

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
October 7, 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, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Interim Finance Director Erica Waggoner, Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz, Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer, Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl, Building Commissioner Don Seeman, Deputy Clerk Karen Kozerka.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on September 9, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes (with changes) from the Work Session Meeting Held on September 9, 2024, per the memo dated October 7, 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 Regular Meeting Held on September 16, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

(#2) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on September 16, 2024, per the memo dated October 7, 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.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on September 23, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve the Minutes (with changes) from the Work Session Meeting Held on September 23, 2024, per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Albert, Kubal.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on September 30, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on September 30, 2024, per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Albert, Kubal, Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

CITY ATTORNEY: Attorney Mike Stiff requested a Motion to Waive the Water Tap On Fee for 1916 Cora Street per the memo dated October 7, 2024. This is a request by the owner of 1916 Cora to waive the tap-on fee. When discussing this at a work session the consensus of the Council was to waive the fee by motion rather than do a formal written resolution.

Alderman Dyke commented that years ago when the streets were redone the Mayor made a recommendation to put in buffalo boxes for the empty lots so that in the future, they would not have to dig up the street to place a buffalo box if someone decided to develop that lot. He also commented that this was done to save the city money and time.

(#5) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, for a Motion to Waive the Water Tap On Fee for 1916 Cora Street per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Dyke.

ABSENT: None.

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Interim Administrator Tony Graff gave a report and update, which is as follows:

City Center Facility:

- The next inspection will be elevator testing by KONE, Inc. The city did receive a temporary certificate from the State Fire Marshall with an extension for compliance until October 25th. KONE Inc. has scheduled the elevator inspection for October 14, 2024. *Still pending, waiting for the inspection.*
- Front Damage Inside Clerk and Park District Windows: Request to the vendors for updated proposals. Once the proposals have been received and reviewed, the proposal will be presented at the October 14, 2024, Work Session.

Grand Prairie Water Commission:

- The Commission's meeting was on 10/3/2024 and the next meeting is 11/7/2024. The budget draft is in progress and the public hearing will be in December. (Note: Fiscal Year is calendar year 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025.)

STATEVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER:

- All maximum-security inmates have been relocated off site. We have been told that we will be seeing some type of utility and infrastructure design in the next couple of weeks.
- Preparing a letter to the Court of Claims (Note: Attorney Stiff will be preparing the City's response to accept the Court of Claims amount of \$814,701.62 for 2020 & 2021 Claim and the \$109,144.47 will be dismissed with prejudice. Therefore, requesting the State will not insert a statute of limitation if we would decide to refile. Attorney Stiff will prepare a resolution for the Council to consider accepting the Court of Claims amount that Stateville owes the City.)

Lockport Township Fire District Training Facility Proposed Project:

- The updated proposed schedule to present the Preliminary & Final Plan application will be in December. The minor delay is because of the traffic study which will take about 4-6 weeks to be completed. The Planning Commission will conduct the Public Hearing in January. The Fire District posted a power point on their Facebook Page with details of the Proposed Training Facility. Here is a link to a YouTube Presentation posted on the Districts Facebook Page.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhR184zxfJY>

Route 66 100th Anniversary Tourism Grant Application:

- The application was completed and submitted to the Heritage Corridor for review. There are a few revisions regarding the narrative part of the grant application working with Heritage Corridor. The revised copy will be emailed to the city council next week upon review by the Corridor.

Job Announcements:

The following Job Announcements were posted, and the Interim HR Director reviewed the job descriptions and created updated announcements for the following positions (the announcements have been posted on the city web site).

- a. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR –The first review of resumes was completed, and two virtual interviews were conducted by Dave Strahl, Mike Eulitz and Tony Graff. Potential for two more candidates to be interviewed. An update will be forthcoming after further discussion by city staff.
- b. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: The job announcement was prepared and posted on job sites and associations working with Ron Mentzer.
- c. FINANCE DIRECTOR Recruitment: MGT/GovHR USA representative Ryan Cotton prepared the job announcement and posted it on the job sites. Resumes were reviewed and scheduling pre-screening interviews for 10/9/2024 with staff.
- d. BUILDING INSPECTOR: Another job announcement has been reposted on 10/1/2024. Open until filled.

Mosquito Spraying by Clarke Environmental:

- The next spraying will be Thursday, October 10, 2024, since we have not hit the 35-degree temperature. They are still catching mosquitoes with West Nile Virus in the traps, so they will continue to spray.

Water Meter Replacement Project:

- Still ongoing and the Non-Compliance property owners' appointments are progressing.

Places for Eating Tax:

- The legal process and notices are being prepared for five (5) businesses who are delinquent paying their monthly tax. A hearing will be scheduled more likely for the November Administrative Adjudication Hearing Date.

West Sanitary Sewer Treatment Project:

- Nothing new to report, we are about 55% completed and still on schedule for the plant to be completed in 2026. Will keep everyone posted.

PLANNING COMMISSION – MUNICODE PROGRAM UPDATE:

- The Planning Commission agendas are now being posted through Municode and we have the three quotes, which the Clerk and the City Administrator will be reviewing and bringing them to the Council at the Work Session.

State of Illinois Crime Lab/State Police Headquarters Project:

- Central Management Services is preparing to go to bid, and the updated plans will be presented at the 10/14/2024 Work Session Meeting.

Interim Administrator Graff asked if there were any questions he could answer.

Aldersperson Oberlin commented that she was in the office this past week and looked at the crack in the window and is alarmed how large the crack is and would hate for that to shatter or cut anyone. She then stated that it really needs to be addressed.

Aldersperson Oberlin asked Interim Administrator Graff if they should be filing in the Court of Claims without prejudice instead of with prejudice. Attorney Stiff commented that we need something from the Court of Claims acknowledging and signed by the Judge and executed by the Department of Corrections that states this acceptance and the dismissal of the remaining sum is without prejudice to refiling.

Alderman Dyke commented that he wanted to make sure the discussion regarding the two Ford Explorers will be on the next Work Session meeting. He also asked about the weeds on Oakland Avenue not being cut. Interim Administrator Graff commented that the Inventory for Surplus Property is on the agenda, and he would check on the weed situation.

Alderman Jefferson asked if Alderwoman Gazal would be involved in the interviews. Interim Administrator Graff commented that these interviews are the ‘pre-screening’ interviews by phone to go over their resumes and applications and once the best candidates are identified they will be brought forward to the Council.

Alderwoman Gazal asked Interim Administrator Graff to make sure the next agenda has the topic regarding the changing form of government referendum. Attorney Stiff commented that they were researching whether they would have to change the form of government or opt out of certain appointment powers under the municipal code. He also commented that research has not been totally completed yet and he would have an answer soon so they can have a discussion on October 14, 2024.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: There were no agenda items.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that he has no agenda items but would answer any questions.

Alderman Dyke asked if Wilcox is on schedule. Engineer Wiedeman commented that the new storm sewer is in place, the old sewer has been filled as of last Thursday and they are coming to clean up and start concrete work to finish the restoration.

Alderman Cipiti commented that the Council received a letter on September 25, 2024, from the Richland School Board Superintendent regarding the crosswalk project the city is initiating. The letter was voicing concerns about safety and funding for transportation. Alderman Cipiti then asked if there has been anymore communication or movement on this crosswalk project.

Engineer Wiedeman commented that they did submit the application for the funding and will be following up. He then commented that just because the School District is saying no, we need to seriously think about a crossing at this location because when school is not in session children are still crossing to go to the park, which makes this a safety concern.

He also commented that they want to work with the school and come to a consensus. He commented that it is worth applying for the funding, getting the funding in place, and then talking about some options with the School District. He then commented that there are concerns of theirs that can be addressed engineering wise, but the only issue the city cannot address is the transportation funding.

Engineer Wiedeman commented that at this point we have just applied and will be meeting back with them in November. He commented that if we get the funding and we cannot come to an agreement, we just do not accept the funding.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if he is saying that he is going against the school. Engineer Wiedeman commented that he is not saying that what he is saying is that the letter from the school had two concerns, funding, and safety. We can address the safety concern but beware there are children crossing that street at that location when school is not in session and the question is how we can address it to satisfy all. Engineer Wiedeman commented that from an engineering perspective, he cannot satisfy the funding for transportation, which would have to be an agreement between the Council and the school.

Alderman Cipiti asked how the city would have any part of discussion for transportation funding when that is between the school and the state. Engineer Wiedeman commented that we do not, but we need to see what that loss is and be aware of the funding that they would be losing and does that loss of funding outweigh the safety of the children crossing.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that she hopes when a discussion and decision is being made it includes the entire Council and not just one or two members, since it is a Council decision.

Alderman Cipiti commented that the entire process should have been taken to the Council to have full discussion as a project. Engineer Wiedeman commented that he was not even sure they had enough information to bring to the Council to have a discussion and that is what they were trying to gather to discuss.

Alderman Albert asked what happened to the crosswalk that was there twelve to fifteen years ago and why did it go away?

Mayor Soliman commented that he does not recollect what happened to that crosswalk.

Alderman Albert commented that for some people to jeopardize safety of children because they get 100% funding for hazardous roadways is very negligent on the school board when they know that children are walking across that busy street. He then commented that Mr. Wiedeman has just applied for a grant and no funds have been spent, just research and a grant application. He then commented that this is not just for the children, it is for the residents that had a crosswalk to the park across the street for years and it disappeared.

Alderman Cipiti asked if there was a crosswalk on the Richland side of that street. Alderman Albert stated there was a crosswalk in the middle of Caton Farm Road. Alderman Cipiti asked if there was a crosswalk from the north to cross to the school. Engineer Wiedeman commented that there was a crosswalk. Alderman Cipiti then asked if there was a crosswalk on the southside, school side of the street. Engineer Wiedeman commented that the crosswalk went all the way across Caton Farm Road.

Alderman Cipiti asked how many years has it been since the crosswalk was removed? Engineer Wiedeman commented that 2010 was the last time it was on GIS. Alderman Cipiti then commented that it has been since 2010 and now we are hearing about this when recently Alderman Albert moved into this area.

Alderman Albert commented that you're absolutely right and asked Alderman Cipiti to join him tomorrow morning when he is walking across that street. He also commented that he has had residents reach out to him and he then asked Alderman Cipiti to come join him in the morning again. Alderman Cipiti commented that he does not deny that people cross the street, he is just questioning that suddenly it is a priority since Alderman Albert moved to that street. Alderman Albert stated who said anything about a priority, it is a discussion. Alderman Cipiti again said you moved to that street. Alderman Albert stated to Alderman Cipiti that he is absolutely right, and he grew up there and there was a crosswalk there that he used so he could go to the park with his friends. Alderman Albert then commented that when people are flying down Caton Farm Road and the school knows people are going over the speed, which is an issue with the Police, but they also know that children are walking across that street, and that is supposed to be okay. Alderman Cipiti asked Alderman Albert if he has been fighting for that crosswalk in the last ten years, since being an alderman in that ward. Alderman Albert commented that in the last four years younger students have moved into that area and there has been discussions come up. Alderman Albert stated that everyone wants to think that there is conflict of interest, but it also seems to be a conflict of interest when someone else's name is on this, and it happens to be Alderman Cipiti's spouse. Alderman Cipiti commented that it is the optics of the taxpayer's money to serve Alderman Albert's family. Alderman Albert asked Alderman Cipiti if he would be joining him in the morning. Alderman Cipiti then commented that he has said enough.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that we are asking questions, and she is not sure why Alderman Albert is getting so upset since people have the right to ask questions. Alderman Albert then told Alderwoman Gazal that he has the right to respond.

Alderwoman Gazal then commented that Alderman Cipiti was talking to Engineer Wiedeman, and she is not sure why Alderman Albert is so upset. She then commented that

she has been fighting for McGilvray for years and we all want safety, and we should not be disrespecting each other.

Alderman Albert commented that the Mayor asked if there were any more comments and that is when he started talking and Alderman Cipiti was not talking to Engineer Wiedeman at that time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: Mayor Soliman requested on behalf of Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer to Approve an Ordinance Approving a Front Yard Setback Variation from 30 Feet with Respect to the Real Property Located at the Northeast Corner of the Chaney-Monge School Property Located at 400 Elsie Avenue in the City of Crest Hill (Application for Chaney-Monge School District 88) per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

Charles (Chuck) Newman, the architect for the School District, approached the podium and introduced himself. He commented that this is related to the fact that the school owns the property to the center of the street and part of that property is being transferred back to the city. The Board of Education has agreed to do that, but part of the process would be a condition for approval to reduce the front yard setback from thirty feet to fifteen feet making the property line closer to the building.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the request of Chaney-Monge School, 400 Elsie Avenue, for a variation setback from thirty feet to fifteen feet at the corner of Center and Elsie Avenue for a building addition. Let the record reflect that no one approached the podium.

(#6) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve an Ordinance Approving a Front Yard Setback Variation from 30 Feet with Respect to the Real Property Located at the Northeast Corner of the Chaney-Monge School Property Located at 400 Elsie Avenue in the City of Crest Hill (Application for Chaney-Monge School District 88) per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being eight (8) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Ordinance #2000

Mayor Soliman requested on behalf of Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer to Approve A Resolution to Accept Plat of Dedication for Public Purposes (A Portion of North Center Street at the Northeast Corner of the Chaney-Monge School Property Located at 400 Elsie Avenue in the City of Crest Hill) per the memo dated October 7, 2024. This was a unanimous vote by the Planning Commission.

Mayor Soliman asked if any Council members would like to ask a question.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that she thinks this is all for the good and commented to Chuck that she appreciates the work he did.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against Chaney-Monge School at 400 Elsie Avenue for the Plat of Dedication. Let the record reflect that no one approached the podium.

(#7) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve A Resolution to Accept Plat of Dedication for Public Purposes (A Portion of North Center Street at the Northeast Corner of the Chaney-Monge School Property Located at 400 Elsie Avenue in the City of Crest Hill) per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution # 1260

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Ed Clark commented that he had no agenda items but wanted to congratulate the Crest Hill Police Association Golf Outing. They raised \$15,000.00 from the outing and they are donating to three charities. The three charities are:

- Will County Children's Advocacy Center
- Little Friends
- Medical Assistance to Retired Canines

Chief Clark asked if he could answer any questions. There were none.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman requested to Approve a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week – October 6 through October 12, 2024, per the memo dated October 7, 2024. The Council read the proclamation.

Alderperson Oberlin commented that she has hardwired smoke detectors in her home and a fireman informed her that hardwired smoke detectors need replaced, as well. She then commented that the latest detectors on the market are natural gas detectors, and everyone should consider having them in their home.

(#8) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week – October 6 through October 12, 2024, per the memo dated October 7, 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.

Mayor Soliman announced that Lockport Township Fire Protection had their open house on Sunday, October 6, 2024, and it was very successful event.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that CBS News contacted many of them and specifically her twice. She then commented that she gave them a very brief comment. She then asked what the city is going to do with the old iron lead pipes, and she understands that the city is not responsible for their pipes. She then asked if they could all put their heads together and make it a goal to help the residents of Crest Hill with these lead pipes.

Mayor Soliman commented that we are currently testing this and working with homeowners. This is a requirement from the City of Chicago for the Lake Michigan Allocation to find these pipes and remediate them.

Engineer Wiedeman commented that a company has been hired and Public Works is harvesting pipes in those areas (older sections) looking for lead pipes and then there is testing done to make sure there is no reaction when the water runs through the pipes. This all must be done before we can move over to Chicago water.

Alderwoman Gazal asked why we are not informing the residents of these areas, letting them know what we are doing, so we are not on national television about our water.

Engineer Wiedeman commented that we have informed the residents at the Council meetings. He also commented that he has handed out information at the neighborhood events and it is on the Grand Prairie water site.

Interim Administrator Graff commented that they have also sent out letters to over two hundred homes asking if they would like testing at no charge to the residents and if the lead is found the city will come in and fix that for the residents free of charge. He also commented that they would like to test more pipes and have more homes tested. Interim Administrator Graff announced that if any resident is having discoloration in their water, they need to contact the city so they can send someone to the home.

Alderwoman Methvin commented that she lives in an older area, and they have a whole home purifier and when the filter is changed every three months the filter is the color of blood, bright red. She then commented that if they did not have the purifying system, they would not be drinkable.

City Attorney Stiff commented that Strand & Associates has worked with the city identifying pipes that need to be replaced, and there are grants that can be obtained to help.

CITY CLERK: City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall announced that the City of Crest Hill and Lockport Township will be doing a free Community Shred Event on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This will be held in the City Hall parking lot. There will be a limit of four (4) boxes.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to Approve the list of bills issued through October 8, 2024, in the Amount of \$4,328,982.39 per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

(#9) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the list of bills issued through October 8, 2024, in the amount of \$4,328,982.39 for Council approval per the memo dated October 7, 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.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the regular and overtime payroll from September 9, 2024, through September 22, 2024, in the amount of \$255,188.46 per the memo dated October 7, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: Alderman Jefferson commented that he has been asking about a hiring committee and this pains him to have to bring this up under these circumstances, however, it is not gaining any attention to become an item on an agenda. Alderman Jefferson then read the proposal, which was:

HIRING COMMITTEE

OBJECTIVE: To interview prospective candidates for leadership positions within the city of Crest Hill Municipal Government.

The committee shall consist of the Human Resource Director and an elected official from each ward to interview candidates for vacancies within the city for positions City Administrator, Public Works Director, Economic Development/Community Development, Financial Director, and Police Chief (if vacant). Their duties are to select the best candidates to bring forth to the council for final interviews and to make recommendation to be hired into the vacant position.

The committee for filling the Human Resource Director position shall consist of the City Administrator and an elected official from each ward to interview candidates for the position of Human Resource Director. Their duties are to select the best candidates to bring forth to the council for final interviews and to make recommendation to be hired into the vacant position.

This hiring format will supersede any current hiring guidelines (if any) that are in place.

The reason for bringing forth this change is the city of Crest Hill currently has Four (4) vacancies in key leadership positions and has not been able to hire anyone to fill the vacancies.

This change is a change for good government practices and policies replacing old archaic practices that lead to corruption and mismanagement.

This format could also replace other committees currently using the archaic practice that is currently in use.

All elected officials working on these committees shall receive compensation at the council meeting rate of pay only for meetings that are held and attendance at the scheduled meeting.

If for any reason a special meeting is called, then the compensation shall be at the council meeting rate plus half of the council meeting rate.

ALL GUIDELINES FOR EVERY COMMITTEE SHALL BE IN WRITING AND STORED IN A SAFE CONFIDENTIAL LOCATION WITHIN THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE. ANY changes or amendments to this document must be written and attached to this document by date of change and section to be changed. ANY provisions of other committees being replaced by this format shall be written and attached by date of change and section to be changed.

He then commented that he has been asking for this because throughout Illinois and the United States people are developing committees to do their hiring and he personally feels it is unethical to have someone interview on a perspective replacement.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he brings this to the Council because they are in a position of embarrassment throughout their peer municipalities because we cannot seem to have a person want to work here. Maybe it is the process or the questions of the hiring, but every position should have a job description, and it should be followed and in the hands of everyone on the committee to attract candidates and make Crest Hill an attractive place.

Alderman Jefferson then asked for concurrence of the Council to place this on the agenda at the next work session for further discussion.

Attorney Stiff commented that he feels that we need to ask Labor Attorney John Kelly to be at this meeting. Attorney Stiff will find out which date, October 14th, or October 28th, is better for Attorney Kelly.

Interim Administrator Graff commented that we already have Sikich engaged for internal controls, and they are focusing on the employee manual and organizational chart and are about three weeks away from bringing this to the Council with their report. He then commented that he can forward this paper Alderman Jefferson passed out and have them review this. He then commented that we may be putting the cart in front of the horse, since we hired a professional to come into and talk about how to reorganize your hiring practices, accountability, transparency, and diversity and it is all being reviewed right now. He then stated that we should forward this to Sikich but did not want to forward it without asking first. Alderman Jefferson commented that he is fine with that.

Attorney Stiff asked Interim Administrator Graff to find a timetable with Sikich and put a little pressure on them to move this forward and when they can come back to the Council, so it is not hanging out there.

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

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Albert announced that the Crest Hill Lions Club will be on the street corner Friday, October 11th and Saturday, October 12th starting at 8:00am collecting for the Annual Candy Day Drive.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

Mayor Soliman asked City Attorney Stiff if there was a need for an executive session.

Attorney Stiff commented that there was a need for an executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) for litigation, but he met with Interim Administrator Graff, Building Commissioner Seeman, Police Chief Clark, Administrative Clerk Gates, and Human Resource Manager Strahl to discuss this item and it is potential litigation. There was a letter sent out to the property owner giving the property owner until next week to allow our people in to inspect the property. If there is no response by next week, we will have this on the agenda for discussion in an executive session for the next Council meeting. He then stated that there was no need for an executive session tonight.

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

(#10) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Albert, to adjourn the October 7, 2024, Council meeting.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Approved this 21 day of OCTOBER, 2024.

As presented ✓

As amended _____


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR