

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
May 5, 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 commented that the month of May holds a special place as Police Officers Memorial Month. Mayor Soliman took a moment to solemnly remember and honor two Crest Hill police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. He shared the stories of Officer James Nink and Sergeant Timothy Simonson, both of whom lost their lives while serving and protecting the community. Officer Nink was tragically killed on September 16, 1967, during an armed robbery investigation, while Sergeant Simonson was killed on September 28, 1994, in a similar tragic incident. The Mayor acknowledged their bravery and service, stating that the citizens of Crest Hill would never forget their contributions and sacrifices. He also paid respect to the families of the fallen officers, acknowledging the loss and extending the City's condolences.

Mayor Solomon further extended thoughts and prayers to the victims of a recent tragedy in Chatham, Illinois, where a car accident at a daycare center resulted in the loss of young lives. He expressed condolences to the affected families, highlighting the community's shared grief and support.

A Moment of Silence was had in remembrance of Officer Nink, Sergeant Simonson, and the families to the loss of the young lives in Chatham, Illinois.

Following these heartfelt reflections, Mayor Soliman invited Deacon John Friend from Saint Ambrose Saint Anne's Parish in Crest Hill to offer an opening prayer. Deacon Friend graciously accepted and led a prayer seeking blessings for the community, gratitude for those who serve the public and private sectors, and wisdom for the City's leaders as they navigate important decisions for the future. The Deacon's prayer emphasized the vision of Crest Hill as a "City set on a hill," a beacon of light and positivity for the area.

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, Deputy Clerk Karen Kozierka, City Attorney Mike Stiff, Chris Ulm with Strand Engineering.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT- Update Regarding the City's Water System: Mayor Soliman opened the floor for public comment regarding an update on the city's water system and the recent notice about PFAS in the water. He stated that while the city did not create the PFAS problem, they are forced to deal with it. He noted that forty-seven other cities in Illinois are facing similar issues, and it is a nationwide problem.

The Mayor emphasized that the city is taking the problem seriously and exploring all options to remediate it. He mentioned that acquiring Lake Michigan Water in 2021 was part of the solution to address the PFAS issue. He asked for cooperation and patience from the public.

Chris Ulm from the consulting engineering group provided technical details about the city's water wells and the history of water quality issues. Mr. Ulm explained that the city joined neighboring municipalities in 2019 to fund a study on the longevity of the aquifer as a potable water source. In 2021, Strand Associates was retained to provide an alternative water supply evaluation. The analysis showed that switching to treated Lake Michigan water supply was more cost-effective than constructing additional wells and using advanced water treatment plants to treat PFAS.

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman outlined the city's plans to address wells with PFAS levels above the new regulatory limits. He mentioned several options being explored, including:

- Interconnecting the existing water supply with other surrounding communities' water supplies.
- Throttling or reducing water supply from the two wells showing higher PFAS limits during non-peak times.
- Accelerating the construction of a new 2.5 million gallon above-ground storage tank.
- Investigating temporary water filtration units for the two locations with high PFAS ratings.
- Exploring the option of completely upgrading the two wells with high PFAS levels.
- Considering the installation of a deep well to blend water with the shallower wells.
- Investigating a program to provide point-of-use treatment for residents to help filter out PFAS.

Engineer Wiedeman also mentioned that an independent company would test all wells for PFAS and conduct tests at multiple locations in each ward to determine actual readings at the faucets.

Several residents asked questions and expressed concerns about the safety of drinking water and the potential impact on property values. City officials provided responses and assured residents that they were working diligently to address the issue.

*Lisa Chapman*, a resident, approached the podium and thanked the Mayor and the Council for taking this seriously and thanked them for the informational presentation. Ms. Chapman then asked if the remedies are anticipated to increase the water bills for the residents. Mayor

Soliman commented that they are not sure at this time and that is why they are taking their time and exploring all options since the remediations are quite costly.

*Rupert Rodriquez*, a resident, asked how dangerous or concerning would it be for them to continue drinking the faucet water and should he purchase a water purifier? Mayor Soliman commented that he has been drinking the water out of the faucet for sixty-seven years and if anyone looks for a water filtration system, they need to make sure it is certified to remove PFAS, PFO, and PFOA.

Engineer Wiedeman commented that he strongly encourages everyone to review USEPA website or the Illinois EPA website regarding how you can minimize your exposure to PFAS.

*Steve Kemnetz*, a resident, thanked everyone for the informational presentation and asked which wells have the highest amount of PFAS and he was told that it is published on the website and gives the locations, which is Well #1 and Well #7.

*Kim Rutkowski*, a resident, commented that temporary options were mentioned because of the wells and asked if the chemicals are in Lake Michigan and could continue to get higher and asked if we would be looking at permanent options for future purposes? Mr. Ulm commented that when the switch to Lake Michigan water happens water treats five million people and their intakes are very deep, deeper than any other intakes in the lake, which is why they have not had problems and if they do they will place treatment and the cost would be split amongst the five million people.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting Held on April 7, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting Held on April 7, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 5, 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 presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 22, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#2) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 22, 2025, per the memo dated May 5, 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.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 29, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#3) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 29, 2025, per the memo dated May 5, 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.

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on April 14, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on April 14, 2025, per the memo dated May 5, 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.

CITY ATTORNEY: Attorney Mike Stiff requested the Approval of a Settlement Agreement between the City of Crest Hill and Metropolitan Alliance of Police for Grievances 24-01, 24-02, and 24-03 per the memo dated May 5, 2025. This was discussed in executive session last week.

(#5) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve a Settlement between the City of Crest Hill and Metropolitan Alliance of Police for Grievances 24-01, 24-02, and 24-03 per the memo dated May 5, 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.

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. A & D Storage at Renwick and Borio submitted building plans for review. The goal with this project is to break down this spring. More information will be provided soon.

- B. A lease has been signed for the former Lucano's Pizza space at 2400 Caton Farm Road. The proposed restaurant name is being finalized and will focus on breakfast and lunch. The prospective restaurant owner has other restaurants in the region.
- C. Community Development will be initiating a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to address some land uses that are either missing or need clarification from the current Ordinance. This text amendment case will be presented at the June 12, 2025, Plan Commission meeting and will then come before the City Council for review and consideration.
- D. Staff from the Community Development and Finance Departments completed the FY 24 Annual TIF Reports and the annual meeting with all taxing bodies was conducted on April 29, 2025 – this meeting is called the Joint Review Board (JRB).

STATEVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER – Capital Development Board – Correspondence was found that was dated March 12, 2025, addressed to Senator David Koehler & Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer from Director Latoya Hughes, Illinois Department of Corrections. Subject was an update on the rebuild of Stateville and Logan Correctional Centers.

BL DUKE FIRE: B.L. Duke Fire Incident 11/1/2024: The Finance Director Glenn Gehrke prepared the invoice and cover letter which was delivered to BL Duke Scrap Metal Recycling Yard 2 Genstar Lane near Industry Avenue off Broadway Street (Unincorporated Will County) via US Mail on 4/30/2025, included in the invoice packet was a request to forward the insurance contact information.

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: The employee chosen completed the background check and begins work on 5/5/2025.
- b. City Administrator Search – MGT/GovHR Consulting Recruitment Services – There were four candidates selected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> interview scheduled on 5/6/2025 for the Special Work Session Meeting (Executive Session). City Tours were scheduled on 5/2 & 5/5/.
- 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 May 16, 2025.
- e. Utility Operator(s) – Public Works Job Announcement has been posted on the City Web Site with a closing date of May 16, 2025.

Water Meter Replacement Project – (ON-GOING) Non-Compliance property owners' appointments are progressing. No update.

Places For Eating Tax – Delinquent Businesses: Delinquent Businesses: Additional citations were issued. Staff are preparing the documents and records requested by City Attorney Stiff to prepare civil action, along with working with the Illinois Department of Revenue. 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 – Nothing to Report.

State of Illinois Crime Lab/State Police Headquarters Project – Design Engineers contacted City Engineer Wiedeman to request GIS Information for the Utilities on site for the Stateville Property. Still waiting for the final EPA comment period to be completed to obtain the environmental authorization to construct on the site.

City Website – Update: CivicPLUS is working with Finance and Building Department regarding the online payment program and design. Exploring to design and create a City Water Department Web Site to provide announcements and updates about the current and future water projects, along with resource information about water quality & PFAS.

City Engineer Wiedeman Report & Updates:

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Engineer Wiedeman and Director Ainsworth had a meeting with IDOT to discuss traffic concerns at the Theodore at Knapp, Larkin/Weber at Plainfield Road and any development of the Old City Hall Site. Engineer Wiedeman is looking at preparing a scope of work that will study the area bounded by Knapp Weber/Larkin, Plainfield Road and Theodore that will address traffic flow and suggested Traffic calming along Knapp. Once he has something it will be presented to the Council.
- Oakland Avenue WM Project – the City received four bids from contractors. Upon review of the bids, it was decided to reject all bids and advertise again.
- Broadway and Theodore WM lining project (CIPP) projects are tentatively awarded, and all required paperwork has been sent to the IEPA just waiting on IEPA approval so project can move forward.
- Division east of Weber reconstruction plans is currently scheduled to be completed by late May. Still waiting on city to receive DCEO award before bidding project out.
- Traffic Signals Relocation – Ryan to Weber – Plans to be ready for by August 2025 with a tentative bidding date in November 2025.
- Hillcrest Shopping Center WM replacement and relocations bid documents will be ready in June 2025 with a bid sometime in July 2025.
- Innercircle WM replacement and roadway Rehabilitation bid documents will be ready in May 2025 with a bid sometime in Late May/Early June 2025.
- Crest Hill Business Park staff have been working with existing stakeholders and potential developers to create the best alignment through the business park and east to Weber to address both traffic concerns and developers' issues. Staff are looking to provide some proposed alignments by late summer or early fall.
- Capital Water and Sanitary analysis and study has been under way since last fall. Detailed evaluations of each well house and the east STP have been ongoing and

are scheduled to be completed at the end of April 2025 with a draft report due July 2025. This report will be used to determine future repair and maintenance projects.

- Caton Farm WM for GPWC. Bid documents to be ready for bidding in May 2025 with construction during summer/fall of 2025. Design has been modified to move water main to south side of Caton Farm Road to eliminate discussion with the DOC on easements. Required easement along the south side of Caton Farm to be finalized prior to construction starting.
- New Ground storage water tank and east and west receiving station for the GPWC are scheduled to be bid in late 2025 and early 2026.
- Caton Farm Road Bridge over CNRR. Inspection will be completed in late spring to determine the work required. Once inspections are completed, repair plans, cost estimates and construction schedule will be determined.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen commented that he had no agenda items for discussion but was happy to answer any questions. There were no questions.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman commented that he had no agenda items for discussion but wanted to let Alderperson Oberlin know that Comcast had finally cleaned up the broken box on the corner she had inquired about.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Economic & Community Development Director Patrick Ainsworth requested a Motion to Deny a Request for Penalty Permit Fee Waiver Request for 20635 Renwick Road per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

Director Ainsworth stated that unauthorized work had been conducted on the property without obtaining the necessary permit. As a result, a penalty fee was incurred. The property manager, Roger Chavez, representing Keaton Property Management, formally requested a waiver for this penalty fee.

Director Ainsworth elaborated on the timeline and the city staff's discovery of the unauthorized work, emphasizing that although the applicant had subsequently come in to secure the required permit, the penalty fee was deemed necessary to uphold regulatory enforcement. The staff recommended against granting the waiver as a matter of maintaining fairness and procedural integrity.

(#6) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Deny a Request for Penalty Permit Fee Waiver Request for 20635 Renwick Road per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Deputy Police Chief Ryan Dobczyk informed the Council that the two new officers had graduated from the Police Academy and have started their field

training. Deputy Chief Dobczyk also commented that they are sending another officer on May 19, 2025, to the Police Academy.

Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that the Police Department took place in the Illinois Step Grants which is a federally funded traffic safety campaign and in April the campaign was for distracted drivers, and they issued thirteen violations for handsfree violation along with forty-four other citations. He also mentioned that they are having another 'Click-It or ticket' campaign on Memorial Day and reminded everyone to wear their seatbelt.

Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk read a proclamation during the City Council meeting, officially designating the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025, as National Police Week in the City of Crest Hill. Additionally, May 17, 2025, was designated as National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The proclamation acknowledged the dedication, strength, and character of police officers across the nation who work tirelessly to maintain peace and justice, emphasizing the sacrifices made by officers who put their personal safety on the line every day. Special recognition was given to the Crest Hill Police Department for exemplifying these values in their service to the community.

The proclamation also paid tribute to all police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, with specific mention of Officer James W. Nink and Sergeant Timothy A. Simonson, who were tragically killed while serving the City of Crest Hill. Both officers were remembered for their bravery, commitment, and the ultimate sacrifice they made in the line of duty.

Deputy Chief Dobczyk emphasized the importance of honoring these officers and promoting awareness of the vital role police officers play in ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

(#7) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Proclamation for National Police Week per the memo dated May 5, 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.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman requested to Approve the Appointment of Glen Conklin to the Police Pension Board per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

Mayor Soliman emphasized the critical nature of appointing Glen Conklin to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term ending on May 1, 2027, because of his profound knowledge of the board's operations and previous involvement. During the April 7, 2025, meeting, Mayor Soliman stated that Glen Conklin's long-standing commitment to attending Police Pension Board meetings over the last 12 years, coinciding with his tenure as the City's Treasurer, provided him with invaluable experience and insights into the board's functions. This historical engagement placed Glen Conklin in an advantageous position to

contribute effectively to the board's ongoing responsibilities in overseeing the Police Pension Funds.

(#8) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, for Approval of the Appointment of Glen Conklin.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Gazal.

ABSENT: None.

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

Alderwoman Gazal commented that this is an amazing recommendation but due to her relationship with the appointee she will be abstaining.

Mayor Soliman requested to Approve the Appointment of Tom Hunter to the Civil Service Commission per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

Mayor Soliman commented that this appointment is for a one-year term, expiring on May 1, 2026, filling the unexpired term of the late Commission member, Mr. Nick Weiss, who passed away approximately two months prior. The mayor underscored Mr. Hunter's suitability for the role due to his strong administrative background, which he has demonstrated through his application and resume. He emphasized the value Mr. Hunter would bring to the commission, describing him as a tremendous asset capable of contributing effectively to the board's duties.

Mr. Hunter was present at a previous work session, and his credentials were reviewed by the Council, who found him well-qualified for the responsibilities ahead.

(#9) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderman Kubal, to Approve the Appointment of Tom Hunter to the Civil Service Commission per the memo dated May 5, 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.

Mr. Tom Hunter approached the podium and expressed his gratitude for the Council's confidence in him and assured the Council that he would perform his duties to the best of his ability.

Mayor Soliman announced that the Crest Hill Veteran's and Police Memorial Committee will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Room. Mayor Soliman then invited everyone to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans' and Police Memorial Day Ceremony. This event will be at 2:00 p.m. There will be a guest speaker, Mr. Tony Arrellano from Cantigny Post #367 and American Legion Post #1080, along with the Frankfort Brass Band. Refreshments will be served.

CITY CLERK: Clerk Vershay-Hall 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 25, 2025, in the Amount of \$666,458.29 per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#10) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Methvin, to Approve the List of Bills Issued Through April 25, 2025, in the Amount of \$666,458.29 per the memo dated May 5, 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.

City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the Regular and Overtime Payroll from April 7, 2025, through April 20, 2025, in the amount of \$271,458.86 per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

Treasurer Conklin thanked the Mayor, the Council, and the staff for a pleasurable twelve years and commented that the City of Crest Hill has a good man in charge of the Finance Department.

Alderperson Oberlin wished Treasurer Conklin well on his future endeavors and hopes only the best for him to come.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Alderman Jefferson raised a question regarding the waiver of the market analysis for the Lockport Township Fire Department hearing. He expressed concerns that the absence of a market analysis could impact on residential properties and potential businesses near the new gun range and fire training facility. Patrick Ainsworth, the Economic & Community Development Director, provided clarification, explaining that the waiver for the market report and the school report was incorporated into the ordinance that was passed. Director Ainsworth stated that the zoning ordinance only mandates market data for residential, commercial, and industrial land uses and does not extend this requirement to institutional or governmental uses. Consequently, this explains why the analyses were not conducted in this particular case. He was also questioned about the timeline of when the ordinance was established, to which he replied that, based on his four-month tenure, the zoning ordinance has included these provisions at least since 2018, though he could not speak to exact dates prior due to his recent involvement.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Soliman thanked Treasurer Glen Conklin and Alderwoman Jennifer Methvin for their friendship, commitment, dedication, loyalty, and service to the City of Crest Hill.

Aldерwoman Gazal read aloud Resolution 1300, which was crafted to honor Glen A. Conklin for his twelve years of dedicated service as City Treasurer. The resolution emphasized Mr. Conklin's numerous achievements and pivotal contributions to the City throughout his tenure. Highlights of his service include his successful efforts in investing City reserves, his pivotal role in improving the funding of the City's Police Pension alongside the Council, and the strengthening of relationships between the Treasurer's Office and Elected Officials.

During his time as Treasurer, Mr. Conklin also served as Treasurer of the City of Crest Hill Veteran Police Memorial Committee for eight years and agreed to continue in that role. The resolution extended profound gratitude to Mr. Conklin for his dedication and resolved to express the City's commendation and best wishes for his future endeavors.

Mayor Soliman requested to Approve a Resolution Honoring Glen A. Conklin for his Service to the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#11) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve a resolution Honoring Glen A. Conklin for his Service to the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated May 5, 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 #1300

Subsequently, Mayor Raymond R. Soliman presented Glen Conklin with a ceremonial copy of the resolution, accompanied by a plaque recognizing his exceptional service. With heartfelt gratitude, Soliman acknowledged Mr. Conklin's insight and knowledge, which he generously shared with the City Council and staff over the years. Acknowledging his consistent presence at all Council meetings, the Mayor expressed sincere appreciation for Mr. Conklin's dedication and service. Soliman concluded with well wishes for Mr. Conklin's future endeavors, noting that Mr. Conklin would still be around as a member of the Police Pension Board, underscoring the continued value of his service and expertise to the City.

Many Council members thanked Glen Conklin for his service and friendship and wished him well on his new endeavors.

Mayor Soliman asked for Alderman Dyke to join him at the podium.

Alderman Dyke read Resolution 1301, which was crafted to honor Alderwoman Jennifer L. Methvin for her ten months of dedicated service as Alderwoman for Ward 1. The resolution highlighted Jennifer Methvin's commitment to improving the quality of life for Crest Hill residents through her participation and engagement in City Council discussions and decisions.

Alderwoman Methvin was initially appointed to her position on July 1, 2024, following the passing of Alderman John Vershay, who had served Ward 1 for over 40 years.

Alderwoman Methvin's appointment filled a challenging void, and she faced the difficult task of following in the footsteps of her predecessor. However, her contributions brought a fresh perspective to the Council, drawing from her professional background in nursing to provide valuable insights.

The resolution acknowledged Alderwoman Methvin's efforts in involving herself in dialogues and policy making aimed at fostering community development and enhancing civic engagement. Her term, although short, was marked by meaningful participation and a proactive approach to governance.

Mayor Soliman asked for a motion to Approve a Resolution Honoring Jennifer L. Methvin for her Service to the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

(#12) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve a Resolution Honoring Jennifer L. Methvin for her Service to the City of Crest Hill per the memo dated May 5, 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.

Resolution #1301

Following the approval, Mayor Soliman presented Jennifer Methvin with a ceremonial copy of the resolution and a commemorative plaque, expressing his gratitude for her service. Mayor Soliman noted her entry during a tumultuous time and praised her for stepping into an unexpectedly demanding role with grace and dedication. The mayor also acknowledged her ability to manage her Council responsibilities alongside her professional commitments, highlighting her contribution to the City's progress and thanking her for the sacrifices made by both her and her family during her tenure on the Council.

Alderwoman Methvin thanked the Mayor and the Council for having her these past ten months and commented that it was a grand experiment for her and she seen the ups and downs which gave her a fresh new perspective.

Many Council members thanked Alderwoman Methvin for her service.

Mayor Soliman announced that we would be swearing in the newly elected City Officials.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Nathaniel 'Nate' Albert as Alderperson in Ward IV. Alderperson Albert gave a speech. He then took his place with the Council.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Mark Cipiti as Alderperson in Ward III. Alderperson Cipiti gave a speech. He then took his place with the Council.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Darrell Jefferson as Alderperson in Ward II. Alderperson Jefferson gave a speech. He then took his place with the Council.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Scott Dyke as Alderperson in Ward I. Alderperson Dyke gave a speech. He then took his place with the Council.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Angelo Deserio as Alderperson in Ward I. Alderperson Deserio gave a speech. He then took his place with the Council.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Jamie Malloy as City Treasurer. Treasurer Malloy gave a speech. She then took her place with the Council.

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall swore in Raymond Soliman as Mayor. Mayor Soliman gave a speech. He then took his place with the Council.

Mayor Raymond R. Soliman delivered an extended and heartfelt speech outlining his vision for Crest Hill over the next four years. He reflected on past accomplishments, including the significant improvement in the city's bond rating and fiscal management practices since the beginning of his mayoral term. Highlighting economic development, Soliman discussed the City's strategic move towards acquiring Lake Michigan water by 2030, which would ensure a clean and reliable water source for Crest Hill and address the PFAS contamination issue. Mayor Soliman also emphasized the importance of public safety, stating that two additional police officers would be hired, building on the city's largest-ever police force.

Mayor Soliman articulated the potential transformation of Crest Hill into a community hub, envisioning a municipal complex with amenities like playgrounds, farmer's markets, and band shells to enhance community engagement. He reiterated his commitment to financial responsibility and infrastructure development, including road improvements and sewage treatment enhancements.

In a call for unity, Soliman urged Council members to work respectfully and collaboratively, recognizing that diverse opinions only strengthen city governance. By committing to shared goals, he expressed confidence in continued growth and progress for Crest Hill, underscoring the positive legacy the Council could collectively create over the next four years. Mayor Soliman closed with gratitude to the past Mayors and City Officials for their groundwork, viewing their contributions as the cornerstone upon which new successes can be built.

Mayor Soliman then commented that the City Clerk was sworn in this afternoon and asked her if she would like to make any comments and she did not.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: Alderperson Oberlin commented that the Lidice Ceremony is Sunday, June 8, 2025, correcting a previously communicated date.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderperson Oberlin began her comments by emphasizing the importance of Mother's Day, reflecting on the unparalleled contributions and sacrifices that mothers make. She encouraged everyone to show appreciation and love to their mothers or mother figures, highlighting that a mother's work is truly never done. She also wished a special happy Mother's Day to Alderwoman Gazal, recognizing the unique challenges and rewards of being a single mother.

Alderman Cipiti echoed the sentiment of appreciation for the outgoing Officials, expressing gratitude for their service to the city. He extended his congratulations to the newly Elected Officials, welcoming them to the Council and expressing enthusiasm for the collaborative work ahead.

Alderman Albert conveyed gratitude towards his constituents for their continued trust and support. Alderman Albert expressed eagerness to work with fellow Council members, focusing on common goals and reinforcing the importance of maintaining close communication with residents. Alderman Albert also acknowledged the professionalism and dedication he observed throughout the council's proceedings.

Alderman Kubal wished everyone a Happy Cinco de Mayo.

Alderman Dyke wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and a special Mother's Day to his wife and daughter. Alderman Dyke reflected on the importance of collective efforts and inclusivity when making decisions that impact the entire city. Alderman Dyke thanked the Council members and city staff for their commitment to Crest Hill, recognizing their contributions as instrumental in past successes and future plans. Alderman Dyke reiterated his excitement to work with both returning and new colleagues.

Alderman Deserio thanked everyone for their support and welcoming him to the Council. He also thanked his wife and son for the many years of support that they have given him on every endeavor he has stepped into.

Alderman Jefferson wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Alderman Jefferson committed himself to addressing resident concerns and emphasized the necessity of approaching challenges with a positive mindset. He stressed that his focus would remain on delivering the best possible outcomes for his constituents, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.

Alderwoman Gazal wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Alderwoman Gazal shared her thoughts on collaboration, acknowledging the significance of working respectfully despite differing opinions. She also thanked city staff and expressed a commitment to continuing progress for Crest Hill.

Newly appointed City Treasurer Jamie Malloy expressed her heartfelt appreciation for her family's support and acknowledged the responsibilities ahead within her new role. She reaffirmed her dedication to serving transparently, ensuring residents remain informed and engaged.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

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

(#13) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Albert, to adjourn the May 5, 2025, Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.


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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Approved this 2 day of JUNE, 2025.

As presented ✓

As amended \_\_\_\_\_

  
CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

  
RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR