MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
June 29, 2026

The June 29, 2026, the City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Raymond R. Soliman at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 20600 City Center Blvd. Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

The following Council members were present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, City Treasurer Jamie Malloy, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman Angelo Deserio, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also Present were: City Administrator Blaine Wing, Finance Director Glenn Gehrke, Assistant City Administrator & HR Director Ashley Monroe, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Water Superintendent Derrick Wente, Deputy Police Chief Ryan Dobczyk, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

MAYOR

1. Provide PFAS Treatment Alternatives Status

Mayor Ray Soliman opened the discussion by noting that information had been provided in the Council packet and that the City Water Superintendent and representatives from Strand Associates were present to deliver an update.

City Engineer Ron Wiedeman provided opening remarks, recalling that in the previous October, Strand Associates had presented two treatment alternatives to address PFAS levels in the City's water supply in the interim period before the transition to Lake Michigan water. The first alternative involved shutting down the City's highest-PFAS-rated wells and blending water from lower-rated wells to reduce system-wide PFAS concentrations. The second alternative involved initiating a pilot study for active PFAS treatment at two specific wells.

City Water Superintendent Derrick Wente reported on the status of the blending program, noting that the originally targeted June 1st implementation date had not been achieved. He cited several factors: the operational plan, sampling program, and implementation procedures had not yet been fully finalized; Well 4 had been out of service since approximately May 15th; and Well 8 had been out of service since approximately June 15th. Both wells were expected to return to service by the final week of June. Additionally, Wells 10 and 11 were scheduled to undergo conversion from gas chlorination to liquid sodium hypochlorite beginning in July, with construction estimated at approximately two and a half weeks per well. He indicated he would continue coordinating with staff and Strand Associates to develop a detailed four-phase operational plan encompassing data review, baseline sampling, implementation, and evaluation.

City Engineer Wiedeman summarized the phased approach, noting that Wells 1 and 4—the two wells exceeding regulatory PFAS limits—would be shut down or used only sparingly, while the remaining six wells could meet the City's typical daily demand. He explained that the recently constructed water main along Caton Farm Road would facilitate the transfer of water between pressure zones to support this strategy.

Alderman Jefferson inquired whether any of the wells involved in blending were PFAS-free. City Engineer Wiedeman clarified that all wells contain some level of PFAS, but only Wells 1 and 4 exceed regulatory limits; the blending strategy is designed to keep system-wide levels below those thresholds. Alderman Jefferson also raised a hypothetical question about whether PFAS remediation should continue after Lake Michigan water is acquired. City Engineer Wiedeman explained that the wells would only be used in emergency situations following the switchover, and that IEPA regulations do not require PFAS filtration in such emergency scenarios, provided storage requirements are met.

Tanner Smid of Strand Associates presented the status of the PFAS pilot study. He explained that the pilot study is designed to generate data sufficiently to obtain IEPA approval for a full-scale treatment system. The study involves a skid-mounted unit with multiple columns containing different filtration media—including ion exchange resins and granular activated carbon—through which water is continuously passed until media breakthrough occurs. Sampling would take place every two to four weeks, and results would be compiled into a report for IEPA submission. He noted that IEPA first requires submission and approval of a pilot protocol document before the study can begin, a process that typically takes 30 to 60 days. Once approved, the pilot study itself could run for a year or longer. He indicated that by 2028 or 2029, the city should have sufficient data to decide whether to proceed with full-scale installation or wait for the Lake Michigan water connection, expected in 2030.

Mayor Soliman raised a practical concern that periods of extreme heat could necessitate activating Wells 1 and 4 to meet demand, which could temporarily elevate PFAS readings in the testing data. Tanner Smid of Strand Associates acknowledged this would produce data outliers but noted it would not disrupt the ongoing pilot study at Wells 7 and 10.

City Engineer Wiedeman concluded by noting that a supplemental professional services agreement was included in the council packet to advance the next phase of the PFAS pilot study. The amendment would increase the existing contract with Strand Associates from $10,000 to $44,000.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote on the approval of an amendment to increase the existing contract with Strand Associates from $10,000 to $44,000.

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

NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

2. 2026 Memorial Day and Police Memorial Event Report

Mayor Soliman reported that the City's total expenditure for the 2026 Memorial Day and Police Memorial Event was $494.36, consisting of a $400.00 audio, video, and recording invoice to Road to Eternity, and $94.36 for Officer Outlaw's attendance costs. All remaining expenses were covered by the Crest Hill Veterans and Police Memorial Committee treasury. Tents were donated by the Lockport Township Park District, saving approximately $1,200.00, and all other support was provided on a volunteer basis.

Alderman Cipiti commended all those involved and suggested that future consideration be given to scheduling the event earlier in the day to reduce heat exposure for attendees. Mayor Soliman acknowledged the merit of the suggestion but explained that the 2:00 p.m. start time was established to avoid conflict with the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery's Memorial Day ceremony in Joliet, which draws many of the same attendees and band members. He noted that changing the time would require significant coordination and would affect attendance and participation.

CLERK

There were no agenda items.

TREASURER

City Treasurer Jamie Malloy noted, as a follow-up to a prior meeting, that the amount paid to Omega Plumbing was $488,623.92.

City Treasurer Malloy then reported that she had been reviewing a box of 6,888 pages of documents submitted to the forensic auditors. She stated that this material had been provided in response to a FOIA request she had submitted the previous June regarding the Crest Hill Events Committee, to which she had initially received a response that no information existed. She noted that the documents included First Midwest Bank statements for the Crest Hill Events Committee, listed at the home address of Alderperson Oberlin, as well as various invoices and records. Among her findings, she identified a bill for the City of Crest Hill Police Department in the amount of $235.37 that was paid through the Events Committee, and a luncheon payment of $725.20 to the Crest Hill Women's Civic League, also paid by the Events Committee.

City Treasurer Malloy expressed concern that a significant portion of the submitted documentation—including informal emails, photographs, and unrelated correspondence—did not appear to be relevant to a forensic audit and represented an unnecessary expenditure of audit resources. For example, City Treasurer Malloy noted that there was an email that stated, "No shit, Sherlock" in it. Another email stated, "Thank you for sharing the gift of life. Twelve units of blood were collected." "Buttons and Brass" (the band) was another email included in the paperwork for the forensic audit. City Treasurer Malloy continued that there was another email that stated, "In April, Maya Angelou was interviewed by Oprah on her 70^{th+} birthday. Oprah asked her what she thought of growing older and there on television, she said it was exciting." City Treasurer Malloy stated that she is seeing a lot of paperwork that doesn't need to be in the forensic audit for which the City is paying the forensic auditors an hourly rate. Treasurer Malloy stated that there was an email that stated, "You rock!" on it. City Treasurer Malloy finally stated, "Here's my favorite, a picture of the M&Ms. That was included in there. Why? We're wasting money. So, that's my opinion and I wanted to bring it up tonight."

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Administrator Blaine Wing noted that the City was continuing to evaluate the use of its current audiovisual equipment to broadcast work session meetings on AT&T and Comcast Xfinity channels, in the same manner as regular council meetings.

1. 1817 Cora Street Water Bill Discussion

   City Administrator Wing provided context for the item, noting that a timeline and detailed background were included in the packet beginning on page 15. He indicated that the purpose of the discussion was to gather council direction on a resolution for the affected residents, and that staff were also developing a broader payment plan program for utility customers. A draft ordinance to close the procedural loophole—whereby final meter reads were not required before property sales—was also included for discussion.

   Finance Director Glenn Gehrke reported that, based on a 60-day period of typical usage following the resolution of the continuous flow event (approximately March 25 through May 25), estimated normal usage for the property equates to approximately 600 cubic feet per billing cycle, rather than a dollar figure as had been initially characterized. He clarified that the minimum billable unit is 400 cubic feet, and that the minimum utility bill—encompassing water, sewer, garbage, and recycling—is estimated to be in the vicinity of $200.00 per billing cycle.

   Council discussion reflected broad consensus that the affected residents should not be held responsible for the anomalous bill that resulted from a continuous flow event and a series of administrative failures. Alderman Albert articulated the prevailing view that, given the number of mitigating circumstances and errors on all sides, the residents should be charged only the minimum bill for the affected period, with normal usage charges applied going forward.

   Finance Director Gehrke sought clarification on the application of the minimum charge, and it was confirmed that the outrageous bill resulting from the continuous flow period would be replaced with the minimum utility charge, while any subsequent billing period with known, normal usage would be billed at standard rates.

   City Attorney Mike Stiff noted that a draft agreement had previously been prepared for the residents and that the Council's direction on the billing amount would allow that agreement to be finalized. City Administrator Wing indicated he would work with the finance and public works departments to confirm the precise minimum bill amount and would share that information with Council and the residents prior to the July 6th meeting.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote on 400 cubic feet payment (minimum) for the residents of 1817 Cora with payment details to be determined.

AYES: Ald. Dyke, Deserio, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal.
NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Draft Ordinance Adding Chapter 3.21 (Satisfaction of Municipal Debts) to Title 3 (Revenue and Finance) To the City of Crest Hill Code of Ordinances

City Administrator Blaine Wing introduced the draft ordinance, explaining that it was designed to close the procedural gap that had allowed the situation at 1817 Cora Street to occur—specifically, the absence of a requirement for a final, actual meter read before property is sold and closed.

City Attorney Mike Stiff explained that the draft had been modeled on a similar ordinance from the Village of Brookfield, which appeared to be one of the few comparable non-home-rule municipalities with such a provision in place. The ordinance would require title companies to obtain a certification from the City's Finance Department confirming a final meter read—not an estimated read—prior to closing on any real estate transaction. City Attorney Stiff noted that he had hoped to receive feedback from Brookfield contacts regarding the ordinance's practical effectiveness before moving forward, but that contact had not yet been made.

Assistant City Administrator & HR Director Ashley Monroe, who has prior experience in a similar non-home-rule community, noted that the key to the success of such a program lies in proactive education and outreach to title companies, real estate attorneys, and realtors, so that the requirement is understood and integrated into closing procedures before disputes arise. Alderperson Oberlin confirmed through independent research that the Village of Brookfield charges a $10.00 application fee and requires submission at least seven business days before the closing date.

Council discussion also addressed several operational questions, including how to manage properties with malfunctioning or "dead" meters at the time of closing, and whether the ordinance should incorporate provisions for shutting off water service in cases of continuous flow where a resident cannot be reached. City Attorney Stiff indicated he would research the legal parameters around shutting off service as a protective measure, noting there are statutory steps required and potential constitutional considerations. Finance Director Gehrke suggested that replacing a dead meter within the seven-day window could enable detection of continuous flow within one to two days.

City Administrator Wing proposed deferring this item to the July 13, 2026, work session to allow time to survey other non-home-rule municipalities, obtain feedback from Brookfield, and incorporate additional policy considerations—including access requirements for meter repairs and a provision addressing properties without smart meters. Council concurred. The item was tabled to the July 13, 2026, work session meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

2. Emergency Payment Public Works

   City Administrator Wing reported that the City's contracted biosolid handling vendor, Stewart, had informed the City that it would no longer be able to accept the City's material. The reason was that the Illinois Department of Corrections had notified Stewart that it would no longer authorize land application of biosolids on the Stateville property, which had been Stewart's primary disposal site for the City's material. Given the recent two-day storm event, biosolids had been accumulating and required emergency removal to prevent spillage.

   Staff acted under the City Administrator's emergency authority to identify two alternative vendors and arrange for removal of approximately 950,000 gallons of biosolid material at a cost of $83,125.00. City Administrator Wing noted that this cost is within the existing budget for biosolid handling and does not represent an additional appropriation. He indicated that with two vendors now identified, the City would pursue a competitive agreement going forward. Public Works Director Gary Richardson was on vacation and unavailable to present but had briefed the City Administrator on the matter. The item would be brought for formal Council approval at the July 6, 2026, meeting.

   Council members inquired about where biosolids would be spread going forward. City Administrator Wing confirmed, to the best of his knowledge, that Stewart's operations at the Stateville property in Crest Hill were the primary local application site, and that alternative vendors typically utilize agricultural land further south in Illinois, well outside the Chicagoland area.

3. New Emergency Alerting Software Sign-Up

   City Administrator Wing informed council that Will County is transitioning its emergency alerting software from Everbridge—used for the past eight to ten years—to a new platform called RAVE, effective July 1st. The reverse 911 capability will remain fully functional through the transition. However, legacy registrant data will not be ported to the new system; residents and businesses are being encouraged to register anew through the RAVE platform. The City will promote registration through social media, the City website, newsletters, and QR codes at various events. City Administrator Wing noted that the new system is more robust, integrates with the county dispatching center's data, and is used nationally, allowing individuals to register location-specific alerts. He characterized the transition as an upgrade with enhanced functionality. The sign-up link—`https://willcounty911.gov/smart911.org`—was included in the Council packet.

4. Lidice Memorial Report

City Administrator Wing reported that the Lidice Memorial Event was another successful, low-cost community event. The City's direct financial contribution was approximately $400.00 for audio, video, and recording services. All other materials were either donated or provided in kind. Attendance was estimated at approximately 150 individuals.

Alderperson Oberlin, serving as the Council liaison to the committee, commended the volunteers, public works staff, and all who assisted with setup and breakdown, including donated labor from State Representative Dee Avelar.

Alderman Cipiti inquired about the use of public works employees at the event, referencing past concerns about overtime expenditures. City Administrator Wing confirmed that public works involvement was limited to loading a trailer with chairs and tents during normal work hours on the preceding Friday, and retrieval during normal hours on the following Monday. No public works employees were utilized during the event itself, and no overtime was incurred. City Administrator Wing noted that this approach—minimizing overtime and leveraging volunteers—had been consistently applied to City events including the Easter egg hunt and Winterfest.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

There were no agenda items.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. Approval of Change Order No. 11 from Vissering Construction Inc. with the Direction to send it to the IEPA for Approval. Change Order will Increase the Amount of the Contract to $50,051,690

Dominic Gattone of Strand Associates presented Change Order No. 11 from Vissering Construction Inc. for the West Sewage Treatment Plant construction project. The change order adds $128,100.00 to the contract and extends the project timeline. The substantial completion date is extended from June 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, and the final completion date is extended to April 2027—representing delays of seven and five months, respectively, from the original schedule.

City Engineer Wiedeman noted that the additional costs had been thoroughly reviewed and vetted by both him and Public Works Director Gary Richardson, and that staff are satisfied the costs are legitimate. He further noted that the additional expenditures had been anticipated and incorporated into the FY2027 budget. The total contract amount following this change order is $50,051,690.00, which exceeds the $49.5 million IEPA loan amount; costs above that threshold are the City's responsibility and had been planned accordingly.

Key components of the change order included cleaning of the aeration tanks (which was originally expected to be handled by City staff but required contractor involvement due to equipment limitations, with material requiring landfilling rather than land application due to the undigested nature of the solids); software historian license upgrades for data management and process connectivity; repairs to an electrical short in an existing building that disabled a pump; and emergency stop button relocation to accommodate safety requirements. The contractor's primary justification for the time extension was weather delays, including tank freezing during the winter, though Dominic Gattone of Strand Associates noted that the timeline was also a function of overall construction progress. Approximately three-quarters of the tanks and equipment are currently online with new equipment.

City Administrator Wing noted that a claim had been filed with the City's insurance carrier for damages related to the electrical event, and that the City would seek to recoup those costs. Mr. Gattone of Strand Associates confirmed that the West Plant itself experienced no damage during the recent power outage that affected the East Plant, as the West Plant successfully switched to its alternate feed.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote for the approval of change order No. 11 with Vissering Construction Inc. with the direction to send it to the IEPA for Approval. Change Order will Increase the Amount of the Contract to $50,051,690.

AYES: Ald. Kubal, Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin, Gazal, Jefferson, Deserio, Dyke.
NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

1. A Resolution for a Professional Services Agreement for a (Rate Update) by and Between the City of Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois and Burns & McDonnell in the amount of $27,700.00.

   City Engineer Wiedeman explained that the previous water and sewer rate study, conducted in 2023, had projected a four-year horizon based on the information available at that time. With that period now nearing its end and more reliable cost data available from both the Grand Prairie water project and the City's own capital program, a new rate study is needed to determine whether current rates are sufficient to fund future capital needs or require adjustment. The proposed professional services agreement with Burns & McDonnell in the amount of $27,700.00 would accomplish this.

   Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote for the resolution for a professional services agreement for a rate update by and between the City of Crest Hill and Burns & McDonnell in the amount of $27,700.00.

AYES: Ald. Gazal, Jefferson, Deserio, Dyke, Kubal, Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin.
NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

2. Discussion on the Crest Hill Municipal Park

City Engineer Wiedeman provided a comprehensive overview of the history and current status of the Crest Hill Municipal Park project. He noted that Lockport Township Park District had begun developing concepts for the park as early as April 2021, and that design plans were advanced to a 90% completion level for the core phase of the project. When the project was last presented to Council prior to the most recent election, Council elected not to move forward at that time.

City Engineer Wiedeman outlined the scope of the work currently designed to 90% completion, designated as the primary phase. This scope includes site grading, underground drainage for the entire site, sidewalk construction connecting the park to the library and the City's existing parking lots, installation of a concrete curb and sub-base within the playground footprint, construction of a new parking lot, and associated water and sanitary sewer services to the plaza area. He presented four options for Council consideration:

Option 1 — Construction of the parking lot and additional ADA-compliant sidewalks, with the driveway access re-routed through the library parking lot rather than creating a new curb cut on City Center Boulevard.
Option 2 — Construction of walking paths along the perimeter of the northern portion of the park, subject to further refinement of the overall park design.
Option 3 — Design of a lighting system for the entire park, but construction of lighting only within the southern phase area, including parking lot lighting, pedestrian lighting, security lighting, and electrical receptacle cabinets. The design would also accommodate conduit for future Wi-Fi and a sound system, without installing the audio system at this time.
Option 4 — Future discussion of the plaza area, including whether to construct a building with restrooms and concessions or opt for a permanent shade structure. City Engineer Wiedeman noted questions about staffing, winterization, and maintenance that would need to be resolved before committing to a structure.

Staff's recommendation was to move forward with Options 1 and 3 at this time, deferring Options 2 and 4 for subsequent discussion. The cost estimate for the primary phase with Options 1 and 3 is approximately $1,725,000.00, of which Lockport Township Park District would contribute $250,000.00 for playground equipment, leaving approximately $1,500,000.00 in City funds. The 2027 budget includes a $2,000,000.00 appropriation for the park.

The playground itself would be constructed in the spring under a separate contract, with the Park District having budgeted funds available. City Engineer Wiedeman noted that several playground layout options would be brought back to Council for approval prior to that contract being executed.

The playground surface material—a modern, ADA-compliant, non-mulch alternative being evaluated by the Park District Executive Director—would also be presented to Council.

Council discussion touched on several topics. Alderperson Oberlin inquired about incorporating gray water or rainwater collection for irrigation; City Engineer Wiedeman acknowledged the concept's merit but noted it would add significant cost and was more suitable for future consideration. Alderman Cipiti raised questions about stormwater retention, to which City Engineer Wiedeman responded that the existing design already accounts for drainage into the storm sewer system. Alderwoman Gazal expressed concern about the playground's placement relative to future event spaces, inquiring about proximity to food truck areas and safety for children. City Engineer Wiedeman and Alderman Nate Albert clarified that the playground is sited toward the western edge of the park near the library, with ample space remaining for events. The question of permanent restroom facilities versus high-quality portable restroom trailers—as recommended by the Park District Executive Director based on maintenance and operational considerations—was raised and deferred for further discussion, including a future workshop presentation by the Park District director.

City Administrator Wing noted that a state grant of up to $600,000.00 can be applied for in July, with the application typically due in early August. He expressed urgency in obtaining Council direction so that the grant application could be pursued for the current cycle, and indicated that multiple phases of grants could potentially offset more than $1,000,000.00 of the project cost. He also noted that plan of subdivision approval through the planning commission and Council would be necessary, and that separate parcel designation for the park would clarify insurance responsibilities between the City and the Park District. The goal is to bid the primary grading and infrastructure contract in the fall, with an award by Labor Day, allowing for fall construction and grass establishment, and playground installation in spring 2027.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote to (1) move forward with the original plan as currently designed with options 1 & 3, (2) approve RVI's contract for the amount of $60,400.00 and (3) approve Spaceco's Civil Engineering agreement in the amount of $78,300.00, all items included in the 2027 budget.

AYES: Ald. Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal, Dyke, Deserio, Jefferson, Gazal.
NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

3. <u>Jasmine Ditch Drainage Investigation Update</u>
City Engineer Wiedeman presented findings from the ongoing Jasmine Ditch drainage investigation. Staff had completed field surveys of the ditch and reviewed findings in conjunction with the original preliminary study performed by Christopher Burke Engineering. On June 8th, following a storm event, staff observed the channel's performance and noted heavy

vegetation throughout. While the vegetation has some impact on flow, City Engineer Wiedeman stated that the capacity and slope of the ditch from Gaylord Avenue to the City's western corporate limits are sufficient and that the vegetation alone is not responsible for the flooding experienced by residents on the western side.

City Engineer Wiedeman reported that subsequent investigation focused on a 53-inch by 34-inch pipe running from Gaylord Avenue east toward Sweetbriar, which appears to surcharge during significant storm events. This pipe features open drainage grates above grade, and when it reaches capacity, water is released into the surrounding area rather than flowing through to the ditch. Public works staff inspected the pipe and found it open and functional with only minor debris accumulation. City Engineer Wiedeman indicated that the most likely cause of the flooding experienced by the affected residents is the surcharging of this pipe, which then backs water into the adjacent properties, rather than restriction in the ditch itself. A dye test confirmed that water does flow through the Jasmine Ditch from end to end.

The recommended next step is a basin study to examine the full drainage area contributing to the 53-by-34-inch pipe, including all contributing area back to Caton Farm Road, in order to determine whether the pipe is adequately sized and what improvements might be warranted. The estimated cost of this study is between $40,000.00 and $50,000.00. City Engineer Wiedeman indicated he was finalizing a proposal from Christopher Burke Engineering and hoped to have it ready for the July 6, 2026, council meeting.

Alderman Cipiti noted that the ditch had been cleaned out previously and raised the issue of whether clearing the tall vegetation and trees that have grown in the ditch should proceed in advance of obtaining ownership. City Attorney Stiff noted that while the City cannot be formally advised to enter property it does not own, past precedent showed no adverse response to prior cleaning work. City Engineer Wiedeman recommended that public works obtain contractor proposals for cleaning the ditch, similar to work performed in 2019.

City Attorney Stiff updated Council on the legal proceedings to obtain ownership of the ditch from Canterbury Homes. He reported that he had located former officers of the dissolved corporation and sent a letter to their address in Arizona requesting their cooperation in reactivating the corporation and deeding the property to the City via quick claim deed. The City offered to cover the estimated $1,700.00 to $2,000.00 in Secretary of State fees associated with reinstatement. No response had been received after approximately one week. Concurrently, City Attorney Stiff reported that an appraisal is being obtained using non-traditional methodology expected to conclude the property has minimal or no monetary value. Once received, the appraisal would be transmitted to the former corporation's officers as a good faith offer, and if no response is received, the City will proceed with filing a condemnation action.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote to approve the basin study to be performed by Christopher Burke Engineering in the range of $40,000 to $50,000.

AYES: Ald. Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal, Dyke, Deserio, Jefferson, Gazal.
NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

4. Discussion on McGilvray Drive Widening

City Engineer Wiedeman recalled that at a November work session, Council had declined to relocate the traffic signal on Weber Road from Ryan Drive to McGilvray Drive, but had expressed interest in addressing traffic flow concerns at the McGilvray Drive east leg. He presented two design alternatives, both estimated to cost between $150,000.00 and $175,000.00.

The principal difference between the two alternatives was the treatment of the right-in, right-out access point to the adjacent commercial district. Alternative 1 would retain the existing right-in, right-out configuration; Alternative 2 would convert the access to right-out only. City Engineer Wiedeman recommended retaining Alternative 1, noting that in the event a traffic signal is ever installed at that intersection, a barrier median would be installed at that time to prevent illegal left turns.

Alderman Albert and Alderwoman Gazal noted that a significant ongoing problem at this location is drivers making illegal left turns into the commercial access, creating conflicts with vehicles behind them attempting to make legitimate right turns. Alderman Albert recommended installation of a concrete barrier median to enforce the right-in, right-out restriction as part of the current project rather than waiting for a future signal installation. Council discussion reached consensus on this approach.

City Engineer Wiedeman noted he would also contact Will County to inquire about the feasibility of posting a no U-turn sign at McGilvray Drive, as increased U-turn activity at that location has been observed since a no U-turn restriction was imposed at Ryan Drive. He also confirmed that the regrading associated with the project would address an area of standing water near the intersection that creates icing hazards in winter. The project will be put out to bid in the fall with a goal of completing construction before winter, or early spring at the latest.

Mayor Soliman conducted an informal vote to approve the right in, right out barrier wall at McGilvray Drive and also to get bids for regrading to address the ice issue on McGilvray Drive.

AYES: Ald. Gazal, Jefferson, Deserio, Dyke, Kubal, Albert, Cipiti, Oberlin.
NAYES: None.
ABSENT: None.

City Engineer Wiedeman provided a brief update on the Knapp Drive access restrictions, noting that the IDOT permit application had been submitted and was circulating to internal bureaus for review, with comments expected within two to three weeks.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
There were no agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
No members of the public came forward to address the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

   Alderperson Oberlin made a motion to enter executive session for 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Seconded by Alderman Deserio. Roll call: Ayes: Dyke, Deserio, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal. Nayes: None. MOTION CARRIED.

   Executive session: 9:58 p.m.

   Alderperson Oberlin made a motion to reconvene from the executive session for 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Seconded by Alderman Cipiti. Roll call: Ayes: Deserio, Jefferson, Gazal, Oberlin, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal, Dyke. Nayes: None. MOTION CARRIED.

   Reconvened: 10:18 p.m.

There being no further business before the Council, and no action needed from the executive session, the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Approved this 20 day of July, 2026.
As presented ✓
As amended ___________

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

Raymond R. Soliman
RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR