

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
January 15, 2024

The regular meeting of the City of Crest Hill was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 20600 City Center Boulevard, Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

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

Also present were: Police Chief Ed Clark, Public Works Director Blaine Kline, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Finance Director Lisa Banovetz, Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Building Commissioner Don Seeman, Interim City Planner Maura Rigoni.

Mayor Soliman excused Alderman Darrell Jefferson from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular meeting held on January 2, 2024 for Council approval per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on January 2, 2024 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session meeting held on January 4, 2024 for Council approval per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#2) Motion by Alderman Vershay seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on January 4, 2024 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session meeting held on January 8, 2024 for Council approval per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#3) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on January 8, 2024 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve an Ordinance of the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois Amending Title 9” Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Article IV. Offenses Against Public Peace of its Code of Ordinances to Establish a Chapter 9.40: Rules and Regulations of the City of Crest Hill Regarding Unscheduled Intercity Buses per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#4) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve an Ordinance of the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois Amending Title 9” Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Article IV. Offenses Against Public Peace of its Code of Ordinances to Establish a Chapter 9.40: Rules and Regulations of the City of Crest Hill Regarding Unscheduled Intercity Buses per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Ordinance #1971

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: There were no agenda items for discussion

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Public Works Director Blaine Kline requested Approval of Pay Request #16 from Williams Brothers Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$110,162.89 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#5) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve Pay Request #16 from Williams Brothers Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$110,162.89 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Public Works Director Blaine Kline requested Approval of Pay Request #17 from Williams Brothers Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$39,901.33 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#6) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Vershay, to Approve Pay Request #17 from Williams Brothers Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$39,901.33 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Public Works Director Blaine Kline requested Approval of Pay Request #12 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,902,617.69 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve Pay Request #12 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,902,617.69 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Mayor Soliman complimented and thanked all the Public Works Department, Police Department, and city staff for handling the snow and extreme temperatures.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve Meade, Inc. Proposal to Modify the Existing Traffic Signals at the Intersection of Division St. and Churnovic Ln. to Add a Traffic Signal for the Driveway Along the North Leg for a Cost of \$22,557.21 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that she is all for safety, but she stated that she is upset with the city spending almost \$23,000.00 to fix a problem that was created by not doing the proper work when the light was first installed. She commented that she has been asking for years to move the light from Ryan Drive to McGilvray to avoid more fatalities and accidents. She stated that there have been nine accidents in the last three years plus two fatalities. Alderwoman Gazal respectfully asked the Council again to move the light from Ryan Drive to McGilvray and it has fallen through the cracks. She commented that it is only fair to do it since we are doing it for one resident tonight.

(#8) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve Meade, Inc. Proposal to Modify the Existing Traffic Signals at the Intersection of Division St. and Churnovic Ln. to Add a Traffic Signal for the Driveway Along the North Leg for a Cost of \$22,557.21 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Gazal.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: There were no agenda items for discussion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Ed Clark requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 5.48.020, 5.48.030, and 5.48.060 of Title 5, Business Licenses and Regulations, Chapter 5.48 Automatic and Manual Burglar and Fire Alarms of the City of Crest Hill City Code of Ordinances per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

He stated that this was brought to his attention by Alderwoman Gazal. This ordinance would be waving the fee for residential burglar alarms. Chief Clark explained the false alarm fees.

Alderwoman Gazal thanked the city attorney, chief, and all the council members for helping move this forward.

(#9) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 5.48.020, 5.48.030, and 5.48.060 of Title 5, Business Licenses and Regulations, Chapter 5.48 Automatic and Manual Burglar and Fire Alarms of the City of Crest Hill City Code of Ordinances per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Ordinance #1972

Chief Clark informed the Council that the officers have written sixty citations for snow fall parking violations. He also thanked the Public Works Department and the Officers that were out there during the snowstorm. He also stated that there were many accidents, and one officer was involved in an accident but is doing well and is home.

Alderwoman Gazal asked Chief Clark what the \$197.97 bill was from D & I Electronics for burglar alarm. Chief Clark commented that it could possibly be for their evidence vault since there is an alarm on the vault, but he would look into that.

MAYOR: Mayor Soliman commented that he has no agenda items but would be happy to answer any questions.

Alderman Kubal commented that he wanted to voice his displeasure regarding the Crest Hill residents who did not get garbage pick up on Friday and they did not pick up on Saturday either. He explained that residents in this area are going to have to wait three weeks to get their recycling picked up because of this.

Alderswoman Gazal commented that there was no garbage pick up in her area on January 15, 2024 and when she called the company, she was told that they were shorthanded due to some of their trucks not starting.

Mayor Soliman commented that the forecast was much more severe than what was expected, and Saturday was supposed to be a worse forecast than Friday and the company was worried about the safety of their drivers coming in at 4:00 a.m. and they made the decision and notified us as soon as possible. He commented that he understands it is an inconvenience, but they will be picking up the trash on Friday and any extra trash will be picked up as well.

Alderman Albert commented that the issue is the fact that they canceled the service instead of delaying it. He stated that the problem was garbage flying all over and he hopes in the future there will be more cooperation.

CITY CLERK: There were no agenda items for discussion.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested Approval of the list of bills issued through January 16, 2024 in the amount of \$3,651,707.94 for Council approval per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

(#10) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Kubal, to Approve the list of bills through January 16, 2024 in the amount of \$3,651,707.94 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Treasurer Conklin commented that if they find out the Republic Services has canceled days opposed to delaying service, he will make sure the city gets discounted on the bill.

Alderman Kubal asked if a discount is given to the city for canceled days of garbage service, will the resident get a refund. Treasurer Conklin commented that he needs to find out from Republic Services first and then figure out how we might adjust that by address.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that she understands there is an inconvenience, but we must keep in mind when we had storms during the warmer weather how they picked up the debris from the storms with no charge. Treasurer Conklin reminded the Council that we have a minor surplus that we allocate to trash pick up annually for a storm/cleanup/special event.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the regular and overtime payroll from December 18, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$267,102.36 per the memo dated January 15, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There were no unfinished business items on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: Alderwoman Gazal commented that El Primo Restaurant called her with concern about their business hours. She asked the mayor to explain if a business closes at 10:00pm and you have a customer come in at 9:45pm requesting a meal, how much time they would have before they can eat and leave. She also commented that they said that the mayor informed them that after 10:00pm they could not serve. Mayor Soliman commented that he told them to make their closing time for people coming in to order at 9:30-9:45pm, that way everyone would be out of the restaurant by 11:00pm. He commented that all people including employees are to be out of the restaurant an hour after they close.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: There were no Committee/Liaison reports on the agenda.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Kubal thanked the Police and Public Works Department for all their hard work with the snow removal.

Alderman Albert thanked the Police and Public Works Department as well, for their hard work.

Alderman Cipiti thanked Public Works for all they did during the storm. He also thanked Director Kline for addressing the residents promptly with the damaged mailboxes. Alderman Cipiti also stated that if any resident has a damaged mailbox to contact the Public Works Department and they will address the issue. He also stated that the resident could contact him, as well, and his number is (779) 227-1605.

Alderwoman Gazal thanked Director Kline for taking care of the streets and posting the information on social media to help the residents. She also announced that all schools are canceled January 16, 2024.

Alderman Dyke commented that he hoped everyone took some time to reflect about all the great work Martin Luther King did.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stuart Soifer, a resident, thanked Alderman Kubal for discussing the garbage pick up issue. He also thanked Alderman Albert for communicating with him about the trash issue. He commented that he did put a blast out to all the community members in his community. He stated out of one hundred homes, seventy-five still have all their trash out there blowing around.

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

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

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson

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

Executive Session 7:32 p.m.

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

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

Reconvened 8:14 p.m.

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

(#7) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Vershay, to adjourn the January 15, 2024 Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Jefferson.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved this 5th day of February, 2024

As presented X

As amended _____


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR