

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
August 15, 2022

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, 1610 Plainfield Road Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

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

Also present were: City Administrator Jim Marino, Finance Director Lisa Banovetz, Police Chief Ed Clark, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Director of Public Works Mark Siefert, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Interim Planner Maura Rigoni, Economic and Development Director Tony Budzikowski, Director of Information Technology Service Timothy Stinnett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 1, 2022 for Council approval.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal, seconded by Alderman Vershay, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 1, 2022 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(31)

(44) Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the work session held on July 25, 2022 for Council approval.

(#2) Motion by Alderman Jefferson, seconded by Alderman Vershay, to approve the minutes from the work session held on July 25, 2022 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(50)

(61) Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the work session held on August 4, 2022 for Council approval.

(#3) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal, seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to approve the minutes from the work session held on August 4, 2022 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Kubal, Dyke.

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

(67)

(81) Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the work session held on August 10, 2022 for Council approval.

(#4) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal, seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to approve the minutes from the work session held on August 10, 2022 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Kubal.

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

(83)

CITY ATTORNEY: (96) City Attorney Mike Stiff presented A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PURCHASING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF CREST HILL per the memo dated August 12, 2022. Attorney Stiff explained that he was asked to draft a resolution amending the purchasing policy. As he reviewed the resolution he found that it is not just for emergency purchasing but does contain a section that pertains to purchasing. He thought what the Council might want to do is create an emergency purchasing policy and then amend it to remove certain items. Alderwoman Gazal asked if we could table this for further discussion in a work session setting. Alderman Albert agreed. Alderman Vershay thought we had a policy pertaining specifically to the Treatment Plant and emergency purchasing. Alderman Dyke asked if we could get a copy of all of the resolutions and policy's pertaining to this subject. Alderperson Oberlin asked that this be on the agenda for the next work session to be held on August 22, 2022.

(#5) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal, seconded by Alderman Albert, to table the RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PURCHASING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF CREST HILL per the memo dated August 12, 2022 for further discussion at the August 22, 2022 work session.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(152)

(200) Alderman Albert thanked the City Attorney for the work that he put into the resolution in such a short period of time.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: (209) City Administrator Jim Marino had agenda items for discussion.

(208) Administrator Marino informed the Council that at a previous meeting the change orders were brought to the Council for approval. There are going to be some additional change orders that need to be approved. The next regular meeting is September 6, 2022 and Harbour would like to have these approved before that so the work on the City Center can continue. He is requesting a work session on August 29, 2022 so that we can discuss these items and approve them. Alderperson Oberlin asked if he is requesting a work session or a special Council meeting. Administrator Marino was asking for a special Council meeting.

(#6) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to approve a special City Council meeting to be held on August 29, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(270)

(296) Alderwoman Gazal said that in government, resolutions and ordinances are established to provide framework for conducting business which includes purchasing, services, and employment as well as other responsibilities. In regard to employment, it comes as no surprise that the Council has learned of yet another resignation. This occurs in other municipalities but the frequency at which this is occurring here is disturbing. Staff has reached out to City Officials to have their concerns heard have and have followed the chain of command and gotten no results. In desperation they reached out to the Officials. She is uncomfortable listening to staff regarding day to day business but felt that it is her duty to try to do something. She felt that she needed to assemble a list of issues and provide it to the Administrator for his review. Scheduling a meeting as a listening session was the avenue that was chosen. Unfortunately, a message was compiled by the Attorney and Administrator, and the meeting did not happen. Morale has reached a low point and resignations continue. We have a hard working loyal staff who gets the job done. She hopes that the Council starts to take the staff into consideration and it saddens her to see how things are going right now.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: (383) Public Works Director Mark Siefert presented the Notice of Intent to Award Contract to Vissering Construction Company per the memo dated August 15, 2022. This was discussed at the work session held on August 4, 2022. Alderperson Oberlin asked Director Siefert to give a synopsis of what the contract entails and what the importance of it is. Director Siefert went over what needs to be done to reconstruct the West Wastewater Treatment Plant. Some of the components of the plant are from the 1960's and cannot be replaced. We have staff that are actually refurbishing or making the replacement parts to keep the plant going. The upgrades will increase the capacity of the plant and will make it a top notch facility.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Albert, to approve the Notice of Intent to Award Contract to Vissering Construction Company per the memo dated August 15, 2022.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(475)

(486) Alderperson Oberlin explained that roughly 10 years ago herself and a former Alderwoman toured the West Plant and filmed what they saw. At that time the plant was in bad condition. She would like the residents to know that the rehab of this facility is necessary in order to keep it running. Alderman Jefferson asked if this is the second time this is being brought before the Council. This was done in 2013 and the bids received were over by #2 million dollars. We have reached the point now where the rehabilitation has to take place and can't be put off any longer.

(539) Director Siefert presented a request to Approve the Execution of a Proposal with Strand Associates, Inc. for Construction Engineering Services for the West Plant Wastewater Treatment Facility Construction in an amount not to exceed \$3,720,000.00 per the memo dated August 15, 2022. This was discussed at the work session held on August 4, 2022. This will be paid for over five fiscal years. Director Siefert explained what this will cover. Treasurer Conklin questioned the bidding on this. This is under services not included. Director Siefert said that it was in the past contract for design

(#8) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to approve the Execution of a Proposal with Strand & Associates, Inc. for Construction Engineering Services for the West Plant Wastewater Treatment Facility Construction in an amount not to exceed \$3,720,000.00 per the memo dated August 15, 2022.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(580)

(615) Director Siefert announced that the paint for the fire hydrants came in. They will be scheduling us in September to get this phase of the hydrants done. The second and third weeks of September will be hydrant flushing. Alderman Cipiti asked if the flushing would be done at night. It would. Mayor Soliman asked what year of hydrant painting are we on. It is year 5 or 6. Alderman Cipiti asked if this phase is to finish the painting. We still have three years left and then it will start over again. This is a seven year process. Alderwoman Gazal commended the Public Works on the white lines that were freshly done.

CITY ENGINEER: (667) City Engineer Ron Weideman presented a request to Award the Contract to P.T. Ferro Construction Co. for the 2022 Motor Fuel Tax Pavement Patching Contract in the Amount of \$226,343.20 per the memo dated August 15, 2022. Treasurer

Conklin questioned the budgeted amount versus actual amount. Engineer Weideman explained that there is no overall change in the actual budget.

(#9) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Albert, to Award the Contract to P.T. Ferro Construction Co. for the 2022 Motor Fuel Tax Pavement Patching Contract in the Amount of \$226,343.20 per the memo dated August 15, 2022.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(711)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: (730) There were no agenda items for discussion. The reports were on file.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: (736) Police Chief Ed Clark presented a Special Event Police Services Contract with the Crest Hill Lions Club per the memo dated August 15, 2022.

(#10) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to approve a Special Event Police Services Contract with the Crest Hill Lions Club per the memo dated August 15, 2022.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Albert.

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

(749)

(770) Chief Clark thanked everyone who participated and volunteered for the National Night Out. He commended Officer Outlaw on the hard work she put into the event. It was a huge success.

(800) Chief Clark announced that Friday August 19, 2022 is the annual Cop on a Rooftop at the Dunkin Donuts in Crest Hill from 5:00 a.m. to noon.

(835) Alderwoman Gazal commended the Public Works Department for their participation in the National Night Out. Mayor Soliman commended Officer Outlaw and everyone who participated in the event.

MAYOR: (874) Mayor Raymond Soliman announced that we had a presentation scheduled for a certificate of recognition for an Eagle Scout, but they were not in attendance for tonight's meeting. We will contact them to reschedule.

(887) Mayor Soliman presented a request for the Veto and Return of Amended Ordinance No. 1918 to City Council-Ordinance Amending Title 2 (Administration and Personnel), Chapter 26 (Finance Director) of the Crest Hill City Code per the memo dated August 15, 2022. This is for informational purposes only. Mayor Soliman read an email that was sent

to the Council regarding this ordinance. The decision to veto this Ordinance are as follows. Having a Finance Director report to an Elected Official would be poor management practice that will create confusion, create conflict, and create inefficiencies that will disrupt the day to day operation of the office. The amendments of Ordinance 1918 are not good government and the actions taken by the Council on August 1, 2022 aren't in the best interest of the City. How do you justify having a Finance Director reporting directly to an elected part time City Treasurer to manage operations of the Treasurer's Office when you have full time City Administrator who is present 40 hours per week. The Mayor formally returned the ordinance as required by Illinois Municipal code (65ILCS 5/31.1 40-45. Ordinance #1918 will be placed on the agenda for reconsideration at the Council meeting to be held on September 6, 2022. Treasurer Conklin questioned section 5/3.1-40-45. It appears that the ordinance and veto applies to appropriations. If it doesn't pertain to involve an appropriation or expenditure, it is not vetoable. Attorney Stiff read the first section of the ordinance. All resolutions and motions that create a liability to the City, that provide the expenditure and appropriation of its money or sell any City or school property, or all ordinances passed by the Council shall be deposited with the City Clerk. If it is a resolution or motion that does those three things it can be vetoed by the Mayor. This also includes the ordinances. Attorney Stiff explained the section that the Treasurer referred to. Discussion followed on the wording of this section.

(1018) Alderperson Oberlin asked if there is anything that the Council needs to do tonight. Attorney Stiff went over the statutes pertaining to the veto of the ordinance.

(1170) Alderwoman Gazal commended the Mayor. He has always said the majority rules, but that is not true in this case.

CITY CLERK: (1194) City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall announced that the block party request that was on the agenda has been cancelled. If this is rescheduled, it will be brought back to the Council.

(1209) Clerk Vershay-Hall announced that the city wide garage sale will be August 18, 19, 20, 21, 2022. Permits can be purchased from the Clerk's Office. The last day to get on the list will be Tuesday August 16, 2022. The cost of a permit is \$5.00. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CITY TREASURER: (1239) City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the regular and overtime payroll from July 4, 2022 to July 17, 2022 in the amount of \$241,309.06.

(1250) Treasurer Conklin presented the list of bills in the amount of \$537,840.62 for Council approval.

(#11) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$537,840.62 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(1259)

(1279) Treasurer Conklin announced that the information that was requested by Alderman Vershay was provided to the Council in their packet. Alderman Cipiti asked if we can get an update on the budget so far. Treasurer Conklin asked if they would like this for a work session or a regular meeting. Director Banovetz could have this for the work session. Treasurer Conklin asked that we get the payroll report back in the packet also.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (1352) There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: (1354) There was no new business.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: (1355) There were no committee/liaison reports.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: (1357) Alderman Albert commended everyone on the National Night Out. He also commended the American Italian Club on a successful Festa Italiana. Alderperson Oberlin announced that there will be a Military Appreciation Night at the Slammer's game on September 3, 2022. This event is sponsored by the Pastorello Family. They are donating 2000 tickets to military and their families. Alderwoman Gazal announced there will be a pop up pantry on October 8, 2022 at the White Oak Library in Crest Hill. At 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (1457) There were no citizens wishing to address the Council.

(1464) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there was a need for an executive session on personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)).

(#12) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to go into an executive session on personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)).

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT:

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

Executive session 7:44 p.m.

(1471)

(#13) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Vershay, to reconvene from the executive session on personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)).

On roll the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

(1492)

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

(#14) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to adjourn the August 15, 2022 City Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(1515

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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

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

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

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