

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
May 19, 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.

Unfortunately, Mayor Soliman had some sad news to share and announced the passing of former Alderman Charles Convery, a beloved friend of the City, who had passed away at the age of ninety-two after a lengthy battle. Mr. Convery had a notable career in public service, having served as the Alderman for Ward 4 from 2005 to 2017.

Mayor Soliman spoke fondly of Mr. Convery, highlighting his dedication and contributions to the City. He described Alderman Convery as a very good alderman and an even better person, emphasizing his family orientation and his commitment to the residents of Crest Hill. Mr. Convery was known for going to bat 110 percent for the community. The Mayor sincerely thanked Convery and his family for their sacrifices during his twelve-year tenure, acknowledging the improvements he brought to the quality of life in Crest Hill. Mayor Soliman extended condolences to Charles Convery's wife, Mae, and their two sons, and daughter, for their support and sacrifices during those years.

In honor of Charles Convery's legacy and service, Mayor Soliman requested a moment of silence from those present.

Roll call indicated the following present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Treasurer Jamie Malloy, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, Alderman Scott Dyke, 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, Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen, Community Development Consultant Ron Mentzer, Interim Human Resource Manager Dave Strahl, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: Alderman Angelo Deserio, Community and Economic Development Director Patrick Ainsworth, Building Commissioner Don Seeman.

Mayor Soliman commented that he received a message from Alderman Deserio, and he is excused from tonight's meeting.

Mayor Soliman asked to deviate to the Mayor updates for a resolution honoring Renee Maly on her retirement for the City of Crest Hill Police Department.

The City Council read aloud Resolution 1302, honoring Renee S. Maly on her retirement after twenty years of dedicated service with the Crest Hill Police Department. Mayor Soliman, along with Alderman Dyke and other Council members, expressed their heartfelt gratitude and admiration for Renee's unwavering commitment and numerous accomplishments.

The resolution highlighted Renee's historic role as the first female investigator for the city and celebrated her being awarded Officer of the Year in 2012. It also recognized her invaluable contributions to the community, including her service with the Will Grundy Major Crimes Task Force and the initiatives she championed, such as the annual car show fundraiser for the Special Olympics, Pizza with the Chief events at local schools, and Family Fun Day.

(#1) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Honoring Renee Maly on her Retirement from the City of Crest Hill Police Department per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Resolution # 1302

Mayor Soliman personally extended his thanks to Renee Maly, acknowledging her as one of the pioneering female Police Officers who rose through the ranks with distinction. He commended her for significantly improving the quality of life in Crest Hill and wished her continued success in all future endeavors. Acknowledging the supportive presence of Renee's friends and family in attendance, he emphasized the deep respect and friendship she had cultivated with the city's staff and officers.

Renee Maly approached the podium and expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve the City she has called home since childhood. Ms. Maly shared that despite not being born in Crest Hill, moving there in fourth grade had made the City a significant part of her life. She thanked the community, the Council, and her colleagues for their support during her career.

Several Council members took turns offering heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Ms. Maly, recalling fond memories of her impactful service. They emphasized her role in shaping Crest Hill's community spirit and her pioneering efforts within the Police Department. They extended their best wishes for a joyous future in her retirement.

Mayor Soliman commented that they have a Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month for the City of Crest Hill.

The City Council read aloud a proclamation declaring May 2025 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Crest Hill. The proclamation highlighted the significance of motorcycle safety and awareness, emphasizing that safety is the highest priority for the highways and streets of the city and state. It acknowledged the state's status as a leader in motorcycle safety and

recognized the contributions motorcycles make to reducing fuel consumption and traffic congestion.

The document also underscored the need for citizens to acknowledge motorcycles on the road and underlined the role of A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education (ABATE) in promoting motorcycle safety education. The organization has been instrumental in educating high school students and the general public about motorcycle safety, reaching over 120,000 participants in Illinois over the past nine years.

(#2) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Approve a Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Mayor Soliman presented a copy of the proclamation to David Floyd, a representative from ABATE. Mr. Floyd accepted the document on behalf of the organization and expressed gratitude to the Council. Mr. Floyd highlighted the critical importance of motorcycle awareness for safety, mentioning the dangers of distracted driving, such as texting, which make motorcyclists more vulnerable on the roads. Mr. Floyd expressed his appreciation for the Council's continued support for motorcycle safety awareness, noting that such efforts are vital to keeping these safety measures in the public's consciousness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting Held on April 21, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#3) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting Held on April 21, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special City Council Meeting Held on April 28, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the Minutes from the Special City Council Meeting Held on April 28, 2025, per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on April 28, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#5) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve the Minutes from the Work Session Meeting Held on April 28, 2025, per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on May 6, 2025, for Council approval per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#6) Motion by Alderman Cipiti seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve the Minutes from the Special Work Session Meeting Held on May 6, 2025, per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Mike Stiff stated he had no agenda items for discussion but was available for questions. No questions were asked.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Interim Public Works Director Julius Hansen requested to Approve a Quote with Layne Christensen Company to Complete the Work on Well 10 and not to Exceed an Amount of \$80,000.00 per the memo dated May 19, 2025. Interim Public Works Director Julius Hanson explained that Well 10 had suffered lightning damage and repairs were needed. The total cost was \$88,951.90, slightly over the previously approved \$80,000.

(#7) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Quote with Layne Christensen Company to Complete the Work on Well 10 and not to Exceed an Amount of \$88,951.90 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Interim Public works Director Julius Hansen requested to Approve Pay Request #28 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$571,023.23 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#8) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve Pay Request #28 from Vissering Construction Inc. with Direction to Send it to the IEPA for

Approval and Disbursement for a Total Amount of \$571,023.23 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Alderman Dyke requested an update on addressing issues with b-boxes in certain areas of the City. Interim Director Hansen stated that the next Public Works Director will address this. Alderman Dyke also requested attention to weed control along Oakland Avenue.

CITY ENGINEER: City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Award the Contract and have the Mayor Execute the Construction Contract Documents with Strada Construction Company for the 2025 MFT Concrete Flatwork Program (Section No 26-00000-01-GM) in the Amount of \$141,525.00 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#9) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Albert, to Award the Contract and have the Mayor Execute the Construction Contract Documents with Strada Construction Company for the 2025 MFT Concrete Flatwork Program (Section No 26-00000-01-GM) in the Amount of \$141,525.00 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

City Engineer Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Rejecting the Bid of J. Russ & Company and Awarding the Contract for the Phase 1-Oakland Avenue Water Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction Improvement to Scanlon Excavating and Concrete in an Amount not to Exceed Two Million Four Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand and Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars and Ten Cents (2,449,936.10) per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

Discussion was had with clarifying discrepancies in the written amount for the contract. The agenda initially contained an error in listing the correct dollar amount numerically. The written text in the documents remained consistent at \$2,449,836.10, which was verified as accurate. Alderman Albert and other council members reviewed the documents' consistency across varying sections, confirming the resolution specified \$2,449,836.10 throughout.

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman was instrumental in clearing the discrepancies and emphasized that the bid evaluation process adheres strictly to numerical accuracy and factual examination. He noted that J. Russ & Company submitted the lowest bid but identified unresolved questions and issues preventing a contract award. Scanlon Excavating and Concrete emerged as the reliable choice following a detailed evaluation of submitted bids.

Alderman Nate Albert inquired about circumstances surrounding the lowest bid being declined and whether procedural compliance was maintained. City Engineer Ron Wiedeman explained that while J. Russ & Company's bid was monetarily the lowest, factors beyond cost required addressing, such as technical competence and contract compliance, justifying the Council's decision to pursue Scanlon Excavating and Concrete.

(#10) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Rejecting the Bid of J. Russ & Company and Awarding the Contract for the Phase 1-Oakland Avenue Water Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction Improvement to Scanlon Excavating and Concrete in an Amount not to Exceed Two Million Four Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand and Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars and Ten Cents (2,449,836.10).

On roll call, the votes was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Resolution #1303

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Construction Engineering Agreement for Oakland Avenue-Phase 1 Water Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction Improvement by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and V3 Companies of Illinois, Ltd. In an Amount of \$193,319.00 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#11) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Construction Engineering Agreement for Oakland Avenue-Phase 1 Water Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction Improvement by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and V3 Companies of Illinois, Ltd. In an Amount of \$193,319.00 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the votes was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Resolution #1304

Engineer Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for 2025 Sidewalk Cutting Program-Construction by and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Safe Step, LLC in the Amount of \$65,975.74 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#12) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement for 2025 Sidewalk Cutting Program-Construction by and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Safe Step, LLC in the Amount of \$65,975.74 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution #1305

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman requested to Approve a Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Replacement of Completion Bond 30168303 Issued by Western Surety Company to the City of Crest Hill on Behalf of Executive Construction for the Gas N Wash Major PUD Project with Site Improvement Bond 7471749 Issued by Old Republic Surety Company to the City of Crest Hill on Behalf of Austin Tyler Construction, Inc. for the Remaining Site Improvements Contained in the 2/10/25 Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#13) Motion by Alderman Albert seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Replacement of Completion Bond 30168303 Issued by Western Surety Company to the City of Crest Hill on Behalf of Executive Construction for the Gas N Wash Major PUD Project with Site Improvement Bond 7471749 Issued by Old Republic Surety Company to the City of Crest Hill on Behalf of Austin Tyler Construction, Inc. for the Remaining Site Improvements Contained in the 2/10/25 Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

There being seven (7) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
Resolution #1306

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Community Development Consultant Ron Mentzer requested to Approve an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for a "Utility Facility" (Solar Array) and a Variation of Section 11.6-1 of the Crest Hill Zoning Code with Respect to the Construction of the Emergency Access Road on PIN 11-04-33-100-002-0000, and a Variation from City Code Section 15.04.040(I)(8) to Allow a Driveway Width of 45 Feet of PIN 11-04-33-100-003-0000 Subject to Conditions (Application of Hendrickson USA, LLC) per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

Chris Batch, the General Manager of Hendrickson USA, approached the podium and stated that they are very excited about this project and they are looking forward to working with the City of Crest Hill.

Mayor Soliman asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against Hendrickson USA LLC regarding the SU-25-2-4-1 and no one approached the podium to speak for or against SU-25-2-4-1.

(#14) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Oberlin, to Approve an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for a "Utility Facility" (Solar Array) and a Variation of Section 11.6-1 of the Crest Hill Zoning Code with Respect to the Construction of the Emergency Access Road on PIN 11-04-33-100-002-0000, and a Variation from City Code Section 15.04.040(I)(8) to Allow a Driveway Width of 45 Feet of PIN 11-04-33-100-003-0000 Subject to Conditions (Application of Hendrickson USA, LLC) per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Ordinance #2019

Mayor Soliman extended his congratulations to Hendrickson, describing the solar array project as a potential model for similar eco-friendly and sustainable projects by other businesses in the region. The project not only reflects a significant corporate commitment to environmental stewardship but also aligns with broader community sustainability goals, potentially inspiring local industries to explore similar ventures. Mayor Soliman expressed optimism that this initiative from Hendrickson could lead the way in regional environmental development, benefiting both the company and the wider community.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Ed Clark thanked some city officials for volunteering their time and helping with the event. Chief Clark proudly shared that the "Cop on a Rooftop" fundraiser had surpassed expectations, raising over \$4,500, which was the highest amount raised to date for the event. The fundraiser proved to be a community success, fostering increased engagement and support for city initiatives.

Additionally, Chief Clark announced an upcoming blood drive scheduled for June 6th, from 9AM until 2PM, inviting Council members and residents to participate and volunteer, thereby further supporting the City's community welfare efforts. American Red Cross sponsors this event.

Deputy Chief Ryan Dobczyk requested to Approve a Resolution Approving a Purchase Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Motorola Solution per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

Deputy Chief Dobczyk explained the need to purchase three in-car cameras for new squad cars at a cost previously discussed. These cameras are essential for equipping the four new squad cars purchased through a grant. The department plans to reuse one of the pre-existing in-car cameras, but there remains a need for three new cameras to be acquired to complete the outfitting of these vehicles. The urgency to approve this purchase is heightened by concerns over potential tariff increases that could elevate the price.

(#15) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving a Purchase Agreement by and between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Motorola Solution per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Resolution #1307

Deputy Chief Dobczyk requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter 1.20 and Article 3, Division I (Penalties) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Crest Hill, Illinois per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

Deputy Chief Dobczyk explained that this amendment aimed to update language in the Code of Ordinances concerning the administrative hearing process. The recent discussions at last week's work session highlighted the need for adjustments to more accurately reflect current processes utilized in the administrative hearings conducted by the City.

(#16) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter 1.20 and Article 3, Division I (Penalties) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Crest Hill, Illinois per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Ordinance #2020

Deputy Chief Dobczyk requested to Approve an Ordinance Amending Section 5.68.110 (Fee Schedule) of Chapter 5.68 (Towing Companies) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Regulations) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

Deputy Chief Dobczyk presented the need to update the towing fee schedule under Section 5.68.110 of Chapter 5.68 concerning Towing Companies, noting that the fees had not been updated since 2008. The objective of this amendment was to align the fee schedule with current economic and competitive standards prevalent in the surrounding municipalities, thereby ensuring fair and adequate compensation for services rendered by towing companies operating within Crest Hill.

(#17) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to Approve an Ordinance Amending Section 5.68.110 (Fee Schedule) of Chapter 5.68 (Towing Companies) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Regulations) of the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Ordinance #2021

Aldersperson Oberlin recognized Officer Heidi Outlaw for all her time and success putting together events and applauded her for going above and beyond.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Soliman requested Approval of Plan Commission Recommendation – Gordon Butler per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

Mayor Soliman presented a recommendation to appoint Gordon Butler to fulfill the remaining term of Alderman Angelo Deserio's seat on the Plan Commission. With a

notable background of ten years of service on the Plan Commission and six years on the White Oak Library Board, Mr. Butler was highlighted as a valuable candidate for the role. In advocating Mr. Butler's appointment, Mayor Soliman conveyed confidence in his capabilities to enhance the strategic direction and operational effectiveness of the Plan Commission, ensuring it continues to meet Crest Hill's development goals effectively.

(#18) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, for the Approval of Plan Commission Recommendation – Gordon Butler per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Mayor Soliman presented the Proclamation for Public Works Week 2025.

The City Council read aloud a proclamation declaring May 18-24, 2025, as National Public Works Week in the City of Crest Hill. The proclamation underscored the vital importance of public works infrastructure, facilities, and services to the sustainable and resilient communities within Crest Hill. These crucial elements significantly contribute to the public health, quality of life, and overall well-being of the City's residents.

The proclamation honored the dedicated public works professionals who oversee and manage these essential services. It highlighted the role of engineers, managers, and employees at every governmental level, as well as from the private sector, who are responsible for the rebuilding, improvement, and maintenance of key community assets. These assets include the City's transportation, water supply, water treatment, solid waste systems, public buildings, and other critical infrastructure essential for the citizens' daily lives.

(#19) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Dyke, for Approval of the Proclamation for Public Works Week 2025 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Mayor Soliman, in conjunction with the City Council, expressed deep gratitude for the tireless efforts and dedication shown by the City's Public Works Department.

Following the proclamation, Mayor Soliman announced the upcoming 37th annual Memorial Day ceremony, scheduled for May 30th. The ceremony is set to honor veterans and the city's fallen police officers, highlighting the city's commitment to remembering and recognizing those who served and sacrificed. Mayor Soliman warmly invited all residents to attend the event, which starts at 1:40 p.m. with music by the Frankfort Brass Band with a guest speaker and WWII Veterans who reside in Crest Hill. Mayor Soliman also highlighted the program's solemn and significant nature, demonstrating the city's ongoing dedication to its heroes and community spirit.

CITY CLERK: City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall requested to Approve an Application for a Block Party for Michelle Maynard on Saturday, July 26, 2025, per the memo dated May 19, 2025. They are asking to close off Alma Drive from Innercircle Drive to Hosmer Lane.

(#20) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Block Party Request for Michelle Maynard on Saturday, July 26, 2025, per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall requested to Approve an Application for a Block Party for Joshua Resto on Saturday, August 9, 2025, per the memo dated May 19, 2025. This would be from 12:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and they are asking to close off Essex Court to Borio Drive.

(#21) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Block Party Request for Joshua Resto on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

CITY TREASURER: City Treasurer Jamie Malloy thanked the Public Works Department for all the help they gave her this past week.

City Treasurer Jamie Malloy then requested to Approve a Resolution Approving the Removal of Glen Conklin as Authorized Signer of the City of Crest Hill Financial Accounts and Designating Treasurer Jamie Malloy as an Authorized Signer per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#22) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to Approve a Resolution Approving the Removal of Glen Conklin as Authorized Signer of the City of Crest Hill Financial Accounts and Designating Treasurer Jamie Malloy as an Authorized Signer per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Resolution #1308

City Treasurer Jamie Malloy requested to Approve the List of Bills Issued Through May 1, 2025, in the Amount of \$2,065,212.76 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

(#23) Motion by Alderman Jefferson seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to Approve the List of Bills Issued Through May 1, 2025, in the Amount of \$2,065,212.76 per the memo dated May 5, 2025.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

City Treasurer Jamie Malloy presented the Regular and Overtime Payroll from April 21, 2025, through May 4, 2025, in the amount of \$264,571.62 per the memo dated May 19, 2025.

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. The Community Development Department is actively recruiting for the role of City Planner. So far, there have been over ten applications received. Application reviews are ongoing, and interviews will take place soon.
- B. Since the weather has been nice out, a professional photographer has been hired to take photos of various points of interest throughout the community to help create a file of photos that will be utilized for future marketing efforts. The photographer will be in Crest Hill this week taking photos at specific sites and properties. These photos may also be utilized as part of the website update project. Staff are also working on obtaining quotes from experienced organization to short films for future marketing activities.
- C. CED Director Patrick Ainsworth is at the ICSC RECON show right now meeting with several commercial real estate representatives to help promote the City of Crest Hill. More information will be provided about this trip upon his return.
- D. The next Plan Commission Meeting will be held on June 12, 2025, and there are three applications that will be on that agenda including the properties of 1813 Broadway, 1800 Dearborn Street, a series of proposed text amendments to the Crest Hill Zoning Ordinance. All three cases will be presented at a future City Council meeting.

STATEVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER – Capital Development Board – Nothing new to report.

BL DUKE FIRE: B.L. Duke Fire Incident 11/1/2024: No response from BL Duke will follow up to confirm receiving the invoice.

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. City Administrator Search – MGT/GovHR Consulting Recruitment Services –Ongoing discussion with final candidate - Pending.

- b. Director of Public Works – Received only one application and upon review of the application the person does not qualify. We are exploring the next step for recruiting for the open position with one option is for MGT Consulting to perform the search and a proposal was requested. The last search was only \$7,000.
- c. Summer Laborers (Part Time) – Received 27 applications and one applicant starts the week of May 19th. Ongoing process to hire additional workers.
- d. Utility Operator (s) – Received 23 applications and all were notified of the Civil Service Test date of May 17th and 11 applicants confirmed to take the test. We will keep everyone posted (There are 2 - Open Positions, also a DPW maintenance/laborer resigned for a better opportunity.)

Water Meter Replacement Project – (ON-GOING) The Water Operator John Kemp and a Plumber will be evaluating five locations and determine the cost for each. Once that is complete, I will report back with the findings. Non-Compliance property owners' appointments are progressing.

Places For Eating Tax – Delinquent Businesses: Delinquent Businesses: Eight Additional citations were issued. Staff prepared the documents and records requested by City Attorney Stiff and forwarded them to Attorney Stiff for review to prepare civil action. Finance Director Gehrke contacted the Illinois Department of Revenue.

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

Department of Public Works Training – Nothing to Report.

State of Illinois Crime Lab/State Police Headquarters Project – Nothing new to report, still waiting for the EPA Section 401 Water Quality Certification pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

City Website – Update: CivicPLUS held a TEAMS meeting working with Finance, Police and Building Department regarding the online payment program and design. A proposal is being prepared and will be presented at the June 12th Work Session which will include the scope of work for the Web Site Redesign, ADA Compliance, Community New& Alerts, Online Payment Program and Online forms for applications. Still exploring designing and creating 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:

- Broadway and Theodore WM lining project (CIPP) project is tentatively awarded, and all required paperwork has been sent to the IEPA just waiting on IEPA approval so the project can move forward. Still Waiting on IEPA approval.
- Division east of Weber reconstruction plan is currently scheduled to be completed by late May. Still waiting for the city to receive DCEO award before bidding project out.

- Hillcrest Shopping center WM replacement and relocations bid documents will be ready in June 2025 with a bid sometime in July 2025. The city received approval of the IEPA permit on May 12th, 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. The staff is 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 to eliminate discussion with the DOC on easements. Required easement along the south side of Caton Farm to be finalized prior to construction starting. Engineering will be presenting exhibits documents to the owner within the next few weeks.
- New Ground storage water tank and east and west receiving station for the GPWC are scheduled for bidding in late 2025 and early 2026.
- Caton Farm Rd Bridge over CN RR. 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.
- PFAS study-Currently reviewing scope and proposal.

Aldersperson Oberlin asked the status on the cameras for the Public Works Department. Interim Administrator Tony Graff commented that the \$250,000.00 grant has been approved for the purchase of the cameras, and they are waiting for the contract and the Police Department is working with the state on that grant. Deputy Chief Dobczyk commented that they did meet with the vendor and discussed where cameras will be placed and they are waiting on some updated quotes from the vendor.

Alderman Dyke commented that he wants to make sure there is cameras also at the Elrose Public Works building, as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: Aldersperson Oberlin announced that the Annual Lidice Ceremony is Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the park. In the event of adverse weather conditions, the ceremony would be moved in doors to the Council Chambers located at City Hall.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Kubal praised the significant upgrades made to Crest Hill Community Memorial Park and the enhancements at the Lockport Challenge Fitness facility. He highlighted the wonderful new walking path, the great facilities for

children, and the upgraded shelter and parking lot, which improved the overall experience for residents. Alderman Kubal encouraged community members to participate and take advantage of the improved local park district amenities.

Alderman Albert took a moment to honor the late Alderman Charlie Convery, who was remembered for his substantial contributions to the city. Alderman Albert noted that Charlie and his wife, Mae, moved into the community 20 to 25 years ago and became deeply ingrained in the city's fabric. Mr. Convery was influential in many local initiatives, especially in Carillon Lakes, and got to know the entire Crest Hill community well. Alderman Albert praised Convery as a voice for many and thanked him for his commitment and friendship over the years.

Alderman Cipiti extended congratulations to the Police Department for the success of the "Cop on the Rooftop" event, commending them on a job well done.

Alderman Oberlin wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and shared heartfelt memories of her and Alderwoman Gazal visiting Charlie Convery recently.

Alderwoman Gazal shared heartfelt memories about Charlie Convery and stated she would miss him tremendously and recalled his vibrant personality and dedication to Crest Hill and her family.

Alderman Dyke also thanked Charlie Convery for his time with him on the Council and stated he enjoyed working with him and has many great memories with Charlie. In addition, Alderman Dyke encouraged everyone to show appreciation for veterans, reminding the Council and attendees that the practice of thanking veterans should extend throughout the year and not just be confined to Memorial Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Omar, a resident*, addressed the Council regarding PFAS in the city's water supply. He requested more transparency on how funds are being allocated to address the issue and suggested short-term relief measures for residents.

Mayor Soliman addressed the funding question and informed Omar that they do receive federal funding, but it is split between all six communities in the Grand Prairie Water Commission, and it is based off the city's population and the City of Joliet receives the most in the funding. Mayor Soliman commented that he hopes we can continue receiving the federal funding throughout the years.

Mayor Soliman also responded, explaining the city's ongoing efforts to address PFAS, including joining the Grand Prairie Water Commission to bring Lake Michigan water to Crest Hill. He noted that while the water is considered safe to drink by current EPA standards, they are exploring all options and will make decisions once more information is available.

Bill King, a resident and former licensed water operator, expressed concerns about the plan to switch to Lake Michigan water, citing potential contamination issues. He suggested exploring other filtration options.

Yolanda, a resident and a board member at the Village of Gaylord and Theodore, inquired about proper signage and enforcement of no parking zones in her neighborhood. The Mayor directed her to speak with the Police Chief after the meeting for assistance.

Stuart Soifer, a resident, commended the Hendrickson solar project presentation and encouraged the city to consider similar initiatives for its own use and to promote other businesses.

Attorney Stiff informed the Council that there was a need for an executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

(#24) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to go into executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Executive Session 8:51 p.m.

(#25) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to reconvene from the executive session on 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

Reconvened 11:08 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.

(#26) Motion by Alderman Dyke seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to adjourn the May 19, 2025, Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Ald. Deserio.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09p.m.

Approved this 16 day of JUNE, 2025.

As presented ✓

As amended _____


CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK


RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR