

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
August 5, 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, Alderwoman Jennifer Methvin, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: Interim City Administrator Tony Graff, Police Chief Ed Clark, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer, City Attorney Mike Stiff, Deputy Clerk Karen Kozerka.

Absent were: Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz, Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl, Interim City Planner Maura Rigoni, Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting held on July 8, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on July 8, 2024, per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

PRESENT: Ald. Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on July 15, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#2) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on July 15, 2024, per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Albert.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting held on July 29, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on July 29, 2024, per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

CITY ATTORNEY: Attorney Mike Stiff had no agenda items but would answer any questions. There were no questions.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Interim Administrator Tony Graff stated that a wet and dry company did come out and give a quote which is approximately \$8,000.00 and comes with a lifetime warranty. They will also include the pipes over by the Police Department and put a seal on those pipes as well. He also stated that the electrical contractor will look at the panels and connections and if there is any work needing to be done, he will inform the Council.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if they would be using epoxy injectors or urethane. Interim Administrator Graff commented that it will be of a polyurethane type. Alderwoman Gazal commented that urethane is cheaper, and we need to be using epoxy. Interim Administrator Graff commented that this is what the company recommended, and it will have a lifetime warranty.

Interim Administrator Graff then gave quick highlights from his memo dated August 5, 2024. He commented that the GPWC project is moving forward and if anyone had any questions, he would go through it with them.

He then commented that Stateville Correctional Center has a civil action in regard to an injunction that relates to the protection of the guards. September 13, 2024, is the deadline for the hearing process which then can be decided if they will move forward with the rebuild.

The Building Department is going through the design process for the Lockport Township Fire District Training Facility. It has been narrowed down to the building, parking lots, and deep pond where they will do the search and rescue. Regarding the potential gun range, they are just putting a site location where it may go in the future, and they know they must go through a special use process when they decide to go forward.

He announced that the Public Work Director position is being outreached by GovHR and Ryan Cotton is preparing the job announcement. The Community Development Director candidate will be coming to meet the staff on August 12, 2024. He also announced that two

Public Works Maintenance Workers have gone through the new hire process and should be starting within the next 7-10 days.

The Public Works Department is still maintaining the landscaping of the site and beginning to remove surplus equipment coordinating with QuikTrip representatives.

Mosquito Spraying will continue and has been posted on the City's Website and Facebook.

The Water Meter Replacement Project is still ongoing. There has been a suggestion that some communities are charging the resident a fee for any manual reads from an old meter. It was stated that we will research this more and bring this suggestion back to the Council.

West Plant is still on schedule.

Lockport Township Park District has begun preparations to begin construction of the Crest Hill Memorial Park.

The State of Illinois Crime Lab/State Police Headquarters Project is still on hold and there is nothing new to report.

Interim Administrator Graff announced the Community Events, which are:

- 24th Annual Festa Italiana – August 9, 10, & 11th
- City Wide Garage Sale – August 15 – 18th
- White Oak Library Fall Fest Event – September 29 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Neighbors Night Out – September 4th
- Meet and Greet at the Baseball Fields – August 14th.

Alderman Cipiti asked for more information regarding the Meet and Greet at the Baseball Fields.

Interim Administrator Graff commented that the Crest Hill Lions Club and the Baseball Group have joined together to do an event at Crestwood. Alderman Cipiti asked if they have asked for city involvement. Interim Administrator Graff commented that they have asked for the Police Department and Public Works to participate as they have with other events.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if this is a private entity. Alderman Albert commented that it is not a private entity. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she was still talking but if he wanted to interrupt then to go ahead. Interim Administrator Graff commented that the way he understands it is a Back-to-School Event and they will pass out materials and things for families going back to school.

Alderman Cipiti commented that he is asking about this because he is on the Events Committee for the city, and he has not heard anything about this. He then stated that he tried to reach out to Alderman Albert this morning via text and he had not heard back from him which is why he is asking.

Alderman Jefferson asked if this is a public event because he has heard two entities names that are private.

Alderman Albert commented he is not sure if the questions are directed towards him or who, but he would like to answer some of the questions. Alderman Albert then explained that he has had requests for events in the city and there was an opportunity to partner with the Crest Hill Baseball League and the Crest Hill Lions Club to hold an event on their grounds and after reaching out to the Interim Administrator, Public Works and the Police Department we have come up with that date. Alderman Albert also commented that he is the Events Committee Chairman, and he knew Alderman Cipiti was on the committee, but they have not partnered with anything since Alderman Cipiti has been on the committee.

Alderman Albert then commented that when the department heads sign off on an event like this it then becomes a public event in his mind; a public event partnering with other entities.

Alderman Jefferson asked if we have a partnership and if we have a contract with them and if public dollars are being used. He then commented that if it is a private event then public dollars need to be designated through a contractual agreement.

Interim Administrator Graff commented that he believes we need to have a discussion and define the difference between a public event and a private event at a work session meeting, so everyone is clear on that.

Alderman Cipiti asked if we have approval and a sign off with the Park District to have the event on their property. Interim Administrator Graff commented that he will follow up with the Park District.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that she feels community outreach is important, but she asked if any entity uses the word 'public' then they are allowed to use Public Works, Police, and the overtime on those events if they say 'public.' She then commented that you are using taxpayer money for an event hosted by Pony Baseball. Alderman Albert commented that that is not true. Alderwoman Gazal then asked Interim Administrator Graff to define what was being said and he stated he could not.

Alderman Albert commented that he is trying to understand the thought process when they are talking about two organizations partnering up with the city and he is not sure how it is different then anything else that has been organized as part of a city event.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he feels it is okay to partner up with other entities, but we must do it in a contractual way to protect the city.

Alderman Cipiti commented that the city has done things in a very casual way for many years and if we continue to do in that matter, it will be dangerous for the city.

Alderman Albert commented that every Monday night we sit here and discuss all these different items and sometimes things we discuss are convenient for certain individuals and not for other individuals and they start to question these things and reinvent the wheel for moving forward in the city. He then commented that he has never seen a contract for any events that have been discussed in the past. He also commented that the 'Touch-a-Truck'

Events we have had in the past had partnered with First Student, Republic Services, realtor companies and banks, and there were never any contracts. He then said if we are really going to truly do this and have contracts then we need to stop all events until we have this policy in place and then move forward.

Alderman Albert commented that the Council meets every Monday night, and the blatant disrespect for one another is mind boggling. He then commented that he did receive Alderman Cipiti's text that morning and apologized that he was working and never was able to call him.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that if the reference was to her event, she stated that it is a private event for her ward that she pays for, and all the expenses come from her pocket for her event. Alderman Albert asked her if she pays for the overtime for the police officers and the public works employees. Alderwoman Gazal stated she does not pay the overtime and that she is talking about the event expenses. She then commented that the buses are there so children know what to expect when starting school. Half of her community in Ward 2 is a private community and pays taxes and the association fees, and they also plow and pave their own streets, and pay for insurance and electricity. Alderman Albert commented that you cannot use city funds for a Ward 2 event. Alderwoman Methvin commented that you cannot pick which one is okay.

Alderwoman Gazal then asked if we partner with an entity then it is okay to use taxpayer money. Alderwoman Methvin commented that that is not what anyone said. Alderwoman Gazal asked why they keep getting interrupted when talking. Alderwoman Methvin then commented that she is sorry, but she/we never have an opportunity to speak, and Alderwoman Gazal commented that it is a conversation between two people.

Attorney Stiff commented that when it is an event on city property the city is responsible for everything that takes place on their property but if you invite vendors to the event that would be taken care of from a liability standpoint by the fact that it is on city property. He also commented that when city resources are being used on private property from a protection standpoint, you should have an agreement with insurance issues lined out in the agreement.

Alderman Albert commented that the Lions Club has liability coverage to coverage events that are hosted, that is why the partnership is with the Crest Hill Lions Club and all is covered with the event.

Treasurer Conklin asked if Alderwoman Gazal had to obtain a permit since her event was on Park District property. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she did get a permit through the Park District and thanked Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall for helping her get the permit.

Attorney Stiff commented that when there is partnering with a not-for-profit organization there should be a full Council discussion and come through a process and have a vote by resolution to approve the event.

Mayor Soliman asked if we can have this topic on the work session agenda for August 12, 2024, and asked the Council if they had any issues with putting this on the agenda, and there were no issues.

Interim Administrator Graff requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Master Services Agreement for Recruitment and Selections of a City Administrator by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and GovHRUSA per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

Attorney Stiff commented that since they are guaranteeing the pricing, we made the effective date in 2025, and it will be good for a year from the 2025 date.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that by waiting and not working on this now, the city is on pause for an entire year.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Master Services Agreement for Recruitment and Selections of a City Administrator by and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and GovHRUSA per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Jefferson, Albert, Kubal, Dyke, Methvin.

NAYES: Ald. Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1248

Interim Administrator Tony Graff requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Master Services Agreement for Phase I Internal Control Review Services by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Sikich, LLC for an Amount not to Exceed \$7,500.00 per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#5) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Master Services Agreement for Phase I Internal Control Review Services by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Sikich, LLC for an Amount not to Exceed \$7,500.00 per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Albert.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1249

Alderwoman Gazal asked if Interim Administrator Graff has started the post for the Finance Director vacancy. Interim Administrator Graff commented that he has not, he has reached out to GovHR to receive a quote for their professional outreach, and we did request to see if there are any interims available. There was one candidate that sent in a resume, and he had contacted the Treasurer, and the Mayor and they will be interviewing that candidate.

They will be posting the full-time position of the Finance Director with GovHR. Treasurer Conklin thanked Interim Administrator Graff for doing all the work to get an individual to come in on Tuesday to interview for the possibility of an Interim Finance Director.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: There were no agenda items.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Crest Hill and Lockport Township Park District for Cost-Sharing Regarding the Design, Construction, Annual Maintenance, and Annual Events at the City of Crest Hill City Center and Park per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#6) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Crest Hill and Lockport Township Park District for Cost-Sharing Regarding the Design, Construction, Annual Maintenance, and Annual Events at the City of Crest Hill City Center and Park per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1250

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to the September 21, 2022, Agreement for Design and Bidding -Related Services for Well 14 by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Strand Associates, Inc. for an Amended Contract Amount of \$112,000.00 per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to the September 21, 2022, Agreement for Design and Bidding -Related Services for Well 14 by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Strand Associates, Inc. for an Amended Contract Amount of \$112,000.00 per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1251

City Engineer Wiedeman requested to Approval to Authorize City Staff to Coordinate the City's Completion of the Four School District Conditions required to Complete the Dedication of North Center Street Right-of-Way and a Five-Foot-Wide Public Utility Easement Along the West Edge of North Center Street Adjacent to the School District Property per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#8) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve to Authorize City Staff to Coordinate the City's Completion of the Four School District Conditions required to Complete the Dedication of North Center Street Right-of-Way and a Five-Foot-Wide Public Utility Easement Along the West Edge of North Center Street Adjacent to the School District Property per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Permit Fee Waiver Request from the Lockport Township Park District for the Crest Hill Memorial Park Revitalization Project per the memo dated August 5, 2024. This would be a waiver of permit fees in the amount of \$11,470.00 and require submission of the excavation bond required by our ordinance.

(#9) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Permit Fee Waiver Request from the Lockport Township Park District for the Crest Hill Memorial Park Revitalization Project per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1252

Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer requested to Approve an Ordinance Denying the Application of Marian Patkowski for the Rezoning of the Property Located at 1817 North Broadway Street in Crest Hill, IL, from R-1 Single-Family Residence District to R-2 Two-Family Residence District per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the rezoning of Marian Patkowski for the property located at 1817 N. Broadway Street. Let the record reflect that no one had approached the podium.

(#10) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve an Ordinance Denying the Application of Marian Patkowski for the Rezoning of the Property Located at 1817 North Broadway Street in Crest Hill, IL, from R-1 Single-Family Residence District to R-2 Two-Family Residence District per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

Ordinance #1992

Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Cost Sharing Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, IL and Midwest Industrial Funds, Inc. per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

This is for the 150,000 square foot multi-tenant industrial warehouse office building that is being proposed on Lot #17 in the Crest Hill Office Park. There was discussion of potential connection between this project and Lidice Parkway and that connection would need to cross over private property owned by TLC property owners. There was a cost sharing agreement offered that MIF offered to contribute \$125,000.00 towards roadway network improvements and the city could utilize those dollars to design and construct any type of roadway improvements necessary. As part of the agreement the city will reduce the tap-on fee for the project by fifty percent.

Since the July 15th meeting, city staff and consultants have had conversations with MIF team, city attorney, and the owner of TLC and concluded that it would be unlikely that this project would move forward and the design be finalized and construction started this year if we would hold up any approvals for this project until we had a more clear understanding if and how TLC would allow the driveway connection on their property. MIF has offered to increase the funding they are contributing to the city for roadway improvements by \$25,000.00 in turn that the development agreement would be revised to eliminate any discussion of them having further obligation for them to facilitate that. Staff feel this is a reasonable solution at this point and time. The development agreement has been adjusted to reflect the increase in the contribution and no obligation to have any further discussions to try and implement that connection. At any point in time when it is decided that the connection needs to be made the city would take the lead in making that connection occur.

(#11) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Cost Sharing Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, IL and Midwest Industrial Funds, Inc. per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1253

Mike Andowich, owner of MIF, approached the podium and thanked the Council and the Mayor for working with them and they are really excited for this project and stated it will be a great investment for the city.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Ed Clark requested to Approve a Special Events Police Service Agreement with the American Italian Culture Society per the memo dated August 5, 2024. This is for the Festa Italiana that will be on August 9, 10, and 11th.

(#12) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a Special Events Police Service Agreement with the American Italian Culture Society per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Cipiti, Albert.

ABSENT: None.

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

Police Chief Ed Clark requested to Approve and Ordinance Amending Sections 5.68.020 (Towing Firm Application Procedures) 5.68.030 (Towing Firm Equipment and Facilities Requirements) and 5.68.040 (Towing Firm Performance Requirements) of Chapter 5.68 (Towing Companies) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Regulations) per the memo dated August 5, 2024. This is to add Todd's Towing to the rotating Police Tow List.

Attorney Stiff commented that in all three of those sections he has amended the address to make sure it is consistent with the current Police Department address, and he had added language to state that towed vehicles be on the property within the city or within 3.5 miles of the city boundary line.

(#13) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve and Ordinance Amending Sections 5.68.020 (Towing Firm Application Procedures) 5.68.030 (Towing Firm Equipment and Facilities Requirements) and 5.68.040 (Towing Firm Performance Requirements) of Chapter 5.68 (Towing Companies) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Regulations) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Ordinance #1993

Police Chief Ed Clark requested to Approve a Resolution Approving the Application of Todd's Towing & Recovery to the City of Crest Hill Police Department Towing Company Rotation per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#14) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a Resolution Approving the Application of Todd's Towing & Recovery to the City of Crest Hill Police Department Towing Company Rotation per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1254

Chief Clark announced that on September 4, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. they are looking to have the Neighbors Night Out Event. He commented that he will be reaching out for volunteers.

Alderwoman Gazal asked the Police Chief to have a study done for a stop sign on the curve of Siegel and Zausa since there are a lot of children playing there.

Alderman Cipiti commented that he has been getting a lot of complaints from residents regarding the traffic in the Fox Meadows Subdivision, specifically excessive speeding, and disobeying stop signs. Chief Clark commented that he will have a detail on it and the speed radar machine moved over there.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman had no agenda items but could answer any questions.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that Oasis Mexican Restaurant closed in Crest Hill, and they opened a new restaurant in Lockport. In the City of Lockport, they allow the restaurant to stay open until 1:00 a.m. The owner of Oasis Restaurant commented that he could not function, only being able to stay open until 11:00 p.m.

Alderwoman Gazal also commented that El Primo is only allowed to stay open until 10:00 p.m. and they are on probation, but you have other bars and restaurants that can stay open later than the two mentioned. She then asked the Mayor if there is a reason they were on probation and if there was a reason we do not give the Latino or different cultures the opportunity to stay open any later. She then commented that certain cultures like to drink with their food.

Mayor Soliman commented that different cultures have nothing to do with that decision. The decision is that all restaurants in the City of Crest Hill close at 10:00 p.m. When liquor is involved, restaurants cannot go any later than 10:00 p.m. Mayor Soliman commented that he had made the decision that all restaurants that serve alcohol in the Crest Hill limits close at 10:00 p.m. He stated that this decision is because in the past we have had restaurants stay a restaurant until 10:00 p.m. and then turn into a tavern after that and it caused a headache for the Police Department, and it has been this way since 2009.

He then commented that he has had discussions with Oasis many times, but most of their problems were the parking in that strip mall and the access in and out of the property onto Route 30.

Alderwoman Gazal asked why El Primo is still on probation. Mayor Soliman asked Alderwoman Gazal probation for what and she stated that the owner told her the Mayor had her on probation. Mayor Soliman commented that El Primo is not on probation.

Alderwoman Methvin asked if someone opens a business within the city and if they categorize it as a bar are their certain rules that apply. Mayor Soliman said that there is a different license for a bar, and it gives them the opportunity to stay open until 1:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday and midnight on Sundays. This is because their main sales come from alcohol not food.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the mayor would consider extending the restaurant hours to serve alcohol so they will not be going out of business.

Mayor Soliman commented that El Primo or any of the liquor license holders can serve food until 10:00 p.m. and it is acceptable to stay and finish eating after 10:30 p.m. He then commented that being the Mayor makes him the Liquor Commissioner and with the advice of the two Deputy Liquor Commissioners and the Chief of Police, he feels that 10:00 p.m. is a good time for a restaurant that serves alcohol to be open. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she understands you're the Mayor and made that decision but maybe if you see that restaurants are closing maybe give them the extra hour.

Alderman Albert commented that he agrees, and the Council writes the policy of what the liquor license says so maybe we need to discuss this at a work session. Alderman Albert also clarified that AB Gustos is grandfathered in and do get an extra hour.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that it was very disappointing that an interim employee was allowed to bury elected officials and residents by name. She commented that it was very uncalled for and should have been managed through Human Resources. Carron Johnson's accusations were untruthful and did not have any evidence behind them. Alderwoman Gazal then stated that she had proof that she did call and send an email. She also commented that other accusations were made against her religiously and financially. She then commented that the facts she stated were lies and a degree does not teach people manners, professionalism. Alderwoman Gazal then commented since when do elect officials answer to an interim employee about their decisions and duties.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that she sees these two residents at every meeting because they care about the city, and they were not respected. She then stated it is her right and obligation to question the building status. She then thanked Alderman Cipiti for putting a stop to that after twelve minutes and thirty seconds. She then asked the Mayor why he keeps allowing these embarrassments to the Council. She also commented that it is a shame the Mayor cannot even conduct a meeting.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that once again someone had told lies about her. The former Interim Finance Director Carron Johnson stated that she had called Alderperson Oberlin numerous times and emailed her, and she did not, she only contacted her by email and phone once. Alderperson Oberlin commented that she did talk to her when she called and the reason for the call was to find out how Carron could get added to the city account. Alderperson Oberlin explained the procedure to her and how she would have to come to the branch with her identification. Alderperson Oberlin then found out that Carron had called the call center to find the same information out, which she was denied that information since she was not on the account. Alderperson Oberlin then read an email between Carron and herself and confirmed with Treasurer Glen Conkin that the information was passed along to him.

Alderperson Oberlin then commented that she did not circumvent Carron and went to the Treasurer, the City Treasurer is her boss, and he is the one who is entitled to that information, not her.

Alderperson Oberlin then stated firmly to Mayor Soliman that she is so disgusted and disappointed in the lack of leadership and honesty that goes on in the Chambers. Alderperson Oberlin commented that she wanted the record to reflect that she did not do any of the nonsense that that woman, Carron Johnson, accused her of.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that once again information of the Executive Session came out and Executive Session meetings are not private, and it seems to be that they only pick on the women.

CITY CLERK: City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall requested to Approve an Application for a Movie Night for Loch Lane – Pat Rowe per the memo dated August 5, 2024. This

will be Saturday, August 24, 2024. They are requesting Loch Lane to Abbey Lane to Prestwick Drive to be closed.

Alderman Albert commented that Pat Rowe and the rest of the Board at Cambridge Crest do a great job of facilitating these events for their residents.

(#15) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve an Application for a Movie Night for Loch Lane – Pat Rowe per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall announced that the City-Wide Garage Sales will be Thursday, August 15, 2024, through Sunday, August 18, 2024. The permits are available at the City Hall Clerk's Office and there is a \$5.00 permit fee that is required. The deadline to have your address on the list and map will be August 13, 2024. The list and map will be on the city website and available for pick up at the Clerk's Office on August 14, 2024.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to Approve the list of bills issued through August 6, 2024, in the Amount of \$1,689,900.33 per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#16) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the list of bills issued through August 6, 2024, in the amount of \$1,689,900.33 for Council approval per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the regular and overtime payroll from July 1, 2024, through July 14, 2024, in the amount of \$516,015.34 per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin thanked Alderperson Oberlin for the professionalism that NuMark Credit Union does. He then apologized for not interrupting when some things came out and he did not feel it was his place to interrupt and he was flatfooted. He then thanked Alderman Cipiti for stepping in because he did not know what to do, it was a shocker. Alderperson Oberlin thanked Treasurer Conklin for his words.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

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

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Kubal commented that he is happy for Crest Hill and the residents getting a new facelift to Memorial Park. It is a fantastic thing. He then commented that he hopes as a Board that in the coming months we can start focusing more on the park next door to City Hall, it will be nice to see city events held there.

Alderpersn Oberlin commented that sixty-one years ago today she lost her mother and in her short time with her she was given so much love and knowledge and there has never been a day in her life she has not thought about her.

Alderwoman Gazal thanked a Ward 2 resident for coming to every meeting lately and let that person know it means a lot to her. She then read a quote: 'Leaders always choose the harder right rather than the easier wrong.'

Alderwoman Methvin commented that she really appreciates the fact that we are focusing on our parks and family events. As a mother of two children, we are going all summer long to all the different events and different municipalities and it will be exciting and proud to have her children come to an event at Crest Hill.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

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

(#17) Motion by Alderpersn Oberlin seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to go into executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Executive Session 8:35 p.m.

(#18) Motion by Alderpersn Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to reconvene from the executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Reconvened 9:29 p.m.

City Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve Local 150, AFL-CIO: Clothing Allowance/Economic Benefits Grievance – Settlement Agreement (Executive Session Item) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#19) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve Local 150, AFL-CIO: Clothing Allowance/Economic Benefits Grievance – Settlement Agreement (Executive Session Item) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Jefferson.

ABSENT: None.

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

City Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve Local 150, AFL-CIO: Memorandum of Understanding – Article XXVII UNIFORMS (Executive Session Item) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

(#20) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve Local 150, AFL-CIO: Memorandum of Understanding – Article XXVII UNIFORMS (Executive Session Item) per the memo dated August 5, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Albert, Jefferson.

ABSENT: None.

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.

(#21) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Albert, to adjourn the August 5, 2024, Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Approved this 19 day of August, 2024.

As presented

As amended ✓


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR