

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
November 4, 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 Public Works Director Mike Eulitz, Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Interim Finance Director Erica Waggoner, Interim Director of Community Development Ron Mentzer, Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on October 14, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on October 14, 2024, per the memo dated November 4, 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.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on October 21, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#2) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve the Minutes from Regular Meeting Held on October 21, 2024, per the memo dated November 4, 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.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on October 22, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#3) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on October 22, 2024, per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Albert, Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on October 28, 2024, for Council approval per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#4) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on October 28, 2024, with the correction on page four, per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman asked to deviate to the second agenda item under the Mayor's report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman welcomed Angela Adolph, Director of Development and Foundation, for Lockport Township High School District 205 and asked her to approach the podium for an update in regard to the high schools.

Angela thanked everyone for inviting her to speak at the meeting and give an update. She gave announcements, which were:

- November 6, 2024 – Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee Meeting.
- November 7, 2024 – Day of Dead Open House – All are invited.
- November 14, 2024 – Step-up Night at the Central Campus.
- November 14, 2204 – National Honor Society Induction.
- November 18, 2024 – Board of Education Meeting.
- December 6, 2024 – 10th Annual Veteran's Night.
- December 12, 2204 – Holiday Band Concert.
- December 16, 2024 – Board of Education Meeting
- December 17, 2024 – Holiday Choir Concert.
- Will County Dance Theatre / Nutcracker

She also announced that the College Board awarded AP Scholars and there were eighteen students from Crest Hill that were honored. These students earned three or more college credits in one year.

Alderman Albert asked if there is registration needed for the Veteran's Night? Angela commented that you do not have to pre-register and if a Veteran comes that night they will be honored even if they did not register.

Angela commented that they have a Gold Card Program for anyone sixty years or older, who can get a Gold Card and come to any events at the high school for free.

CITY ATTORNEY: Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve an Ordinance Repealing the Position of Assistant Director of Public Works as Codified in Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 of Chapter 2.50 (Director of Public Works; Public Works Department) of Title 2(Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinance and Creating the Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works to Replace Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 and Amending Section 2.50.070 to Include the Newly Creating Position within the Supervision of the Director of Public Works per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

Attorney Stiff commented that at the last work session he was asked to provide a legal opinion if the newly created position would need to be posted internally and/or externally? After consulting with Attorney John Kelly, Attorney Stiff stated that he was told since this position was a non-bargained position it does not need to be posted within the city. Attorney Stiff then commented that Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl consulted the handbook and there is no requirement that it be posted per the handbook. He then commented that he was not aware of any language down state in Springfield that would state it would need to be posted since it is funded by taxpayer dollars.

Attorney Stiff then commented on the ordinance that repels the old position of Assistant Director of Public Works and replaces those sections with the newly created Assistant to the Director of Public Works position and he has cleaned up the responsibilities and what personnel report to the Director of Public Works.

Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve an Ordinance Repealing the Position of Assistant Director of Public Works as Codified in Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 of Chapter 2.50 (Director of Public Works; Public Works Department) of Title 2(Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinance and Creating the Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works to Replace Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 and Amending Section 2.50.070 to Include the Newly Creating Position within the Supervision of the Director of Public Works per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

Mayor Soliman asked if there were any questions or comments.

Alderman Albert commented that he really hoped they could have separated those two ordinances because at some point there will be a need for an Assistant Director of Public Works, whether it be water certifications or other requirements of that position and because of that he is voting against this since it is one ordinance opposed to two separate ordinances.

Alderman Jefferson commented that we are taking away the Assistant Director of Public Works and creating the position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works and he reviewed the former Assistant Public Works Directors job description and the new job description and feels these need to be separated and taken individually and because of this he is voting against this, as well.

Alderman Oberlin commented that they need to table this since there are more questions and bring this to another work session and she does not feel they should vote on this with all the questions there are.

Alderman Dyke agreed with Alderman Oberlin and believed it should be tabled and to take into consideration that we need to hire someone permanent for the position of Public Works Director and see how they would like that position handled.

Mayor Soliman asked if we should rescind the motion on the table.

Alderman Gazal asked how long the process would take if it were rescinded. She then commented that Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz will not be here much longer and after what happened this past weekend, she feels there needs to be someone there to handle these disasters. She then commented that Ada was there all weekend. Interim Public Works Director Eulitz commented that Ada and himself were there all weekend.

Alderman Oberlin commented that she would rather we table this for further discussion rather than vote it down.

Alderman Methvin asked if tabling this would interfere with the individual receiving the adequate compensation for the work she has been doing. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz stated that yes it would. Alderman Albert commented that he is all in favor at creating this position, but he is not sure why it is in the same ordinance repealing the other position.

Alderman Gazal asked if we could separate them. Attorney Stiff commented that in the work sessions the Council wanted to repeal the other ordinance and they could not be separated tonight. Alderman Gazal asked why we could not separate them tonight when we have two ordinance numbers.

Attorney Stiff asked what it is that they want to vote on tonight; the creation of the new position without repealing the other position? Alderman Albert commented that he mentioned that last week and that is what he would like. Attorney Stiff commented that doing that would require a complete overhaul and if the Council wants to give him directions or how they want to change it, he supposes they could vote on the changes tonight, but it is not like changing a word or a section, it would be reworking the entire ordinance.

Mayor Soliman stated that if we are going to do that then we need to table the item. He then commented that most of the Council was in favor for this last week. Alderman Gazal commented that they were not.

Alderman Albert stated that we are restructuring all these departments and talking about changing these positions, but we have all interim employees that are making these decisions. He then stated he would rather have a permanent City Administrator and a permanent Public Works Director structuring their department opposed to the Council going back and forth eliminating and creating positions.

Alderwoman Methvin and Alderwoman Gazal withdrew their motion to Approve an Ordinance Repealing the Position of Assistant Director of Public Works as Codified in Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 of Chapter 2.50 (Director of Public Works; Public Works Department) of Title 2(Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinance and Creating the Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works to Replace Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 and Amending Section 2.50.070 to Include the Newly Creating Position within the Supervision of the Director of Public Works.

(#5) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson to TABLE to November 18, 2024 for an Ordinance Repealing the Position of Assistant Director of Public Works as Codified in Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 of Chapter 2.50 (Director of Public Works; Public Works Department) of Title 2(Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinance and Creating the Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works to Replace Sections 2.50.050 and 2.50.060 and Amending Section 2.50.070 to Include the Newly Creating Position within the Supervision of the Director of Public Works per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

This topic will be discussed November 12, 2024, at the next work session.

Attorney Mike Stiff recommended to TABLE the Resolution Approving the Promotion of Ada Martino to the Newly Created Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works and Setting the Initial Salary for that Position based off the prior vote.

Mayor Soliman requested a motion to TABLE the Resolution Approving the Promotion of Ada Martino to the Newly Created Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works and Setting the Initial Salary for that Position per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#6) Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to TABLE to November 18, 2024, for the Resolution Approving the Promotion of Ada Martino to the Newly Created Position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works and Setting the Initial Salary for that Position per the memo dated November 4, 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.

Attorney Mike Stiff recommended to TABLE the Resolution Eliminating the Position of Public Works Administrative Assistant Previously Held by Adalberta Martino based off the prior vote, as well.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to TABLE to November 18, 2024, for the Approval of a Resolution Eliminating the Position of Public Works Administrative Assistant Previously Held by Adalberta Martino per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Albert.

ABSENT: None.

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

The topic will be discussed November 12, 2024, at the next work session.

Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 2.40.010 (Reference; Duties Generally), 2.40.020 (Salary), 2.40.030 (Office Created; Appointment), 2.40.040 (Qualifications for Appointment), and 2.40.050 (Duties) of Chapter 2.40 (Building Commissioner; Zoning Officer) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#8) Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 2.40.010 (Reference; Duties Generally), 2.40.020 (Salary), 2.40.030 (Office Created; Appointment), 2.40.040 (Qualifications for Appointment), and 2.40.050 (Duties) of Chapter 2.40 (Building Commissioner; Zoning Officer) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Albert.

ABSENT: None.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Ordinance #2002

Attorney Mike Stiff requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 2.50.010 (Department of Public Works; Created), 2.50.030 (Director of Public Works; Duties), and 2.50.090 (Director of City Services; Duties) of Chapter 2.50 (Director of Public Works; Public Works Department) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#9) Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 2.50.010 (Department of Public Works; Created), 2.50.030 (Director of Public Works; Duties), and 2.50.090 (Director of City Services; Duties) of Chapter 2.50 (Director of Public Works; Public Works Department) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Albert.

ABSENT: None.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Ordinance #2003

Alderman Jefferson commented that we are bringing forth many things to be changed and we do not have a permanent employee in place for these positions and no reason for these changes have ever been explained to him and he is trying to entertain why and what the rush is since he does not see any fiscal or logical reasons for the changes.

Attorney Stiff commented that with the last two ordinances it is his understanding that with the previous ordinance that was tabled along with the two resolutions the idea was to clean them up and make consistent with the current practice. The ordinance currently reads that the Director of Public Works supervises your Building Commissioner and Building Inspector but when the position of Community and Economic Development Director was amended the practice has been to have those employees supervised by the Economic Development Director, who is Ron Mentzer currently. He then commented that the discussion of promoting Ada Martino generated a discussion with Interim Director Ron Mentzer to do a clean up and the ordinances would reflect those changes when implemented.

Attorney Stiff then commented that Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz had assessed the strengths of the personnel while being there almost a year and decided that we did not currently have an assistant to the Public Works Director but had an Administrative Assistant who was doing most of those duties and thought to reward someone who has been basically doing her own job and then some by creating that position.

Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that this was discussed in closed sessions and the reasons why was discussed and he thought they had an agreement at that time, and he is at a loss as to why this is a surprise.

Alderman Jefferson commented that it is not a surprise and more of a why. Interim Director Mike Eulitz commented again that it was discussed in closed session. Alderman Jefferson commented that no one has ever said why this is necessary and it is just a restructuring. He then commented that restructuring does not make any sense or fix any of the current issues.

Alderwoman Gazal then asked if Alderman Jefferson was referring to the last ordinance or if he is referring to Public Works and Ada Martino. Alderman Jefferson commented that he is talking about all of it. Alderwoman Gazal commented that it was discussed clearly in closed session. Alderman Jefferson commented that it was explained the way someone wanted to explain it and not explained to the point of why it is being done.

Alderman Jefferson commented that the fire at the salvage yard showed something different and there is still a lack of knowledge and ability. Interim Director Mike Eulitz asked if he meant there was a lack of knowledge and/or ability in the Public Works regarding the fire at the salvage yard because he would love to discuss that, and he then stated let us discuss that and what Public Works did wrong. Alderman Jefferson asked why the decision was not made to pump water from the river based on some type of emergency management. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz asked if he was the Chief of

Lockport Fire Department and stated that he talked to the Lockport Fire Department and asked them to change direction, and they did. Alderman Jefferson then commented after our residents had to go into a water boil order and wanted to know what caused the water boil and why was water not pumped from the river. Mayor Soliman restored order and stated that he is stopping this discussion, and they would go more in depth later during the meeting.

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

Public Works Re-Forestation Program:

- Public Works received twenty applications with payment of \$157.50, which is 50% to install a new tree on their property and the city pays the other 50% for a total of \$315.00.

City Center Facility:

- City Center Facility – The final inspection by KONE, Inc. for both Elevator Telephone Emergency System were tested on 10/31/2024 and both elevators passed inspection.
- City Center Facility – Front Damage Inside Clerk Windows: Having a difficult time getting a vendor or the original vendor to prepare a proposal. Going to have an RFP to receive bids.

Grand Prairie Water Commission:

- Grand Prairie Water Commission “GPWC” (Lake Michigan Water Project): The Commission’s meeting was on 10/3/2024 and the next meeting is 11/7/2024. The budget draft was completed and is under review by staff. Further discussion will be at the Commission Meeting on 11/7/2024.

STATEVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER:

- Development Board has a bid. They are looking at \$900 million dollar budget for a 1500 single cell multi-security level: minimum, medium, and maximum facilities for men and women. This will be a total of up to 3,000 prisoners. Bid date is November 19th.

Lockport Township Fire District Training Facility Proposed Project:

- Pending the Traffic Study Report. Hoping to have it completed within the next few weeks.

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).

- PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – The final prescreening interview has been completed on November 1st and one candidate has been selected and will be brought forward to the City Council to interview. More of this will be discussed in executive session.
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: There has been a reconsideration application, and they were interviewed. This will be discussed in executive session. The city received two applications. However, a previous candidate has contacted the city for reconsideration. More information will be presented to the city council with a recommendation by staff.
- FINANCE DIRECTOR Recruitment: A candidate has been selected for appointment to this position. The starting date would be 11/6/2024. His name is Glenn Gehrke. The current Interim Finance Director Erica Waggoner will assist with the transition and the FY 2024 Audit.
- BUILDING INSPECTOR: Four interviews were completed, and a candidate is being recommended by the Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

Water Meter Replacement Project:

- Still ongoing and the Non-Compliance property owners' appointments are progressing. Nothing new to report.

Places for Eating Tax:

- The legal process and notices were mailed to the five businesses and the Hearing Date is scheduled for 11/20/2024.

West Sanitary Sewer Treatment Project:

- Nothing new to report. We are still on schedule for the plant to be completed in 2026. Will keep everyone posted.

PLANNING COMMISSION – MUNICODE PROGRAM UPDATE:

- The iPads that the Council had recommended have been ordered and received. They are being programmed currently. There will be a training with the Plan Commission members.

State of Illinois Crime Lab/State Police Headquarters Project:

- Central Management Services prepare the bid specifications for the infrastructure work, and the updated plans will be presented to a City Council Work Session, once the building department receives the plans.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Mayor Soliman commented that it was a rough weekend, and no one was injured during the fire. The Fire Department did an outstanding job fighting the fire for twenty hours. There were twenty-five fire trucks on scene coming from as far as Kendall County to help. The Public Works Department had worked non-stop from Friday morning through Monday fixing watermain breaks. He thanked the Public

Works Department for their dedication to the city since many went without sleep over the weekend.

In the early afternoon on Friday, our Interim Public Work Director Mike Eulitz, Police Chief Ed Clark, and the Interim City Administrator Tony Graff were in communication with the Fire Department working through all going on with the fire.

Mayor Soliman commented that Fire Chief John O'Connor wrote a statement and would like the Mayor to read the statement since he will be out of town so he could clear up a lot of misconceptions for the Crest Hill residents.

Mayor Soliman read the statement:

The property affected is in unincorporated Joliet Township, owned by Sheffield Steel and operated by B.L. Duke. The affected area was the dimension of an acre and up to 50' tall in some areas full of scrap metal and plastics. That is an incredible fire load which generates heat up to one thousand degrees Fahrenheit.

This requires an enormous amount of water to keep the fire in check. For the first (9) hours of the fire, we had (3) master stream devices working, spraying up to six thousand gallons/minute and it was not enough to put the fire out.

- One master stream device was from Engine 1 who used a hydrant on the West side of the property, which we believe was a part of the Joliet water system.
- Citgo had the second master stream, drafting from the Desplaines River feeding the foam operations.
- The third master stream was the Tender shuttle with a fill site at the 1600 block of Hickory that was used to feed Tower 6. This continued until 9:00pm, at which time we discontinued the Tender operations and reduced to (2) master stream devices; Engine 1 on the Joliet Hydrants and Tower 6 drafting from the Desplaines River.

Fire Companies worked through the night and into the next day (21 hours) and if we were not able to tear the pile apart with heavy equipment from B.L. Duke, the fire would still be burning. With full understanding that it was a scrap pile, if we left the fire burn unchecked, a fire load of that size generating that extreme heat could catch everything on fire in that area east of Rt 53. Not to mention the longer the fire burns, the more water is used, the more dollar loss to the community, and the more by-products of the fire are pumped into the atmosphere.

We were in contact with the City of Crest Hill leadership, Crest Hill Water Department, and the City of Joliet for the duration of the incident and had contingencies for additional incidents anywhere in our fire district. We are grateful for our mutual aid partners who backfilled our stations with equipment and personnel and were very aware of the water supply situation.

We are also appreciative of Wescom dispatch for their assistance and the hard work of the Crest Hill Water Department who were handling their own crisis, while understanding the severity of the fire on Genstar Lane.

I understand and appreciate the concerns of the residents of Crest Hill of how a fire not within the borders of the city affected the water system in a serious way. These severe situations do not happen every day and in these times, we rely on one another to mitigate the problem as soon as possible. My staff will be happy to sit down with City administration next week to discuss further. Thanks again for your support, cooperation, and leadership.

Sincerely,
John O'Connor
Fire Chief

Mayor Soliman asked Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz for more information regarding the water breaks that had happened and the reason they happened.

Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that the filling of the tanks of the fire trucks did not create the problem for the City of Crest Hill's water supply, what created the problem was the watermain breaks that happened afterwards. When you turn a fire hydrant on/off one time or several times, you run a risk of breaking a watermain somewhere in your system, which is what happened.

There were three watermain breaks on Friday night, which were discussed with the Lockport Township Fire District, and they were told we were having problems with the water and if they could redirect and they did. The watermain breaks were fixed by early Saturday morning and later that morning we were notified of another drop in pressure, which was due to another watermain break, which is currently still being fixed. It has been stabilized and the pressure was back up by Saturday afternoon, but the pressure dropped below 20psi. When your pressure drops below 20psi, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires you to be placed on a boil order. There is nothing wrong with the water but that is a requirement from IEPA, and we complied. The boil order will remain in effect until IEPA is satisfied that we have corrected the situation and sampled the water. When that is accomplished the boil order will be rescinded and every resident will be notified just as they were when the boil order was put into place.

They are working currently on an eight-inch watermain that runs underneath the Rock Run Creek that is in front of the old City Hall. This watermain was over sixteen feet deep since it ran underneath the creek, and we do not have the equipment in-house to fix that. We had to contact and coordinate an outside contractor which was done Saturday afternoon and evening. The contractor was able to stabilize the water system, and the pressure came back up early Saturday. The pressure is fine, and everyone has water. Once we have positive results from the water sample testing then the boil order will be lifted.

Alderman Oberlin commented that the elderly do not look at social media accounts to know about the water boil order and asked if there can be daily updates until it is fixed. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz stated that there was an update in the morning

stating the boil order was still in effect. Alderperson Oberlin asked if it was done by calls and was told no that the reverse 911 only works if you are signed up for the emergency part, which is why they also put this on social media and the city website.

Alderwoman Methvin asked if they could have done door hangers and was told there is not enough manpower to put door hangers for that large of an area.

Interim City Administrator Tony Graff commented that there would be an update on WJOL on Tuesday morning.

Alderwoman Gazal thanked everyone for going above and beyond and keeping the communication open. She then asked if the City of Joliet suffered the same as the City of Crest Hill. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that he had heard they have put a boil order out as well. Alderwoman Gazal then asked if the City of Joliet had suffered any watermain breaks and was told by Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz that he did not know if they had any watermain breaks.

Alderwoman Gazal also asked why they tapped into City of Crest Hill's fire hydrants before using the river as a water resource? Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that he did not want to speak for the Fire Department, but he does not know if they even had the capability to go to the river and they used a contractor to bring a barge down the river, which was from Citgo and in the end they used water from the river.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if we will be reimbursed by any other municipalities for our resources. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that this is an ongoing discussion they have had with BL Duke's insurance company trying to get reimbursed for our cost.

Alderwoman Gazal then asked why we are not using the digital signs for an alert message board for our residents or trucks with digital signs notifying about the boil order. She then commented that the administration needs to go out of their way to notify the residents and should have an emergency plan.

She then thanked the Interim Public Works Public Works Director, his staff, and Ada for going out of their way.

Alderman Dyke asked if we could have signs made that say boil order, like the signs we put up for hydrant flushing and was told they could look into it. He also asked when we go to Lake Michigan Water how this would affect us in the future if this happened again. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that it would affect us just as it would if we had a watermain break. He then asked when we keep our water towers with water will it be well water or Lake Michigan Water and was told the water tanks would have Lake Michigan Water in them, however, we would be exercising the pumps and could use our well water if needed in the future.

Alderwoman Methvin commented that the infrastructures improvements happening now to get the Lake Michigan Water should help prevent these issues going forward. Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that it is correct and there will be a new water supply line and if there is a break we will always have a supply coming to the city which will go to the

storage tank and be pumped out. In this case, it would bypass the tank and keep pumping into the city and not effect the watermain break part of it because you will still have a break because of the opening and closing of the fire hydrant. He also stated that we can have a 10% water loss and if there was a year when a fire put us over the 10% water loss, we could explain it to the IEPA but cannot have this consistently.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he wanted to make it clear that he was not blaming anyone for any failure, but he is an elected official in Ward 2 and that is his priority and Ward 2 comes first when it comes to him.

Alderwoman Methvin asked if we have any safeguards in place for the low-income population who could get bottled water in situations like this. Interim Public Works Director Mike Eulitz commented that they can do anything the Council would like them to do and there are ways to get bottled water to various places in the city. She then asked if we could get a contract for emergency water supply in place. Alderwoman Gazal commented that she was told by Interim City Administrator Graff that the only way Will County Emergency Management could provide water is if there is no water, no water flow and if there is water you can boil it.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman had no agenda items but stated that he was happy to answer any questions.

Alderwoman Gazal asked for an update regarding the stop sign that she requested two weeks ago. Interim Administrator Tony Graff commented that Engineer Ron Wiedeman is completing a report regarding this and will have an update at the work session meeting. He also commented that we are not at a level where we can put a stop sign but there might be other safety measures that they can possibly put into place.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that it is funny how one ward requested a crosswalk, and we went out of our way to spend taxpayer money to do research, but we have hundreds of residents on Willow Falls, and nobody wants to do anything about it. Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that he sent a response two weeks ago after the meeting. Interim City Administrator Tony Graff commented that they never said this was not important and he needed time to meet with the engineer and he has questions about this as well. He has been coordinating other responsibilities like interviews and not saying this is not important because it is, but he wants to make sure he understands the results as well before he brings it to the Council. Alderwoman Gazal then commented that she sees how things work around here, and we pick and choose who we will help. Interim Administrator Tony Graff commented that they pick and choose what is needed in operations right now and the Council has stated that the interim positions need filled and they are out recruiting and trying to do that. Alderwoman Gazal then commented that they need to stop bringing the Council new ideas and new positions. She then commented that for the record there was another ward that requested something for the school and it was done within two weeks. She then announced to the Willow Falls Residents who are watching that she continues to bring this to the table.

Alderman Cipiti asked if the conditions for the stop sign at that location is not warranted and was told that was correct. Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that all municipalities

within the state need to file state and federal guidelines which is the law and stop signs cannot be installed to control speeding. To install a stop sign you have to meet warrants per the law. He then commented that this intersection will never meet warrants to install a stop sign. Alderwoman Gazal commented that it is not to control speed, it is to cross. Engineer Wiedeman commented again that that intersection will not meet warrants for the installation of the stop sign since there is not enough traffic at this intersection to warrant a stop sign per state statutes. There is a crosswalk, and a pedestrian stop sign at this location that was installed two plus years ago.

Alderman Dyke commented that the lights are not working on the entry welcome monument on Broadway. Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that the contractor is waiting for a breaker box that is required by ComEd so he can physically tie it in, and this is also for the monument on Weber as well.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Mayor Soliman requested on behalf of Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer to Approve a Resolution Approving a Permit Fee Waiver Request from the Lockport Township Fire Protection District for its Training and Maintenance Facility PUD Project on Division Street in the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated November 4, 2024. This was discussed last week at the work session meeting.

(#10) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Permit Fee Waiver Request from the Lockport Township Fire Protection District for its Training and Maintenance Facility PUD Project on Division Street in the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Jefferson

ABSTAIN: Ald. Gazal, Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

There being five (5) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution #1264

City Attorney Mike Stiff corrected the record to state that this was not discussed last week but was discussed in September but some changes needed to be made and it is now back to the Council for vote.

Mayor Soliman requested on behalf of Interim Community Development Director Ron Mentzer to Approve a Resolution Approving a Professional Fee Agreement by and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and the Lockport Township Fire Protection District per the memo dated November 4, 2024. This was also discussed at a work session in September.

(#11) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Professional Fee Agreement by and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and the Lockport Township Fire Protection District per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Jefferson.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Gazal, Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1265

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Ed Clark had no agenda items but was happy to entertain any questions. There were no questions.

Alderman Albert commented that it was nice seeing the police patrol on Halloween and see the officers interact with the children.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman requested Approval of the Will County Governmental League Holiday Reception per the memo dated November 4, 2024. This is the same as in the years past. The city would pay for the elected officials and if you bring a guest that cost is on the elected official individual.

(#12) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, for Approval of the Will County Governmental League Holiday Reception per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Albert, Jefferson.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman requested the Appointment of Glenn Gehrke as the Finance Director and Budget Officer with a Salary of \$145,000 and Requesting Concurrence by the City Council per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

Mayor Soliman commented that Glenn Gehrke has experience in municipal government, he is energetic, passionate, well-spoken and well educated and will be a good fit for the City of Crest Hill. He came for two days last week and was introduced to the staff. He would start November 6, 2024.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that she hoped they did not scare him tonight and stated that this is normal for the Council, it is government. She also commented that it was a great interview, and she looks forward to working with him.

(#13) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, for the Appointment of Glenn Gehrke as the Finance Director and Budget Officer with a Salary of \$145,000 and Requesting Concurrence by the City Council per the memo dated November 4, 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 #1266

Glenn Gehrke approached the podium and commented that he is very excited about this position and is looking forward to working here. He also commented that the meeting was a great meeting and had a lot of action which he loved to hear the back and forth with the traffic sign issue.

Mayor Soliman commented that he should have done the appointment and then the resolution. Attorney Stiff commented that we are fine the way we did it.

Mayor Soliman commented that agenda item number sixteen, the appointment of the full-time Building Inspector position will be discussed in executive session at the end of this meeting.

Mayor Soliman announced that there will be the 2nd Annual Winterfest 2024 on November 30, 2024. It will start with a holiday parade with Santa Claus at 3:00 p.m. and go through the City of Crest Hill and end up at City Hall at 4:00 p.m. There will be pictures with Santa Claus, face painting, balloon artists, kids' games and crafts, giant snow globe, hot chocolate, and coffee until 7:00 p.m.

He also asked if anyone from City Council would like to volunteer, please let him know.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that an events committee was created with Alderman Cipiti and Alderman Albert, who since has resigned, but she asked why the mayor is making the decisions when the person on the events committee has not been involved? Mayor Soliman commented that the events committee did not take care of this last year, and it was a public works event in conjunction with Crest Hill Lions Club, and they put it together and this will be the same this year. They have donations from the vendors to offset some of the cost. Alderwoman Gazal commented that you never have asked the Council for help except for right now with volunteering. She then commented that the mayor has the Lions Club so the Lions Club can help him.

Alderman Albert commented that this is exactly why he resigned from the committee, because he feels the role of the events committee was confusing since all the events taking place within the city had no involvement from the events committee.

Mayor Soliman thanked all the Veterans for their sacrifices they have made while serving our Country and having the freedom we have today. He then commented that he would be at Post #1080 on November 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

CITY CLERK: City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall had nothing to report but wanted to thank all the officials, spouses, and the city attorney for attending and helping at the Shred Event. We shredded approximately 3,000 pounds.

Alderwoman Gazal thanked the City Clerk for hosting an amazing Shred Day Event.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to Approve the list of bills issued through November 4, 2024, in the Amount of \$3,370,480.37 per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#14) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the list of bills issued through November 4, 2024, in the amount of \$3,370,480.37 for Council approval per the memo dated November 4, 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 October 7, 2024, through October 20, 2024, in the amount of \$246,350.09 per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: Alderman Cipiti commented that this would be for a contest for the residents to enter their homes for Christmas light decorations. He is requesting an Expenditure Not to Exceed \$300.00 for the purchase of gift cards as prizes for the Christmas Lights Contest winners.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that we have never voted on this in the past and we have used event money in the past without voting, why now?

Treasurer Conklin commented that in years previously those gift cards were donated. Alderman Albert commented that he is unsure why this is an agenda item since this is part of the events budget. He then commented that he voted no to the holiday reception for the same reason, and we bring them up every single year when it is the exact same thing.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall commented that it was discussed that the Council wants a motion/vote for the events that go on. Alderwoman Gazal commented that we did discuss that, but we cannot pick and choose what we are going to vote on and asked if we are not approving things for the Winterfest then why approve for the holiday lighting contest.

Mayor Soliman asked if it needs a motion. Attorney Stiff asked if the Winterfest and the lightning contest are budgeted? It was stated that there is a line item in the budget for events but how we define that is it is up to the Finance Director or the Treasurer. Attorney Stiff commented that yes, if it is budgeted as just an events budget then you want it to come before the Council for a specific expenditure. If the Council allows the events committee to spend it without voting since it budgeted, then it is fine but if you want to see how it is spent then the Council should direct it to come before them for a vote.

Treasurer Conklin commented that it does mean that you can pick and choose since you chose to have voted, so therefore it is being voted on and it was also budgeted for the events. There is a budget item, and it was voted on when the budget was voted on. So now, it is being picked and chosen because of your direction.

Attorney Stiff asked if the Council wants all events expenditures to come before them for a specific vote so you know how the money is being spent within that budget line item.

Treasurer Conklin commented that if you budget at the beginning of the year and allocate those monies and you stay within your budget you see those expenses as they come through.

Alderman Cipiti commented that the bottom line is why was this \$300.00 expenditure for the contest event taken to the Council when the Winterfest expenditures are not, and they are bigger dollar amounts. Treasurer Conklin commented that he would never ask for this to be a voted item. Alderman Cipiti then commented that the Council wants to be informed and see where the dollar amounts are being spent whether it is budgeted or not. Attorney Stiff commented that he recalls discussion about that but there was never a clear adoption of the policy, and he feels if you have an events committee, and a lump sum budgeted item for events you can empower your events committee to spend that money the way it is budgeted and not bring it back to the Council.

Alderwoman Gazal asked if the attorney considers the shred day an event since it came before the Council for a vote. Attorney Stiff commented that he believes it came from the township asking if we want to partner with them.

Attorney Stiff commented that there needs to be a work session to discuss what the events committee is and what they are supposed to do.

Mayor Soliman commented for the record that no city money was spent on the Winterfest last year because of generous donations from many of our vendors and we are confident that that will happen again this year.

Alderman Jefferson commented that he wanted to make a correction to that statement, we may have received donations for the Winterfest event last year, but Public Works employees were paid for working their shift and it was not totally tax free.

(#15) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve Expenditure Not to Exceed \$300.00 for Christmas Lights Contest per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Gazal, Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

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

Alderman Cipiti commented that more information regarding the contest entry forms, and important dates will be coming out shortly.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderperson Oberlin thanked all of our Veterans and gave a heartfelt gratitude to all our deceased Veterans and their families for everything they have given to our Country.

Alderwoman Gazal thanked the Seigel's Family for offering to donate the pumpkins for Halloween and this time she was away from everyone.

Alderwoman Methvin commented to all the residents in Ward 1 to please bear with us during the boil order and most importantly make sure the water is boiled for the immune compromised, very young and the elderly.

Alderman Dyke wished all our Veteran's a Happy Veteran's Day and said to make sure to thank a Veteran throughout the year, not just on Veteran's Day and do not forget to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Linda Dyke, a resident, asked why there could not have been a press conference at City Hall of some type since there is a lot of questions that could have been answered earlier. She also mentioned there is something that is called dial-my-call, where you put residents' phone numbers in and record a message and send it out.

Linda Dyke also mentioned that she was attacked by Tony Halaska, who is a city employee. She stated that Tony commented that the alderpeople could have called a press conference, and the alderpeople need to take ownership of what happened. She then commented that the alderpeople were not informed how they can take ownership. She then commented that she is not sure where he comes off about city officials since they employ him.

She then asked when someone is hired by the city, are they all tested by the Civil Service Commission for the list that is in the hallway. She then commented that there is a new employee, and her name is not on the list and wondered if all employees have to be tested and are those tests able to be a FOIA.

Margaret, a resident on Sweetbriar, commented that she never received an alert message on her phone. She also commented that when you go on the city's page and click on the ALERT Center (Big Red Dot) it gives you alerts from August of 2020 and 2018. She did say there was a watermain break alert section and it had zero alerts listed for this category. She feels that social media should not be the only place to find information. It was stated that other Council members who are signed up for the alerts did not receive them as well.

Stuart Soifer, a resident, commented that he was not affected with the boil order but wanted to thank the Public Works Director, department, and the assistant for all the work that was done over the weekend. He then commented that this falls on the mayor's plate, there is no communication, and this city has a lack of policies and procedures, and Facebook is not the only place for information.

Mayor Soliman commented that it was on the website along with several emails and Facebook posts.

Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there was a need for an executive session on Litigation 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) and Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

(#16) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to go into executive session on Litigation 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) and Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) per the memo dated November 4, 2024.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Executive Session 9:03 p.m.

(#17) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to reconvene from the executive session on Litigation 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) and Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) per the memo dated November 4, 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.

Reconvened 10:09 p.m.

Attorney Mike Stiff requested to TABLE the Appointment of Full-Time Building Inspector Position until November 18, 2024.

(#18) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to TABLE the Appointment of Full-Time Building Inspector Position until November 18, 2024, per the memo dated November 4, 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.

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

(#19) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Albert, to adjourn the November 4, 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 10:11 p.m.

Approved this 18 day of NOVEMBER, 2024.

As presented

As amended ✓


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR