

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
June 12, 2023

The June 12, 2023 City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Center, 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, Alderman John Vershay, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert.

Also present were: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Finance Director Lisa Banovetz, Building Commissioner Don Seeman, Director of Public Works Mark Siefert, Police Chief Ed Clark, Interim Planner Maura Rigoni, Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Alderman Joe Kubal.

TOPIC: Festa Italiana Parade and 3-day Liquor License Waiver

Mayor Soliman commented that in attendance is Dan Brandolino and Christina Hayden from American Italian Cultural Society to discuss the Festa Italiana of 2023. Mayor Soliman stated that this is for the three-day liquor license waiver and the parade.

Christina Hayden announced Friday, August 11, 2023 begins the Festa Italiana Picnic from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. that will go through Sunday, August 13, 2023. She gave the band line up, entertainment schedule, and the food menu that will be served. She announced Sunday, August 13, 2023 will be their mass along with other events throughout the day.

Mayor Soliman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for the parade and the waiver of the liquor license.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Ald. Albert, Cipiti.

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal.

Mayor Soliman commented that we will have this on the June 19, 2023 Council meeting at 7:00p.m.

TOPIC: Retirement of Police Canine and New Police Dog Acquisition

Police Chief Ed Clark commented that on May 29, 2023, Officer John McHale, our canine handler, resigned and went to the State Police Agency. With that said, the Police Department was initially intent on retrieving Simo, providing training for a new handler but recently, he was contacted by Will County State's Attorney, James Glasgow who was

aware of Officer McHale's departure and provided an alternative. Chief Clark stated Attorney Glasgow would purchase a new dog for our Police Department and provide all training needed to certify the dog for policework. Chief Clark stated he recommends we retire Simo from policework and allow handler Officer John McHale to keep him and allow State's Attorney James Glasgow to purchase a new canine for our Police Department.

Mayor Soliman asked if Officer McHale was the second handler of Simo? Chief Clark stated yes that this would be the third handler if we were to keep Simo. Chief Clark stated switching handlers does not help keep that trust bond with the canine.

Alderman Albert asked if there is an officer interested in being a canine handler? Chief Clark commented that we have two officers willing to be canine handlers. They will go through an interview process and the company interviewing will be the one to make the decision who will be the canine handler.

Alderman Oberlin asked who are the officers willing to be canine handlers? Chief Clark commented that it is Officer Craig Machuga and Officer Andrew Trnka.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote to retire Police Canine Simo and accept the offer of a new canine officer from State's Attorney James Glasgow.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Mayor Soliman stated that this will be on the June 19, 2023 Council meeting.

TOPIC: Weber East TIF Proposal for Eligibility Study

Interim Planner Maura Rigoni stated that in February of 2022 we had a TIF eligibility study to re-establish the Weber Road TIF. At this time, the area was divided into two sections, east and west side of Weber Road, with the approval of the TIF on the west side of Weber Road in 2022. She stated we will use Ryan LLC, who recently acquired Kane, McKenna, and Associates, who has submitted an engagement letter for a TIF eligibility report/study for this area. Planner Rigoni stated she would recommend that the Council authorize the City Attorney and Staff to prepare the necessary resolution executing a consulting service agreement.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Mayor Soliman commented that this will be on the June 19, 2023 Council meeting.

TOPIC: SU Truck Rental Home Essentials - Hillcrest

Interim Planner Maura Rigoni stated that this is a request for a special use for truck rentals at the property located at 1701 N. Larkin, Unit 305. She stated the applicant would like to rent U-Hauls to their customers as a form of transportation of purchased furniture. She also stated it is not the applicant's intent to provide U-Haul services to the public, only to their patrons. Planner Rigoni commented that this did go before the Plan Commission and there was a favorable recommendation for the special use conditioned upon:

- No on-site advertisement for the U-Haul operation.
- Limit the number of trucks to three on-site at one time.
- All trucks must be parked in the rear of the property, and at no time shall a U-Haul associated with the business be in the parking lot in-front of the shopping center.

Mayor Soliman asked for the owner, Ibrahim Altamimi, to come to the podium to answer questions and/or comments.

Alderman Dyke asked how many trucks do they plan on having? Mr. Altamimi stated up to three trucks the proposal reads. Alderperson Oberlin asked if it would be the normal U-Haul Service? Mr. Altamimi stated it would be for furniture customer orders.

Mayor Soliman commented that he watched the Plan Commission meeting and seen that Commissioners had some questions and concerns regarding U-Haul trucks being parked at the business prior to the Plan Commission meeting and not having the special use. Mayor Soliman also commented that he had driven in the back of the business and noticed trucks parked there as well prior to the Plan Commission hearing of the special use. Mr. Altamimi stated that U-Haul had not put any restrictions in place within their system so U-Haul customers were dropping off trucks. Mr. Altamimi stated they did not want any trucks parked there either. Mr. Altamimi commented that when that happened, we would have to move the trucks to a storage location in Homer Glen and that was a headache for him as well.

Mayor Soliman also stated that he has no problem with two U-Haul trucks being parked there for furniture customers only, but he is concerned the parking of the trucks may become out of control again.

Mr. Altamimi commented that he has added a security system with cameras and plans on taking this very seriously. Alderman Vershay commented will it always be three trucks or will you change the number of trucks. Planner Rigoni commented that he will need to adhere to the number of trucks that the Council approves and if he wants to change the number of trucks it will have to come before the City Council for approval. Alderperson Oberlin asked why the paperwork reads three if they are saying two? Planner Rigoni commented that her notes read two, but he will have to adhere to the number the Council puts in place, or he will not be compliant. Alderman Cipiti asked what happens when he is not in compliance? Planner Rigoni stated his special use could be revoked. Alderman Albert asked if there are any other tenants in the rear of the building? Mr. Katz, the owner of the property, commented that the taco place parks in the back and he is not aware of any other businesses other than the normal activity and he plans on putting surveillance in the back of the lot, as well.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Mayor Soliman commented this would be on the June 19, 2023 Council meeting.

TOPIC: SU Banquet Facility – Event and Venue by James

Interim Planner Maura Rigoni commented that this is a proposal for a special use for a banquet facility to permit operation of an event space at the property located at 21121 Division Street. The proposed location is adjoining Cheesecake by James, his current business. She stated the banquet facility is for a large use, but this would be smaller to host various gatherings which include baby showers, birthday parties, luncheons, and community events. She also stated that numerous times the city and the fire department have gone over there to review the property. She commented that this did go before the Plan Commission on May 11, 2023 receiving a favorable recommendation with the following conditions:

- The prohibition of the consumption of alcohol on the premises, both inside and outside the building.
- Review and approval of a security plan by the Crest Hill Police Department.
- Limiting the occupancy of the events space and the area associated with Cheesecake by James to 75 people.
- The hours of operation are as follows; events must conclude by 10PM with the facility being closed by 11PM.
- At no such time shall any door to the outside of the unit be propped open.

Planner Rigoni commented that original occupancy was 200 people and then was dropped to 100 people, but we realize to be more comfortable the applicant has reduced the occupancy to 75 people. Mr. James Sankey, owner of Cheesecake by James, commented that he agrees with the conditions that Planner Rigoni stated, and he would have no alcohol and doesn't want any on the premises. He commented that this is more of a small event business for baby showers and small get togethers. There would be no propping of doors, if the inside gets hot, the air conditioning will be turned on. James stated he likes small events instead of large events. Alderwoman Gazal commented where the parking will be in back or front? James commented most will be in front, especially since dropping the occupancy to 75 people there will be plenty of parking. Alderwoman Gazal asked if James will be putting a sign up? James commented that he would be putting a sign up to let customers know where we are located. Alderman Albert commented that residents have had questions, but most were answered at the Plan Commission meeting and thanked James for being supportive and communicating and answering all the resident's questions. James commented that the Carillon residents are very supportive of his business and have been in for his cheesecake and he was happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Soliman commented he did watch the Plan Commission meeting and has a couple questions of his own. Mayor Soliman asked James if he is up to date with all his payments to the landlord? James commented that it is kind of a special situation since being shut

down by the city last December and not being able to have any parties until the special use is approved. Mayor Soliman asked James again, if he is up to date with all his payments to the landlord. James commented that he is up to date. Mayor Soliman stated that you did have an agreement to rent three units from the landlord, did you? James stated that is correct. Mayor Soliman commented he had lunch with Mr. Sankey's landlord, and he is very upset because you are in arrears for the three units in the amount of \$37,250.00 from January 1, 2023 up until today. James stated that is not accurate. Mayor Soliman asked James what did the landlord say to you when he called you the other day? James stated that the back rent can be worked out between them if the special use gets approved. James stated that Mayor Soliman has been in contact with my realtor asking about my financial situation. James stated that he was told by Zoe in the department that it was a legit business but learned he had to go through the special use process before he can have a party, so he has been waiting since December. James stated he has a lot of respect for the landlord, but he is 85 years old and tends to forget things and because of that I make sure to go through him and his daughter. Alderwoman Gazal asked James to hold on a minute. Alderwoman Gazal stated that she feels this is disrespectful to James to discuss his finances in front of everyone. Alderwoman Gazal commented that it is not the city's business to know what kind of deal James has with his landlord and asked the mayor why you didn't give him the opportunity to speak in private. She stated we should not have been put in that type of situation. Mayor Soliman continued talking to James regarding his landlord having a possible renter for unit two and unit three and he could build a wall and James should just continue business in unit one and start paying rent. James stated that he did talk to the landlord and the conversation was if the special use does not get approved then he will not keep unit two and unit three and the landlord could build a wall and he would remain in unit one. James also stated the landlord told him he did not call you. Mayor Soliman stated he did talk to the landlord and the realtor. Alderwoman Gazal commented again why are you bringing this up in public that his finances are not city business. Mayor Soliman stated the city needs to know.

Aldersperson Oberlin asked the City Attorney if he does not agree that this is not a public discussion and the owner of the building, or the realtor cannot be here to say what they did or did not say and that is hearsay. City Attorney Mike Stiff commented that this is not a court of law, but he does not know of any private discussion that can be had by the full city council members. He stated this is not an executive session topic.

James commented that his financial dealings with the landlord is his own business. He also commented that the mayor came to him at his establishment two months before he opened his business and told him that he would not succeed and will fail. He also commented that Mayor Soliman told him to his face that because he was very ambitious and took on this space he would fall behind and be evicted and James had told Mayor Soliman to leave his establishment with his negative energy. Mayor Soliman stated that was not true and told James his time was up. James continued talking about the mayor discussing his financial situations with the realtor.

Members of the Council wanted to stop the discussion. Alderman Albert commented that we need to take a straw vote with the information we have. Many Council members were upset and voiced their concerns.

Mayor Soliman commented again to James wanting to make sure he is aware the landlord is going to start the building process between units.

James stated that his situation is taken care of, and he will not come waste his time or Council's time pushing for something that is not going to happen.

Mayor Soliman asked for a straw vote based on the recommendations from the Plan Commission. Planner Rigoni stated that it was a favorable recommendation with conditions from the Plan Commission.

Bill Thomas, the Chairman of the Plan Commission, stated that there are six conditions that was included in the recommendation and the one missing was no food to be prepared on site other than cheesecake/desserts and during events food would need to be catered. He also stated that the residents that came did not want this to happen but once they heard the details and James answered all the questions, they were fine with the special use. Mr. Thomas commented that if the residents that were in attendance told him if they would've known all of this before the meeting, they would not have attended the meeting.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for approval with the conditions.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Mayor Soliman stated that this will be on the agenda for the Council meeting June 19, 2023.

Aldersperson Oberlin commented that her feelings are not the same as others in attendance and wants him to know that he is welcome and hopes he is very successful.

James stated that he does not know why the mayor does not want him to be successful or what turns him off about him trying to be ambitious and why he wouldn't call him to have this conversation. He also stated that he has nothing against the mayor and hopefully we can get past what is causing the friction.

TOPIC: Hillcrest Shopping Center Water Main Relocation – Change Order #1

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman stated that we entered into an agreement to relocate the city's water main with the Hillcrest Shopping Center. During pre-construction layout of all existing underground utilities, it was determined that an existing underground ComEd service is in a different location than what was provided during the design process.

Engineer Wiedeman stated that based on the change in location of the water main due to conflict with the underground ComEd service Hillcrest has agreed to pay for all landscape restoration of the berm, which is budgeted at \$10,000.00, even though it puts Hillcrest over their maximum contribution. This additional amount of this is \$66,284.90 and would be the responsibility of the city.

Engineer Wiedeman requested to approve the change order for the water main relocation work at the Hillcrest Shopping Center due to the construction of a new recruiting building which will increase the city share from this work for construction to \$365,534.90.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote of Change Order #1 for the water main relocation work at the Hillcrest Shopping Center due to the construction of new recruiting building which will increase the city share from this work for construction to \$365,534.90.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alderman Kubal

Mayor Raymond Soliman stated there is a need for an executive session on Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

(#1) 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. Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin, Gazal, Jefferson, Vershay, Dyke.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Executive Session began at 7:58 p.m.

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

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

TOPIC: Security and Safety Change Order

Building Commissioner Don Seeman commented that he sent the Council the cost for installation of ten wi-fi locks, thirteen window lite kits in office doors, Executive Conference room sound insulation, and Council Chamber podium.

Alderperson Oberlin asked what is wrong with the podium we have now? Commissioner Seeman stated that when he started, he was told to get an estimate on a new podium to match the wood grain of the dais.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall asked where are the tables that were in the Council Chambers? Public Works Director Mark Siefert commented that he was asked to remove them by the past City Administrator, and they are in the basement. The council asked for the tables to be returned to the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Seeman stated that the wi-fi locks are for the inside doors where the public would have access to the city side such as the Executive Conference room and the Public Conference room.

Alderman Cipiti asked why the doors were not originally installed with windows? Director Siefert commented that originally this was a low priority item and was removed.

Commissioner Seeman stated the other item is to install sound insulation in the Executive Conference room ceiling. He stated that insulation was originally installed in the walls but not the ceiling.

Mayor Soliman commented that he agrees with everything on the memo except he doesn't see anything wrong with the podium. Alderwoman Gazal commented that sometimes you need contrast.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for the installation of ten wi-fi locks, thirteen window lite kits in office doors, and Executive Conference room sound insulation.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Mayor Soliman also stated that it was agreed that the podium stays.

Alderman Albert commented that he noticed that the bathrooms do not have soap dispensers, garment hooks, and towel dispensers which are things that all people touch. Alderman Albert asked if the toilets are ADA compliant? He commented they do not seem high enough to be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Seeman stated that a contractor did walk through and do an inspection. He also stated the screens on the bathroom faucets have been replaced to give better water pressure. Commissioner Seeman stated they have had two clogs at the Police Department about thirty feet out and this is because we are not getting enough pressure to push it out, so we are working on trying to fix the situation. Commissioner Seeman commented that commercial toilets were not installed originally.

Alderman Cipiti commented we are doing more things now that should have been done originally. Alderman Cipiti said this is not against Commissioner Seeman its just more of a disheartening hearing about all of this and how much money was spent.

TOPIC: IGA Weber and Ryan Traffic Signal

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that the existing IGA between the City and the County is to expire this August 21, 2023 for the existing signals at Weber Road and Ryan Drive. This contract is good for twenty years and the new contract will have the exact same terms. He stated Weber Road is under Will County and Ryan Drive is under the City of Crest Hill. He also stated routine maintenance shall be the responsibility of Will County with a portion of this to be invoiced to the City of Crest Hill at a rate of \$150.00 per month. He stated if the maintenance costs increase the County will need to give the city thirty days' notice. Engineer Wiedeman stated that if there are any repairs for damage the County will invoice 25% of cost if the repair is on a shared corner.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

Mayor Soliman stated this would be on the June 19, 2023 Council meeting.

TOPIC: Chaney and Center Water Main and Roadway Rehabilitation Project – Change Order #1

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that the underground work for the Chaney and Center project are now completed, and the new system is currently working, they did add tie-ins for undeveloped lots so when these lots are developed the newly constructed roadway, sidewalk and curb and gutter will not need to be removed. He stated that there were also other repairs that needed to be made when they inspected the tie-ins. Engineer Wiedeman stated that these created an extra expense due to the additional time and material in tying the water mains. He also commented that the cost for the additional work is \$134,250.95.

Engineer Wiedeman also asked the Council if they would approve restriping and overlaying around Chaney-Monge School since they are not in session. The cost of this is estimated at \$37,868.30. He also stated that there is a deduction in the contract cost for the final quantities of water main work in the amount of \$69,591.65.

Engineer Wiedeman requested to approve the Change Order #1 in the amount to \$3,535,133.30 which includes the increase costs of the completed work.

Aldersperson Oberlin commented that when this is developed, we will recoup the costs with the tap-on fees and save us costs having to do it when developed. Aldersperson Oberlin also agreed with the work needing done around Chaney-Monge School.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for the increase in the amount of \$156,507.10.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

TOPIC: Consideration for Approval for Two Insurance Appraisal Proposals from Kroll

Financial Director Lisa Banovetz commented that the city is in a pool with eight other municipalities (S.W.A.R.M.) and it was suggested to get another appraisal on all city items to make sure we are properly insured. She stated that the city treasurer along with herself budgeted \$20,000.00 for this. Director Banovetz stated they received the first proposal from Kroll, and it came back lower than estimated at \$15,925.00. The proposal consists of a walk-through to look at various things to make sure we are adequately insured. It was stated that this especially needs to be done since we are in the new building.

Director Banovetz commented that the second proposal is to provide updated fixed asset accounting records for internal accounting and financial reporting. They would engage in another appraisal of an inventory for items under \$1,000.00. She stated that the price of this proposal was \$28,000.00. City Treasurer Glen Conklin stated that this is an unbudgeted expense. He stated that the first proposal was budgeted and came back lower but this is something that should be done, especially with all the projects and inventory coming in.

Alderman Oberlin thanked them both for their diligent eyes and all their work.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for the recommendation of roughly \$24,000.00 for the second proposal.

On roll call, the informal vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal

TOPIC: City Owned Vehicles and Clothing Allowance – Stipend Discussion

Finance Director Lisa Banovetz commented that Alderman Dyke asked about having a vehicle discussion. Director Banovetz also wanted to bring up that the city is not taxing personnel benefits, such as vehicles, and clothing. She commented that she did research on the IRS guidelines regarding taxing personal benefits and wanted the Council to be aware that this is not being done. She stated that if an employee is getting a personal benefit such as a use of a vehicle or clothing that is taxable compensation and is required to be taxed.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin commented that there is a \$600.00 threshold, and they need to be aware of the use where the vehicles are coming and going to and from. Alderman Gazal commented we need to be careful with this because if we tax them then that means they can use it for personal use and then we get into the maintenance costs. Director Banovetz stated they need to track their personal use or charge them like a lease use. Treasurer Conklin commented that if you tax the employee for their vehicle then they will need to keep a mileage log.

Treasurer Conklin commented that in terms of the taxation process, we should have a workshop on this and explain the guidelines.

Director Banovetz also commented that the Police Department gets a quarterly clothing allowance and they do not turn in any receipts showing they are purchasing clothing items. She commented that the IRS guidelines are very clear about this.

Alderman Oberlin commented that we do need to follow the laws.

Alderman Dyke asked if we could get some more information from the surrounding communities on what they do with their vehicle use and how they handle it.

TOPIC: Vehicle Discussion

Alderman Dyke commented about the two vehicles that we just purchased. He commented that he passed out two packets to the Council members and stated the first packet shows

what we originally received showing a vague purchase agreement with the sale price. He then commented that he included the vehicle sticker with cost and the options it had included such as the limited convenience package, twin moonroof and optional wheels that came out to \$3,285.00 additional dollars, that was not on the original packet given to us. Alderman Dyke then commented that the second packet he included tonight had other vehicles that were available on the lot. He then stated he went to the Tirapelli dealership and was told that remote start could be added on at the dealership for under \$600.00. He then goes on explaining the updated suspension in standard, sport, and limited, which the vehicle we have is limited. Alderman Dyke commented we could have saved between \$5,000.00 and \$7,000.00 per vehicle if we would have gone with another vehicle. He also asked the dealership if it could be returned but was told it would have to be a trade in and you would lose money. He asked how often a tow package will be used since it is on these vehicles.

Alderman Cipiti asked Alderman Dyke what do you want to happen or what are you looking for? Alderman Dyke stated that going forward he would like to see a vehicle policy that the Council members would see all the information of what is on the vehicle and a discussion had before going forward with purchasing the vehicle.

Mayor Soliman asked Public Works Director Mark Siefert if he had anything to add to the discussion or any information to add? Director Siefert commented that the Council is aware of how purchasing with the State happens and you cannot negotiate or talk to anyone, you just get a number. He stated if you look back at the original order form that was ten pages long with many options and that is what was given to the dealership and asked what meets these criteria. Director Siefert stated he was not looking for something extravagant and he went to three different dealers, and they had limited stock. Alderman Dyke stated Tirapelli always has twelve Explorers on their lot. Director Siefert stated that he went to Rod Baker, and they had zero in stock, then went to Curry in New Lenox and they had one in stock, and we didn't want to split the purchase. He also stated he did not go to a dealership and say I want these options. Director Siefert commented that the dealership suggested the vehicle with the order form that was provided to them. Director Siefert also stated that the entire point of the bid process is to get blind bids and not negotiating contractors against each other, that is in direct violation of the bid process. Director Siefert commented that he does not understand what Alderman Dyke would like Director Siefert to do.

Alderwoman Gazal asked why he didn't go for the basic vehicle? Director Siefert commented that those were the vehicles that met the criteria of the report put together by the mechanics and were on the lot and matched the qualifications to get the purchase done before the end of the budget year.

Treasurer Conklin commented that he was confronted by the residents about this vehicle purchased with leather seats and a sunroof and how the residents felt deceived by this purchase with taxpayer's dollars. Treasurer Conklin commented that he felt very embarrassed and feels we went above and beyond what the expectation was. He also stated most of his phone calls were from inside this building.

Alderman Vershay asked who was the dealership that the State designated? Director Siefert commented that there isn't any at this time since dealers cannot get vehicles. There has not been State bids since late 2021.

Alderman Dyke commented that he could have purchased and saved money on a 2023 which was on the lot but instead a 2022 was purchased with accessories not needed that is already one year old.

TOPIC: Consideration to Amend the City's Current Purchasing Policy

Finance Director Lisa Banovetz commented that City Attorney Mike Stiff amended the purchasing policy in September of 2022. Director Banovetz commented that she had made two changes to the policy removing the petty cash section since petty cash was eliminated and amended the guidelines for credit card purchases policy. Director Banovetz commented that she wanted to bring this back before the Council if they would like to make any other changes or amendments. Director Banovetz also commented that the City Council will be given a monthly credit card statement so they can see what has been charged on the credit cards and this will be done in a separate email.

Alderman Albert commented that he doesn't agree with the authorization by the City Treasurer and would rather see authorizations by the City Administrator. Treasurer Conklin commented that the Treasurer Department would never get in the way of providing information or support to the Council.

Alderman Oberlin commented that the Council gave the authority to the Treasurer Department and feels that authorizations should remain there.

Alderman Gazal commented on why we are going back and forth, and we are going to go nowhere since we keep going backwards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Linda Dyke, a resident at 1700 Kelly Avenue, asked if you have a city vehicle can it be taken out of the City of Crest Hill and would it be considered personal use if taking a city vehicle to lunch? She also commented that the city vehicle was seen three times outside the city limits for lunch. She mentioned that she remembers a police officer getting reprimanded for this same thing.

Alderman Oberlin stated that this is something that will need to be added to the discussion.

Stuart Soifer, a resident at 21526 Gray Wing Drive, asked if the stop lights on City Center Boulevard and Weber Road can be looked at. He commented that it takes a long time to go through. City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that the County has adjusted the lights, but they may need to be contacted again. Engineer Wiedeman also commented that if people avoid the intersection, it will never fix the problem.

Stuart also commented that he hopes that the Council looks over everything purchased at the building and not only at vehicle purchases.

MAYORS UPDATES:

There is a lot of information on the agenda for next Monday June 19, 2023. He also commented we will have Merichka's Restaurant here at the next meeting for a resolution.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES:

No committee updates tonight.

Alderman Albert asked if we could put the Special Events Ordinance on a future work session agenda for discussion. He stated it seems there is a lot of confusion over the intent of this ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 pm.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2023

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR