

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
May 6, 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. Mayor Soliman asked everyone to remain standing after the Pledge of Allegiance. With a heavy heart Mayor Soliman announced that Alderman John Vershay passed away on Sunday, April 28, 2024. John was eighty-seven (87) years old and leaves behind two daughters, Tammy, and Christine, and one son, John Jr. John also leaves behind his favorite granddaughter Molly. John was a very loyal and loving husband to his wife, Nadine, who passed away in 1987. He was also a very loyal and loving father, father-in-law, and grandfather. John was first elected in 1979 and served the City of Crest Hill for forty-five (45) consecutive years. Mayor Soliman commented that the City of Crest Hill wants to thank John for his years of dedication, commitment, and loyalty. He asked for everyone to please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time. Mayor Soliman then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ward 1 Alderman, John Vershay.

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

Also present were: Interim City Administrator Tony Graff, Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer, City Attorney Mike Stiff, Deputy Clerk Karen Kozierka, Administrative Clerk Zoe Gates.

Absent were: City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, Police Chief Ed Clark, Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz, Interim City Planner Maura Rigoni, Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to Conduct a Public Hearing with Respect to a Sign Ordinance Variation for the Lucky Brothers/Shell Gas Station Located at 251 Caton Farm Road per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#1) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Open a Public Hearing with Respect to a Sign Ordinance Variation for the Lucky Brothers/Shell Gas Station Located at 251 Caton Farm Road per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Soliman read a letter from the applicant withdrawing their sign ordinance variation request. Due to the revisions made to the sign in question, it is now in compliance with the city's sign ordinance regulations and no longer needs a variance. The letter also requested to officially close the public hearing since they have withdrawn their request.

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing with Respect to a Sign Ordinance Variation for the Lucky Brothers/Shell Gas Station Located at 251 Caton Farm Road per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#2) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Close the Public Hearing with Respect to a Sign Ordinance Variation for the Lucky Brothers/Shell Gas Station Located at 251 Caton Farm Road per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 15, 2024 for Council approval per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on April 15, 2024 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session meeting held on April 22, 2024 for Council approval per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#4) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on April 22, 2024 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session meeting held on April 29, 2024 for Council approval per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#5) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 29, 2024 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

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

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Grievance Settlement Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Authorizing the Execution of that Agreement per the memo dated May 6, 2024. This was discussed in the executive session.

Alderman Oberlin asked going forward if this would revert to the way it was. Attorney Mike Stiff commented that we tried to make this not precedential but there is precedence which is the reason for the settlement, and this would be more of a question for Attorney John Kelly as to how this would affect this issue going forward. Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl commented that since the issue is that it was not written in the contract and has been done in past practice, you are bound by it since it was past practice, but it can be a topic for negotiation for the next contract when the current contract expires in 2026.

Attorney Stiff commented that Exhibit A in the Settlement Agreement states in number 5 that, this Grievance Settlement Agreement shall be without precedent or prejudice to both MAP and the CITY in any future negotiations.

Alderman Cipiti asked if it is grounds to open the contract since it is financial in nature. Interim Manager Strahl commented that you could not since there is nothing in the contract to allow you to open it on this topic alone.

(#6) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Grievance Settlement Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Authorizing the Execution of that Agreement per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1221

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Interim City Administrator Tony Graff requested to Approve the AIS, Inc. - IT Support - Monthly Blocks Revised Service Agreement per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that we need to look for another company that will be more reliable and have better pricing and would like this on the agenda soon.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the AIS, Inc. - IT Support - Monthly Blocks Revised Service Agreement per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Mayor Soliman commented that the Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz is on vacation and our City Engineer will be addressing the Public Works items on the agenda.

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested Approval of Pay Request #20 from Williams Brother Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for Total Amount of \$33,345.35 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#8) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve Pay Request #20 from Williams Brother Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for Total Amount of \$33,345.35 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Administrative Clerk Zoe Gates requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 12 (Streets and Sidewalks), Chapter 12.04 (Excavations), 12.04.020 (Insurance, Bond or Cash Deposit Required) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated May 6, 2024. This is to increase the bond requirement and remove the cash deposit.

(#9) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 12 (Streets and Sidewalks), Chapter 12.04 (Excavations), 12.04.020 (Insurance, Bond or Cash Deposit Required) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Ordinance #1982

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested Approval of Pay Request #16 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,968,162.59 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#10) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve Pay Request #16 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for

Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,968,162.59 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Award the Contract and have the Mayor Execute the Contract Documents with Superior Road Striping, Inc. for the Gaylord Rd., and Cedarwood Dr. Pavement Marking Program (Section No 25-00000-00-GM) in the Amount of \$26,767.50 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#11) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Award the Contract and have the Mayor Execute the Contract Documents with Superior Road Striping, Inc. for the Gaylord Rd., and Cedarwood Dr. Pavement Marking Program (Section No 25-00000-00-GM) in the Amount of \$26,767.50 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with for the Crest Hill Business Park Alternative Truck Route Preliminary Engineering Design-Phase B by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#12) Motion by Alderwoman Albert seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with for the Crest Hill Business Park Alternative Truck Route Preliminary Engineering Design-Phase B by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution #1222

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for the Division Roadway Rehabilitation Improvement-Design Engineering Services by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and V3 Companies, Ltd. per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#13) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for the Division Roadway Rehabilitation

Improvement-Design Engineering Services by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and V3 Companies, Ltd. per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1223

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for the 3-Lot Subdivision of Real Estate Identified by PIN 11-04-29-302-013-0000 by and between the City of Crest Hill of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Robinson Engineering, Ltd per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

Alderman Albert asked when ownership of the playground goes to the park district, will we need to subdivide the parcel again. Engineer Wiedeman commented that we will have to subdivide it then.

(#14) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for the 3-Lot Subdivision of Real Estate Identified by PIN 11-04-29-302-013-0000 by and between the City of Crest Hill of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Robinson Engineering, Ltd per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1224

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving the Mayor to Execute the MFT forms for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code, Estimate of Maintenance Costs and Maintenance Engineering to be Performed by a Consulting Engineer for 2024/2025 MFT Program as Included in the 2024/2025 City Budget per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#15) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving the Mayor to Execute the MFT forms for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code, Estimate of Maintenance Costs and Maintenance Engineering to be Performed by a Consulting Engineer for 2024/2025 MFT Program as Included in the 2024/2025 City Budget per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1225

Alderman Jefferson asked when they will start the work on Weber Road and Knapp Road. Engineer Wiedeman commented that the communication contractor was doing relocations,

and the roadway contractor will start soon after that, which would be in a week or two weeks.

Alderman Jefferson asked if they would work this year on the north part of Borio. Engineer Wiedeman commented that all Borio is in this year's street resurfacing and will be doing bids this year and have all Borio done this year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 5.74 (Registration of Vacant and Defaulted Mortgage Property), Section 5.74.020 Definitions, and Adding Section 5.74.055 Inspection and Registration of Real Property that is not Subject to a Mortgage Foreclosure of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#16) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 5.74 (Registration of Vacant and Defaulted Mortgage Property), Section 5.74.020 Definitions, and Adding Section 5.74.055 Inspection and Registration of Real Property that is not Subject to a Mortgage Foreclosure of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated May 6, 2024. This will allow the City to be more effective from a code enforcement standpoint and would make a slight increase in revenue that the City would see.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Ordinance #1983

Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer requested to Approve a Resolution for a Professional Service Agreement with HERA Property Register, LLC to Require Owners of Vacant Properties in Mortgage Default to Register their Property to the City per the memo dated May 6, 2024. This would enter the City into a contract with the vendor to create and manage an online platform that will allow property owners that have eligible properties to register them online. HERA is replacing the former company that provided these services for the city, which went bankrupt last year.

(#17) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a Resolution for a Professional Service Agreement with HERA Property Register, LLC to Require Owners of Vacant Properties in Mortgage Default to Register their Property to the City per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1226

Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer requested to Approve an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit and Parking Variation with Respect to Certain

Real Property Located within the Corporate Boundaries of Crest Hill (Application of Platinum Triple Play, LLC dba D-Bats Lockport) per the memo dated May 6, 2024. There was a unanimous recommendation for approval by the Plan Commission for this application. This would allow the owners of D-Bats to completely renovate the vacant 13,000 square foot warehouse facility on Caton Farm Road. This will be a youth baseball and softball training academy.

Mayor Soliman asked if anybody from D-Bats would like to make a comment. Edith Murillo, owner of D-Bats, approached the podium on behalf of her six partners and thanked everyone for their time and are looking forward to bringing D-Bats Lockport (AKA Crest Hill) to the city and appreciate all the hard work and effort put into this.

Aldерwoman Gazal asked to introduce all partners in D-Bats. All owners of D-Bats were introduced.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the applicant, Platinum Triple Play/D-Bats for their request of the special use for an indoor recreational facility and a parking variation to permit the operation of batting cages and baseball and softball training facility located at 425 Caton Farm Road. No one approached the podium to speak.

(#18) Motion by Aldерwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit and Parking Variation with Respect to Certain Real Property Located within the Corporate Boundaries of Crest Hill (Application of Platinum Triple Play, LLC dba D-Bats Lockport) per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Ordinance #1984

Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for Elevator Inspection/Maintenance by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Kone Care per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#19) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for Elevator Inspection/Maintenance by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Kone Care per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Dyke.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1227

Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for HVAC/Mechanical Inspection and Maintenance

by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Kirwan Mechanical Services per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#20) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for HVAC/Mechanical Inspection and Maintenance by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Kirwan Mechanical Services per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Dyke, Gazal.

ABSENT: None.

There being five (5) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution #1228

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk requested to Approve the DACRA TECH LLC Master Software Licensing Agreement per the memo dated May 6, 2024. This was previously discussed at a work session. The Police Department is already using DACRA for a number of things, but this agreement would allow the Police Department to do parking tickets and administrative tickets electronically. This would also allow the Building Department to move away from paper citations and go electronically, as well.

Alderman Cipiti asked if this was already in the budget. Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that it is, and the Police Department and the Building Department are going to split the cost of this going forward.

Alderperson Oberlin asked if the Building Department will be able to see the Police Department information and was told they cannot see the Police Department information.

(#21) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve the DACRA TECH LLC Master Software Licensing Agreement per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Deputy Dobczyk announced that the 'Cop on the Rooftop' is on Friday, May 17, 2024 from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Dunkin Donuts on Plainfield Road. Anyone can stop by and donate to the Special Olympics. It is a great cause and would be very much appreciated.

Deputy Dobczyk also announced that he is 'modeling' one of the body cameras. The Police Department had Motorola out to give the department training on the body cameras. He also announced that the body cameras have been deployed since Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy Dobczyk also mentioned that there was a squad that had been damaged, and we thought it would be repaired. It was a non-fault accident. Unfortunately, they received information today that the cost to repair the vehicle is more than what the vehicle is worth.

Aldersperson Oberlin asked if this was one that was going to be replaced. Deputy Dobczyk commented that it was not, it was a two-year-old vehicle.

MAYOR: Mayor Raymond Soliman presented the request for the Appointment of Interim Finance Director Carron Johnson per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#22) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Aldersperson Oberlin, for the Appointment of Interim Finance Director Carron Johnson per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Raymond Soliman requested A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Carron Johnson as Interim Finance Director and Approving an Employee Leasing Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill and GovTempUSA, LLC for Carron Johnson's Services as Interim Finance Director per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#23) Motion by Aldersperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, for A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Carron Johnson as Interim Finance Director and Approving an Employee Leasing Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill and GovTempUSA, LLC for Carron Johnson's Services as Interim Finance Director per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1229

Carron Johnson approached the podium and thanked the Council for the opportunity, and she is looking forward to working for the City of Crest Hill.

Mayor Raymond Soliman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving and Amendment No. 3 to Residential Electrical Aggregation Agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#24) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve a Resolution Approving and Amendment No. 3 to Residential Electrical Aggregation Agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1230

Mayor Raymond Soliman requested to Approve a One Day Liquor Entertainment License Waiver Request for the American Italian Cultural Society per the memo dated May 6, 2024. This will be for a \$50.00 waiver of the one-day liquor license fee for their outdoor appreciation membership picnic on Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

(#25) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a One Day Liquor Entertainment License Waiver Request for the American Italian Cultural Society per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Cipiti, Albert.

ABSENT: None.

There being five (5) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

John Mauzer approached the podium and thanked the Council for approving the waiver.

Mayor Soliman announced that the Memorial Day Ceremony is on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. outside the Chambers by the flag and memorial stones. There is a guest speaker this year who is a Crest Hill resident by the name of Denise Carson who is the ambassador of a group called Honor and Remember of Illinois. This group gives back to the families of the Veterans who were killed during their service. He also commented that the Frankfort Brass Band will be there and will begin at 1:40 p.m. The program last approximately one hour with remembrance of all our veterans and police officers who have passed away.

Mayor Soliman announced that he received a letter of resignation from one of the Plan Commissioners, Jan Plettau. Jan is retiring and moving out of the state. In Jan's letter he thanked everyone for the opportunities given to him as a Commissioner on the Plan Commission and will miss being in that position and the comradery of being with his fellow Commissioners. Mayor Soliman thanked Jan Plettau for his dedication on the Plan Commission for all his years.

Mayor Soliman commented that there is a three-year term vacancy on the Plan Commission. He commented that any resident of Crest Hill can apply for the position of Plan Commissioner for the City of Crest Hill. All applications will be accepted, and an interview process will be had and brought to the City Council for their advice and consent. If anyone is interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Mayor Ray Soliman at 20600 City Center Boulevard.

Lastly, Mayor Soliman commented that they wanted to honor John Vershay at the meeting tonight and be very respectful, and that is why you see the bunting. It was a tough week for everyone at City Hall. Mayor Soliman thanked Tony Halaska for placing the bunting. He also thanked Fred C. Dames Funeral Home for the flowers at the wake and then taking them to City Hall.

With that said, there is a vacancy for an alderman position in ward one. Mayor Soliman commented that you must be a ward one resident and if you would like to apply, please send a cover letter and a copy of your resume to Mayor Ray Soliman at 20600 City Center Boulevard. You must live in the boundary of ward one and he will be doing interviews

with all candidates and then bring the appointment to the City Council with their advice and consent.

Aldersperson Oberlin commented that the applicant would need to have lived in Crest Hill for at least one year.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the vacancies could be posted on Facebook.

Alderman Dyke commented that when Alderwoman Gazal's father passed away, we did not have a moment of silence for her father and we did not send a flower, which was overlooked and wondered how Alderwoman Gazal feels about that. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she is okay, and the mayor does not recognize her, but she did appreciate Aldermen Dyke for recognizing her.

CITY CLERK: There were no agenda items for discussion.

Aldersperson Oberlin thanked the Clerk's Office for assisting her with delivering the packets to her and making sure she was able to participate remotely during her unfortunate hospitalization.

Mayor Soliman thanked Karen Kozierka, Samantha Tilley, Marybel DeHaro, Tony Graff, and Tony Halaska for helping with the arrangements that we see tonight.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin offered prayers, blessings, and hope of peace during this difficult time for the Vershay Family.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin thanked former Finance Director Lisa Banovetz for incredible years of service the city received. He commented that Lisa had this beautiful ability to do what is right all the time regardless of how convenient it was, and he will never forget the progress she made.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin welcomed Carron Johnson to the City of Crest Hill and stated that he is very much looking forward to working with her.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested Approval of the list of bills issued through May 7, 2024 in the amount of \$1,883,909.35 for Council approval per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#26) Motion by Aldersperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to list of bills issued through May 7, 2024 in the amount of \$1,883,909.35 for Council approval per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the Quarterly Compensation Time Buy Back for the Period January 1, 2024 ~ March 31, 2024 in the Amount of \$27,214.31 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the regular and overtime payroll from April 8, 2024 through April 21, 2024 in the amount of \$244,806.13 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to deviate the item to Approve the Non-Union Employee Salary Increases for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to Executive Session.

(#27) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Non-Union Employee Salary Increases for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Executive Session.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Alderperson Oberlin commented that it was such a pleasure to work with Lisa Banovetz. She was professional and followed the laws, rules, and ordinances. She also commented that she will be missed.

Alderperson Oberlin welcomed Carron Johnson.

Alderman Cipiti agreed with everything that was said about Lisa Banovetz. He commented that she went above and beyond and never asked any questions. She will be a tremendous loss to the city.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he would agree about Lisa Banovetz. He also commented that she had a no-nonsense approach and brought programs to the city that the city can benefit from.

Alderman Dyke commented that he agreed with what everyone else has said about Lisa Banovetz. He also commented that several times he called Lisa for reports that the other Council members never saw but he had questions and Lisa would get him the information and was helpful. He then welcomed Carron Johnson.

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

NEW BUSINESS: Alderwoman Gazal approached the podium to address the mayor. Alderwoman Gazal stated that she had attempted to work with him regardless of their differences but wanted to take this opportunity to address the seriousness of the city. She stated that the mayor has no sense of urgency and has not been bothered by the number of department heads who have quit under his tenure as the mayor. She then went on to comment that he continues to function as the remaining staff are panicking and left in the dark regarding the plans to replace the department heads. The city is facing a financial issue and asked the mayor if he has a plan. During the fiscal year 2025 budget hearing you were asked to comment about the budget that was presented, and your response was that you are saving your comments for later. She then commented that the citizens of Crest Hill deserve

more from their mayor. There are many roads that are rated in poor condition and wonder if the mayor lays awake at night worrying about this because she does and does not sleep at night worrying about our city. Alderwoman Gazal also commented that she wanted to draw attention to the fact that the department head positions, and the city administrator are all filled by contracted employees who do not have any investment in the City of Crest Hill. She also commented that the city is paying approximately \$16,000.00 a week for these temporary employees filling the department head positions and this is not fair to the residents of the City of Crest Hill. She then commented that the previous City Administrator resigned in May of 2023, and this position remains open and is being filled by temporary employees. The following positions are currently being held by temporary employees, they are: City Administrator, Director of Finance, Director of Public Works, Director of Human Resources, and the City Planner. The citizens deserve better, and the staff deserve better than having to report to temporary employees who have no stake in the City of Crest Hill.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that she is saddened that the last Director position had resigned because of the mayor. She then went on to say that the Director of Finance held the position with integrity and transparency. She commented that instead of praising the transparency the mayor chose to be angry and not communicate with the Finance Director. She also commented that the mayor is elected to do the best job as the mayor and that would include keeping the City Council informed of essential information. She also stated that certain staff members and Council members have noticed the lack of leadership. She then mentioned that she has noticed that the mayor allows certain elected officials to be attacked at the meetings and during executive sessions meetings, as well. Alderwoman Gazal also stated that as a female with strong opinions, she feels the mayor discounts her as being aggressive and ignores her questions and concerns because he has an issue with strong woman. Alderwoman Gazal commented that if the city wants to have any chance of success, the mayor must be transparent with the City Council and put his personal agenda aside and do what is best for the City of Crest Hill. Alderwoman Gazal respectfully asked the mayor to listen to what was said tonight and to reflect on the duties as the mayor when you took the Oath. Alderwoman Gazal commented that the mayor does not treat her equally as all the other elected officials, especially since he did not give his condolences to her when her father passed away.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: Alderman Scott Dyke presented the Heritage Corridor/Route 66 Radio Sponsorship per the memo dated May 6, 2024. The sponsorship is \$400.00 per day and \$100.00 gift card and a \$50.00 gift card from two businesses in Crest Hill. It was decided at the work session that they would do two days for a total of \$800.00 plus \$300.00 for the gift cards for the two days. Alderman Dyke commented that they will send an invoice soon and the mayor will need to sign the contract, as well.

(#28) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to for Approval of Advertising between Heritage Corridor/Route 66 Radio Sponsorship and WGN Radio in the Amount of \$1,100.00 per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Aldersperson Oberlin thanked Alderman Dyke for doing this and trying to get the City of Crest Hill out there in a positive way.

Alderman Dyke commented that the gift cards will be from Merichka's Restaurant, Fire Water BBQ, Southern Café, and Prairie Bluff Restaurant.

(#29) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, for the Mayor to Sign the Heritage Corridor Agreement with WGN Radio.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Aldersperson Oberlin announced that the Annual Lidice Ceremony will be on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Albert thanked Plan Commissioner Jan Plettau for his years of service on the Plan Commission. He also thanked Lisa Banovetz for her years of service to the City of Crest Hill and said she did a fantastic job. He then welcomed Carron Johnson.

Alderman Albert commented that Alderman Vershay was one of the very first Police Officers of the City of Crest Hill. He also commented that John was the longest serving Crest Hill Lion, he was inducted in 1970 and served the Lions Club for fifty-four years. John had a sense of humor and always had a smile on his face. By the end of the day, he loved the city and always respected the residence. Alderman Albert commented that John was strong in his faith, and he knows that John is excited to be up there with his wife, who he visited everyday since her passing in 1987. Alderman Albert commented that we are sure going to miss John Vershay and may he rest in peace.

Alderman Cipiti commented that when he was first elected John Vershay was the first person to congratulate him. He also commented that John had a few words of wisdom and he always looked to John for his wisdom from being in city government for so long. He then commented that John would go to the donut shop that Alderman Cipiti's daughter was working at and he would always kid her, and he was always a kind man with a smile. God Bless John Vershay.

Aldersperson Oberlin extended her deepest sympathy to the Vershay Family. She commented that it does not matter if you are six or sixty-six when you lose a parent, it is very difficult, and she extends her sympathy to the children.

Aldersperson Oberlin also commented that she wanted to applaud Alderwoman Gazal for her courage and her comments. As a woman, she shares her sentiments as a strong woman/outspoken woman and sometimes gets labeled things that men do not.

Alderwoman Gazal welcomed Carron Johnson and commented that Carron has big shoes to fill but she knows she will do her best. Alderwoman Gazal then thanked Lisa Banovetz

for her service to our city and commented that she knows we will be hearing from Lisa soon. Alderwoman Gazal then gave her condolences to the Vershay Family and commented that she would keep her comments to herself about him.

Alderman Jefferson extended his prayers and condolences. He also commented that John Vershay was the first person to welcome him. He also commented that John would tell him you do not have your gym shoes on tonight so that means you are not running away from the Council yet. He stated that John was a pleasant, funny, and levelheaded guy who could tell you about the past and did not even need a note pad to remember.

Alderman Dyke commented that he sat with John Vershay in Ward 1 and another Ward before redistricting. Alderman Dyke extended his condolences to the Vershay Family. He commented that John Vershay had a sense of humor and told a story about how John Vershay moved his chair after standing for the Pledge of Allegiance at the old City Hall and he had fallen into the kitchen. John had a huge love for cars and was always good for a joke or a prank. Alderman Dyke commented that he hoped we could have a resolution for John to commemorate all the years he gave to the city.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there was a need for an executive session on 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

(#30) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to go into executive session on 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Executive Session 8:31 p.m.

(#31) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to reconvene from the executive session on 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) per the memo dated May 6, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal.

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

Reconvened 10:27 p.m.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin asked for a motion to Table the Approval of the Non-Union Employee Salaries for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

(#32) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Table the Approval of the Non-Union Employee Salaries for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal.

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

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

(#26) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to adjourn the May 6, 2024 Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Kubal.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Approved this 20 day of May, 2024
As presented
As amended


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR