

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
April 21, 2025

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Mayor Soliman asked everyone to remain standing after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Soliman offered the city's condolences to the family of Sergeant Jose Duenez who was a member of the United States Army who lost his life in a tactical training exercise on March 31, 2025, in Lithuania. Mayor Soliman commented that three other soldiers lost their lives in this tragedy as well. Sergeant Duenez leaves behind his parents, wife, and a one-year-old son, along with five sisters. Mayor Soliman and the City of Crest Hill thank Sergeant Duenez for his service to our Country and for his sacrifice and we ask that you keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Soliman also commented that Pope Francis has passed away this morning. He was eighty-eight years old and served the people of the Catholic faith for the last twelve years and was a global peacemaker throughout the entire world. Mayor Soliman then asked that we offer our condolences for Pope Francis.

Mayor Soliman then asked for a moment of silence for Sergeant Jose Duenez and Pope Francis.

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, Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Community and Economic Development Director Patrick Ainsworth, Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Police Chief Ed Clark, Building Commissioner Don Seeman, Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl, Community Development Consultant Ron Mentzer.

Mayor Soliman asked to deviate from the agenda and reminded everyone that on March 17, 2025, the City Council approved a Proclamation declaring the month of March 2025 as Bleeding Disorder awareness month in the City of Crest Hill.

Mayor Soliman then introduced two Crest Hill residents, Genny Moore and her fifth-grade son, Mr. John Moore, who attends Chaney-Monge Grade School, and they are here to explain about this disease.

Ms. Moore thanked everyone for having them at the meeting and commented that it means a lot to them for having the City of Crest Hill proclaim March as the Bleeding Disease awareness. John Moore is the third generation in the family with Severe Hemophilia, which is a rare disorder that affects one in five thousand people. Ms. Moore stated that there is 25,000 to 30,000 people in the United States with this disease, which is very rare. Originally, this was thought to be a male condition and woman are now having this condition as well. Ms. Moore commented that a person might want to be checked for this disorder, especially if they have trouble with excessive bleeding. Ms. Moore said if anyone is in need, please know you have support, and there are advocacy efforts in place to make sure there is adequate care.

John Moore thanked everyone for proclaiming March as the Bleeding Disorder month in the City of Crest Hill.

Council members thanked Ms. Genny Moore and her son John Moore, for coming and sharing the information with the Council and everyone else.

Mayor Soliman asked to deviate from the agenda to item numbers twelve and thirteen under the Police Department section.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk requested to Approve an Ordinance Setting the Salary for the Position of Deputy Chief of Police (Patrol) for the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk commented that they will be setting the salary at \$136,000.00 for the pending appointment for David L. Reavis, Jr. Mr. Reavis, has received multiple accommodations and awards over the years. Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that himself and Chief Clark are confident that Deputy Chief Reavis has the qualifications and experience to be a valuable part of the administration team in the City of Crest Hill.

(#1) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve an Ordinance Setting the Salary for the Position of Deputy Chief of Police (Patrol) for the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.
Ordinance #2017

Deputy Chief Dobczyk approached the podium and gave a brief biography of Mr. David L. Reavis, Jr., highlighting his career achievements and qualifications. Mr. Reavis started with the Police Department in September of 2000 and during his time of patrol he achieved several milestones and became Detective Reavis in August of 2015, where he served on the Will-Grundy Major Crimes Taskforce and functioned as the Lead Investigator of several high-profile cases in addition to other cases that he worked as an investigator for the City of Crest Hill. Mr. Reavis then became Sergeant Reavis in June of 2017 and then he became the Sergeant of Investigations in 2021.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall then approached the podium and administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Chief David Reavis, Jr.

Deputy Chief Reavis thanked Mayor Soliman and the City Council, for giving him this opportunity. He also thanked Police Chief Clark and Deputy Chief Dobczyk for the appointment. He then thanked his family, friends and brother and sisters in blue for all their support, especially his wife and children. He stated that he looks forward to working with everyone and is excited.

Mayor Soliman commented that Deputy Chief Reavis has worn multiple hats in the Police Department and has been a model Police Officer but more than that he stated that Deputy Chief Reavis is a good person, and he supports this 110% and knows Deputy Chief Reavis will do a fantastic job.

Council members congratulated Deputy Chief Reavis and wished him luck and thanked him for his service.

The Council was also introduced to Joshua Cercone, the newest police officer sworn in on April 7th and will be attending the Police Academy in Belleville. Officer Cercone commented that he served three years in the Army and was stationed in Washington State where he married his wife.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing for the City of Crest Hill's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Annual Budget.

(#2) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Conduct a Public Hearing for the City of Crest Hill's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Annual Budget.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Public Hearing opened at 7:24 p.m.

Finance Director Glenn Gehrke delivered a comprehensive budget overview with the following highlights:

- A combined federal budget deficit of \$2,617,682.00 due to reliance on fund balances.
- Projected total water/sewer capital projects at \$15,030,000.00 with \$9,922,392.00 eligible for grant reimbursement through the IEPA, DCEO, and CDBG grants.
- General fund revenues set at \$12,762,249.32 and expenditures at \$12,756,193.75, resulting in an anticipated \$6,055.57 surplus.
- A reported \$2.3 million surplus in the water/sewer fund targeted for future water projects.
- Liquid assets are approximately \$27 million.

Director Gehrke articulated the city's robust reserves surpassing minimum requirements, reinforcing its AA bond rating. Upon conclusion of the presentation, the Council engaged in discussions, spearheaded by Alderperson Oberlin, concerning reserve funds' allocation for infrastructure projects.

Director Gehrke, supported by Interim City Administrator Tony Graff, clarified that these reserves are earmarked for imminent water projects, especially toward commitments with the Grand Prairie Water Commission. Emphasis was placed on the critical nature of these financial reserves in maintaining the city's solidity, particularly given the \$33.5 million investment needed for water infrastructure, pivotal for the City of Crest Hill's transition to Lake Michigan Water by 2030.

Alderwoman Gazal commented that we have eight months of reserves but only supposed to have two months in reserve and asked what the purpose is of keeping that money in reserve when we have fractured streets. Director Gehrke commented that the minimum to keep money in reserve is two months and you want to keep that money in reserve since you have many projects coming up for that Grand Prairie Water Commission and it is expensive. It was then stated that some of the reserves will be going toward that project with the Grand Prairie Water Commission and when we get to the year 2026/2027 and must pay back the capitol projects the money would be in the bank.

Further dialogues underscored that these reserves provide financial safeguarding, allowing steady operational cash flow and project funding management without unforeseen borrowing needs. Reference was made to projected contributions essential for sustaining appropriate water and sewer rates, aligning with Grand Prairie Water Commission's fiscal obligations.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone in the audience would like to approach the podium and make a comment or ask a question. There were none.

Treasurer Conklin thanked Director Gehrke for putting the budget together in such short notice. Treasurer Conklin also commented that Director Gehrke had assistance from the department heads and staff and everyone was very helpful.

Director Gehrke thanked the staff and department heads for helping and doing the best for the city and he stated that it is nice to work for a municipality where everyone comes together and the city should be proud of that.

Director Gehrke commented that he forgot to include the ordinance and asked if we can have another meeting to vote on the ordinance prior to April 30, 2025.

Attorney Stiff commented that this would be a special regular meeting with one agenda item and then you can move onto the work session meeting.

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing for the City of Crest Hill's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Annual Budget.

(#3) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to close the Public Hearing for the City of Crest Hill's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Annual Budget.

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.

Public Hearing closed at 7:57 p.m.

CONDUCT A PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE MS4 ANNUAL UPDATE:

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman provided an update on the city's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit compliance efforts, highlighting six key responsibilities the city upholds annually. This permit is renewed every five years. The update detailed efforts in the following areas:

- Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Quality: Initiatives include regular updates on the city website and social media to educate the public about keeping water clean. The city regularly publishes educational materials to inform residents about the impact of stormwater pollution and how they can help prevent it.
- Public Involvement and Participation: The city encourages public participation through events like the meeting held that day, serving as a forum for transparency and community engagement. Public involvement is an ongoing aspect of the program, with opportunities for the community to provide feedback and learn more about the city's water quality initiatives.
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE): The city operates a pre-treatment program monitored annually to identify and eliminate unauthorized discharges into the storm sewer system. Residents are urged to report any suspicious activities such as oil dumping by contacting Public Works at 815-741-5108.
- Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control: Routine inspections are conducted on construction sites to ensure compliance with local and state stormwater management regulations. Inspections are conducted before and after rain events, and the city requires developers to submit reports on compliance.
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Practices: This involves routine maintenance activities by Public Works such as street sweeping and catch basin cleaning to minimize pollutants entering the storm sewer system. The city aims to reduce pollution through effective maintenance and operational strategies.

Engineer Wiedeman emphasized the importance of the MS4 program, which stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, as part of the Clean Water Act. The program plays a crucial role in protecting water quality by preventing pollutants from entering water bodies through stormwater runoff. Engineer Wiedeman noted that municipalities have a significant impact on water quality through land use decisions and public works operations.

Regular inspections are conducted on major outfalls annually and on all other outfalls every three to four years to ensure they are in good condition.

Additionally, he clarified the definition of illicit discharge, citing examples such as yard care products, automotive fluids, and sewage waste. Engineer Wiedeman also pointed out exemptions in the program like dechlorinated pool discharges and firefighting activities.

The City also has a permit renewal every five years, and they are currently preparing for the upcoming renewal period. This requires documentation of compliance with program components and submission to the appropriate regulatory authorities. Engineer Wiedeman reiterated the positive impact of these efforts on keeping the water safe for drinking, fishing, and other activities, helping to maintain the ecological balance and environmental health of Crest Hill.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the MS4 Annual update. There were no questions from the Council or public following the update, indicating comprehensive understanding and satisfaction with the current MS4 compliance efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on March 31, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#4) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on March 31, 2025, per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 8, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#5) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 8, 2025, per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Methvin.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 15, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#6) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 15, 2025, per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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 commented that he has no agenda items but is happy to answer any questions. There were none.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Interim City Administrator Tony Graff gave an update on his memo the Council had received.

Community Development Update Items from Director Ainsworth:

- A. There will be a special meeting for the Plan Commission on April 25, 2025, as a Crest Hill business, Hendrickson USA LLC, is looking to add a solar array to their facility to help power their own facility. This has a minimum requirement for a special use. This business is applying for a grant which requires them to go through the entitlement process before June 1, 2025. With that notion, the City Council will see this item at a meeting in May.
- B. The property at the northwest corner of Russ Way and Weber Road has received a grading permit as this will lead to the construction of a new 16,000 SF light industrial building. The property is zoned M-1, and the property owner/developer is working to ensure that all codes are satisfied to help construct this building and bring in a new business to Crest Hill.
- C. Staff from the Community Development and Finance Departments have been working together to complete the FY24 Annual TIF Reports. The reports have been completed and annual meetings with all taxing bodies is scheduled to report on activities within each respective TIF District – this meeting is called the Joint Review Board (JRB). The JRB has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 2 pm taking place in the City Council Chambers which have posted on the City Web site. More information will be provided about this meeting in the very near future.
- D. Community and Economic Development Director Ainsworth is registered and scheduled to attend the ICSC Las Vegas Conference which is the premier event and takes place annually in May which is May 17 – 20, 2025. This is a two to three-day gathering of dealmakers and industry experts, who are driving innovation and evolution in commercial real estate. (Note: Patrick can set up appointments with developers and brokers before arriving at the conference. Also, Patrick has experience attending this conference in the past.)

STATEVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER – Capital Development Board – No Update

BL DUKE FIRE: B.L. Duke Fire Incident 11/1/2024: The Finance Director Glenn Gehrke is preparing the invoice which was delivered to BL Duke Scrap Metal Recycling Yard 2 Genstar Lane near Industry Avenue off Broadway Street (Unincorporated Will County).

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. Building Inspector Announcement: A final candidate has been chosen, and the conditional offer of employment has been signed. Potential starting date is the week of May 5th.
- b. City Administrator Search – MGT/GovHR Consulting Recruitment Services –The candidates have been selected and invited for their interview on 4/15, 22 & 29/2025 for the Special Work Session Meetings.
- c. Director of Public Works – Job Announcement has been posted on the city web site and HR Strahl has sent the announcement to job boards and association web sites including Local News Paper, American Public Works Association and the closing date is May 16, 2025.
- d. Summer Laborers (Part Time) – Public Works: Job Announcements have been posted on the city web site closing date is April 30, 2025.

Water Meter Replacement Project – (ON-GOING) Non-Compliance property owners' appointments are progressing. No update. If they do not make an appointment to replace their meter, they will receive a fee of \$50.00 for a manual read a billing cycle, until they replace their meter.

Places For Eating Tax – Delinquent Businesses: Delinquent Businesses: Additional citations were issued. Staff is preparing the documents and records requested by City Attorney Stiff to prepare civil action. We will keep everyone updated as the process continues.

West Sanitary Sewer Treatment Project – Nothing new to report, still on schedule for the plant to be completed in 2026 (60% Completed). Will keep everyone posted.

Department of Public Works Training - Two employees attended the Water Conference in Peoria, DPW Employee John Kemp successfully passed the Class B Water License Test.

State of Illinois Crime Lab/State Police Headquarters Project – Nothing new to report.

City Website – Update: CivicPLUS had a TEAMS meeting to begin outlining tasks and allowing for feedback relating to the web site redesign process. All departments are participating. Redesign Concept templates will be discussed at the next TEAMS meeting. A proposal is being prepared by CivicPLUS to present at a work session in May to review the additional services to redesign and update the Web Site, ADA Compliance Assessment, on-line payment module, and Community News Section. Easy to navigate and the ability for employees to refresh the web design.

Alderman Cipiti asked how many non-compliant meters are there still to replace and he was told there are sixty-two meters still needing replaced.

Council members asked questions about the water meter replacement project and enforcement of the proposed fee for a manual read. Interim City Administrator Graff explained they would draft an ordinance and notify affected property owners before implementing the fee.

Council was in favor of a letter going out informing the residents who were not compliant that there will be a \$50.00 fee.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Proposal for Consultant Services by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Total Environmental Service Technologies, Inc. (TEST, Inc.) per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#7) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Proposal for Consultant Services by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois, and Total Environmental Service Technologies, Inc. (TEST, Inc.) per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

Resolution #1295

Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen requested the Approval of Pay Request #27 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,076,112.10 per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#8) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve Pay Request #27 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$1,076,112.10 per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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 ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve the Mayor to Execute the MFT Forms for Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code, Estimate of Maintenance Costs and Maintenance Engineering to be Performed by a Consulting Engineer for 2025/2026 MFT Program as included in the 2025/2026 City Budget per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#9) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve the Mayor to Execute the MFT Forms for Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code, Estimate of Maintenance Costs and Maintenance Engineering to be Performed by a Consulting Engineer for 2025/2026 MFT Program as included in the 2025/2026 City Budget per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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 #1296

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested a Resolution Approving an Engagement Letter with Chapman and Cutler, LLP in an Amount not to Exceed \$45,000.00 for Funding through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (Administered by the Illinois EPA) of Certain Capital Projects Required for the City's Conversion to Lake Michigan Water per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

Alderman Albert noted an error in the resolution referring to "deep wells" instead of "shallow wells." The motion was amended to correct this language. The motion was amended to "shallow wells."

(#10) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Engagement Letter with Chapman and Cutler, LLP in an Amount not to Exceed \$45,000.00 for Funding through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (Administered by the Illinois EPA) of Certain Capital Projects Required for the City's Conversion to Lake Michigan Water per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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 #1297

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Economic & Community Development Director Patrick Ainsworth requested to Approve a Resolution Approving the Appointment of Adam Crossett to the Position of Full-Time Building Inspector for the City of Crest Hill Effective May 5, 2025, and Setting the Initial Salary for Adam Crossett per the memo dated April 21, 2025. This is setting the initial salary at \$72,000.00.

(#11) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve a Resolution Approving the Appointment of Adam Crossett to the Position of Full-Time Building Inspector for the City of Crest Hill Effective May 5, 2025, and Setting the Initial Salary for Adam Crossett per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

Resolution #1298

Economic & Community Development Director Patrick Ainsworth requested to Approve a Resolution and Authorizing the Execution of a "First Amendment to Contract for the Purchase of Real Estate" Dated July 15, 2024, by and between the City of Crest Hill and

QuikTrip Corporation for the Purchase of Property Located at 1610 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill, Illinois per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

This would be a resolution to amend the contract with QuikTrip Corporation, allowing ninety (90) additional days for due diligence related to IDOT access on Plainfield Road.

(#12) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution and Authorizing the Execution of a “First Amendment to Contract for the Purchase of Real Estate” Dated July 15, 2024, by and between the City of Crest Hill and QuikTrip Corporation for the Purchase of Property Located at 1610 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill, Illinois per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

Resolution #1299

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone had any questions for Economic & Community Development.

Alderman Dyke inquired about several properties, including:

- The Oakland Avenue bus lot (letter sent requesting a meeting with property owners)
- Vacant properties on Weber Road (unincorporated, potential for future development)
- An abandoned house on Broadway/Route 53 (on state property, to be investigated)

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Soliman requested the Re-appointment of Plan Commissioner John Stanton per the memo dated April 21, 2025. This will be his fifth three-year term expiring May 1, 2028.

(#13) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, for the Re-appointment of Plan Commissioner John Stanton per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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 requested the Re-appointment of Plan Commissioner Jeff Peterson per the memo dated April 21, 2025. This will be a three-year term expiring May 1, 2028.

(#14) Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderman Albert, for the Re-appointment of Plan Commissioner Jeff Peterson per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

Mayor Soliman requested the Re-appointment of Civil Service Commissioner Frank Blaskey per the memo dated April 21, 2025. This will be his third three-year term expiring May 1, 2028.

(#15) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, for the Re-appointment of Civil Service Commissioner Frank Blaskey per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

Mayor Soliman requested the Re-appointment of Deputy Liquor Commissioner Mike Gale per the memo dated April 21, 2025. This is a four-year term expiring May 7, 2029.

Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, for the Re-appointment of Deputy Liquor Commissioner Mike Gale per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

Some Council members, including Alderman Albert and Alderman Dyke, raised concerns about appointing a non-resident to such a position. Alderman Albert commented that he has the upmost respect for Mr. Gale but feels this position should be a resident of the City of Crest Hill.

Mayor Soliman commented that Deputy Liquor Commissioner Gale has served in this role for the past 16 years and has resided in the city for over 40 years. Mayor Soliman expressed his confidence in Deputy Commissioner Gale's qualifications and highlighted the effective teamwork between Deputy Liquor Commissioner Gale and fellow Deputy Liquor Commissioner Stengele.

(#16) Motion by Alderwoman Methvin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, for the Re-appointment of Deputy Liquor Commissioner Mike Gale per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Kubal, Methvin, Gazal.

NAYES: Ald. Albert, Dyke, Jefferson, Oberlin Cipiti.

ABSENT: None.

There being five (5) negative votes, the MOTION FAILED.

Mayor Soliman requested the Re-appointment of Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dave Stengele per the memo dated April 21, 2025. This will be a four-year term expiring May 7, 2029. Mr. Stengele's tenure began on January 21, 2019.

(#17) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, for the Re-appointment of Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dave Stengele per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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 also announced the City's Annual Memorial Day Program scheduled for May 26, 2025, at 2:00 PM. The event would feature guest speaker Tony Arellano from Cantigny Post 367 VFW and music by the Frankfort Brass Band. Attendees are encouraged to honor the sacrifices made by Veterans and Police Officers through their service, underlining the spirit of community and remembrance that Memorial Day embodies. Refreshments are to be served following the ceremony.

CITY CLERK: Clerk Vershay-Hall also announced that the City-Wide Garage Sale will be Thursday, May 15, 2025, through Sunday, May 18, 2025. There is a \$5.00 permit fee and the deadline to submit your application and be placed on the list is Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Maps and Lists will be available for pick up at the Clerk's Office on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Glen Conklin requested to Approve the List of Bills Issued Through April 21, 2025, in the Amount of \$1,402,360.27 per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

(#18) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the List of Bills Issued Through April 21, 2025, in the Amount of \$1,402,360.27 per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the Regular and Overtime Payroll from March 24, 2025, through April 6, 2025, in the amount of \$251,440.24 per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the Quarterly Compensation Time Buy Back for the Period February 1, 2025, ~ April 30, 2025, in the Amount of \$18,173.10 per the memo dated April 21, 2025.

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: Alderperson Oberlin reminded all that April 22nd is Earth Day and asked everyone to do whatever you can to help our planet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

Attorney Stiff informed the Council that there was a need for an executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

(#19) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to go into executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

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.

Executive Session 8:43 p.m.

(#20) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to reconvene from the executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

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 9:04 p.m.

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

(#21) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to adjourn the April 21, 2025, Council meeting.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Approved this 19 day of may, 2025.

As presented ✓

As amended _____


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR