ninety (90) days but depends on time and space they have. Attorney Stiff commented that it should be part of the policy how much time we store video before destruction. Alderman Oberlin commented that ninety (90) days is not enough time to hold video footage before destruction.

Alderman Oberlin asked if someone reviews these cameras and make sure they are in working order daily and was told they are looked at regularly, maybe not daily but regularly.

Alderman Jefferson asked if you are looking at the cameras for a different reason and you notice a person doing something can you not investigate or bring discipline upon that person with the current policy language since you were not looking at the cameras for that reason originally. Interim Manager Strahl commented that he believed they could still investigate that issue with the current policy for a disciplinary standpoint.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for the consideration of cameras in the workplace policy with the corrections as discussed.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

Alderman Oberlin asked if Interim Manager Strahl could make the changes and email the policy with the changes to the Council before the next meeting and was told he would.

TOPIC: City Code 12.6 Mailboxes

Alderman Cipiti commented that he had a few residents last year have mailboxes that were damaged, and he does not feel the amount the city refunds the residents is not enough and should be raised. These residents are complying with where the mailbox was, and they are left the burden of replacing the mailbox at their expense including the mailbox, the post, and then the labor and many residents have to hire someone to do the labor. Alderman Cipiti commented that he feels that the reimbursement amount should be raised to \$250.00 if they are complying.

Alderman Gazal asked Interim Public Work Director Julius Hansen how many mailboxes were damaged with this last storm in total. Interim Director Hansen commented

that five (5) mailboxes were damaged in this last storm, and they were non-compliant mailboxes.

Alderman Albert commented that he had to replace his mailbox at his home, and he did it himself and it cost him \$125.00, he does feel the \$100.00 is not enough but \$250.00 is too high.

Alderman Cipiti commented that it is fine if you replace it yourself but if you must hire someone to replace it that is more money.

Alderman Dyke commented that he can see increasing it but only to \$200.00. He also commented that residents could get a high proposal for the labor. Alderman Cipiti commented that even if they receive a high proposal for labor we still go by the ordinance.

Interim Director Hansen commented that it is very rare that they would hit a mailbox that complies, but in an icy situation, but that is very rare. He also commented that the mailboxes that get hit are the ones not in compliance or are leaning.

Alderman Dyke asked what the speed is that a plow truck should be traveling in while plowing? Interim Director Hansen commented that they should be traveling at 25mph. Many Council members commented that that is not the speed they see the plow trucks traveling.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote to increase the mailbox reimbursement to \$250.00.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

Attorney Stiff wanted clarification on the amounts per number of mailboxes, which are:

- One mailbox increased to \$250.00.
- Two mailboxes increased to \$300.00.
- Three mailboxes increased to \$325.00.
- Four mailboxes or more increased to \$350.00.

TOPIC: Discussion-Property Tax Rebate Check Process Review

Alderman Jefferson commented that he believes the deadline for the Tax Rebate Program needs to be extended until 4:30p.m. on that Monday when the applications are retrieved from the drop box from the weekend. He feels that telling the residents that they are not in compliance on the Monday following the Friday deadline is not professional since we are collecting the applications from the mailbox on Monday, as well.

Alderman Dyke commented that residents have the opportunity all weekend to use the drop box and drop off their applications before Monday at 8:00a.m. Alderman Dyke also asked how long they have to return the application in once they receive it and it was commented that they have three (3) months from receiving the application with their water bill.

Treasurer Conklin commented that they are asking for a deadline, but we have a deadline already.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if there is another way for the residents to turn this in if they can turn it in on the internet. Finance Director Glenn Gehrke commented that other municipalities allow it to be turned in online and have payment options online.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote, for Alderman Jefferson's recommendation to extend the deadline for the Tax Rebate Program to Monday at 4:30 p.m.

AYES: Ald. Jefferson.

NAYES: Ald. Dyke, Methvin, Gazal, Oberlin, Albert, Kubal.

UNDECIDED: Ald. Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

Alderman Cipiti would like for everyone to have the same enthusiasm pertaining to ordinance deadlines as they do for this, since we have a business out there operating when not paying their Places for Eating Tax.

Alderwoman Gazal feels we need to make an easier way for the residents to apply from their home.

Attorney Stiff commented that that the residents have three ways to pay; drop it in the mail and if it is postmarked by the deadline date, it will be honored; or you can drop off in person, or you can place in the city drop box at some point during the entire weekend before it is retrieved out of the box Monday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Alderman Jefferson commented that we as a Council let things of greater importance slide by, like they are slick on oil, and then we pin the residents down about the deadline when we do not take care of business like we should on a higher level.

TOPIC: Discussion-Alderman Compensation Chapter 2.12

Alderman Dyke commented that he wanted to discuss how the Council is compensated because he has reviewed the payroll sheets and found Council members were getting paid for more than four absences and how a Council member received an extra payment for a work session that did not happen.

Alderman Dyke then commented that he can see there is a problem with how they are paid since they are applying the paid absences to the Council meetings first before applying them to the Work Sessions, so one could miss all the work sessions and still get paid since they did not miss a Council meeting.

Attorney Stiff commented that he did not make this ordinance but after reading the ordinance it does state that paid absences are applied to regular meetings first and then to work sessions.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke commented that he does not believe it is an accounting issue since payroll only pays for the time that is submitted and they are not timekeepers or attendance keepers of everyone, so when they receive submissions for pay, they process those submissions.

Attorney Stiff asked who would submit the attendance after the meeting and it was stated that the Clerk does. Clerk Christine Vershay- Hall commented that payroll is given a copy of the sign-in sheet for attendance. Alderwoman Gazal asked who does the payroll because whoever does payroll is responsible to look at the attendance. Alderman Dyke commented then is no one keeping track of sick days or vacation days on the employees or how they clock-in? Finance Director Gehrke commented that the supervisors are responsible for allowing and signing off on absences.

Finance Director Gehrke commented that it is not up to payroll who takes off and what time benefit they are using, their supervisors need to be tracking that because payroll is not benefit trackers.

Alderman Dyke asked what happens to those who have been overpaid? Treasurer Conklin commented that they were overpaid. Alderman Dyke then commented that they do not need to pay them back and what happens if an employee was overpaid vacation time; they do not need to pay that back?

(**Many discussions took place at the same time, and it was hard to understand who said what**)

Interim Administrator Tony Graff commented that someone separate from payroll should be tracking benefit time and that needs to be in the Human Resource Department.

It was stated that the ordinance needs to be changed, and Alderman Albert commented that it could not be changed for those sitting on the Council and it is too late to do it for this next cycle. Attorney Stiff commented that he would have to investigate if this amounts to a change in pay or a clarification of the ordinance.

Interim Administrator Graff commented that we need to improve the accounting practices first and report back to the Council regarding the procedures for this.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stuart Soifer, a resident, commented that he is glad to see there is a procedure being implemented regarding stop signs and we should put more policy and procedures in place for other things, as well. He commented that the city's biggest problem is policy and procedures and putting the policy in place and following through with it.

Omar DeHaro, resident and owner of 2213 Weber Road, commented that he is planning to remodel his home that he purchased ten (10) years ago. He also commented that he would like to request a waiver of his tap-on fee for this property. He stated that he had put a FOIA request in, but no records were found of the previous owner paying the tap-on fees. The home was built in the 1900s and there is an existing B-box on the premises.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that many residents have come to past meetings requesting this and we have honored that for them and when you do it for one person you should do it for others.

Alderman Dyke commented that his wife's aunt has two B-boxes on their property, and they asked and came to the Council and was told they had to pay it, but then they sold the property.

Alderman Cipiti asked if he is wanting to live at this property and Omar stated that the home has been empty for ten (10) years and they would like to remodel the home and live there.

Alderman Albert commented that this property is the old farmhouse and has no neighbors and he feels we should consider this request especially since there is a B-box there and more than likely there is no record of this anywhere.

Mayor Soliman commented that nothing can be done tonight but it will be put on the work session meeting for discussion in two weeks.

Omar thanked everyone for their consideration.

Linda Dyke, a resident, commented that she is sitting out in the audience and listening to the money regarding the overpayments to the Council and she is disappointed in the Treasurer with his reaction on the overpayment. She then commented that there is no accountability, she stated that this is big potatoes to the taxpayers. Linda also commented that shame on the alderperson who accepted the over payment and did not say anything.

MAYOR UPDATES:

Mayor Soliman commented that January 20th there will be a Resolution for Deputy Chief Jason Opiola, who has retired.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES:

There were no Committee/Liaison updates.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

There were no City Administrator updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 pm.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2025.

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR

DRAFT