

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
July 5, 2011

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 of the City Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Mayor Soliman asked that everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of Lee Gretz, a former Crest Hill employee who recently passed away.

Roll call indicated the following present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, City Treasurer Joe Bobikiewicz, Alderman John Vershay, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderwoman Brenda Lelis, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderman Charles Convery, Alderman Tom Inman, Alderwoman Tina Oberlin, Alderman Neal Sternisha.

Also present were: City Attorney Nick Sakellariou, Police Chief Dwayne Wilkerson, STP John Roberts, Working Foreman Eric Newberry, Building Commissioner Steve Kuczkowski, , Deputy City Clerk Janet Serdar.

Absent was: City Administrator John Tomasoski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the regular meeting held on June 20, 2011 for Council approval.

(#1) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on June 20, 2011 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Vershay, Dyke, Gazal, Lelis, Convery, Inman, Oberlin, Sternisha.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(62)

(74) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he would like to deviate from the agenda for the presentation of the July "Keep it Green and Clean" awards. Alderman Dyke announced the winners for July. In Ward I, the winner was Frank and Beverly Smutnak on Dearborn Street. The winner for Ward II was Mary Fran Petro on Barthelone. Mr. Petro representing his Mother, thanked the committee for the award. He commended his brother for maintaining the property for his Mother. The winners in Ward III were Steve and Nancy Quattrochi on Susanna Way. The winners for Ward IV were Don and Jennie VanWitzenburg. Alderwoman Gazal commented that this property has an extremely beautiful rear yard. The business winner for the month of July was NuMark Credit Union on Caton Farm Road. Ms. Overa from the Credit Union thanked the committee for the award. The Mayor congratulated the winners and commended the committee on their choices. Alderwoman Gazal thanked everyone involved with the program.

CITY ATTORNEY: (226) City Attorney Nick Sakellariou had no report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: (235) City Administrator John Tomasoski was not in attendance. Mayor Soliman announced that there will be a work session on Monday July 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. with the items for discussion being currently worked on.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: (252) Working Foreman Eric Newberry informed the Council that there is a request for approval of the bids for the MFT concrete construction work. The low bidder was MYS Construction.

(#2) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Convery to authorize approval of the MFT concrete construction work to MYS Construction.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Gazal, Lelis, Convery, Inman, Oberlin, Sternisha, Vershay, Dyke.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(269)

(270) Alderman Dyke asked if we had used this company in the past and we had not. Foreman Newberry explained that we sent out six bid packets and only received two bids back for this project. Alderman Sternisha asked who we used last year. Foreman Newberry said last year we used BDF Concrete. Alderman Sternisha asked Foreman Newberry if he was comfortable with MYS Concrete. Foreman Newberry explained that the City Engineer has worked with this company in the past and was comfortable with them.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT: (327) STP John Roberts informed the Council of the report on file.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: (335) Building Commissioner Steve Kuczkowski had no report. Alderman Convery asked if we have had to cut many of the properties that have received weed notices. Commissioner Kuczkowski said that 75% of the owners have taken care of their own properties. Commissioner Kuczkowski explained there was also an area where the residents moved out and left a lot of garbage. He will contact the garbage company for a pick up and then lien the property.

POLICE REPORT: (370) Chief Dwayne Wilkerson informed the Council of the report on file.

MAYORS REPORT: (379) Mayor Ray Soliman informed the Council that we have a proclamation declaring July as parks and recreation month. The Mayor asked that the members of the Council read the proclamation.

(#3) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Lelis to authorize a proclamation naming July as Parks and Recreation Month.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Dyke, Gazal, Lelis, Convery, Inman, Oberlin, Sternisha, Vershay.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None

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

(461)

(470) The Mayor congratulated the Lockport Park District on the proclamation.

(485) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a vacancy on the Plan Commission. Five residents submitted applications for the position and the Mayor interviewed each one. The Mayor chose David Izquierdo to fill the vacancy on the Plan Commission. Mr. Izquierdo was in attendance and the Mayor went over his background.

(#4) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Convery to concur with the Mayors recommendation for the appointment of David Izquierdo to the Plan Commission for a three year term.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Lelis, Convery, Inman, Oberlin, Sternisha, Vershay, Dyke, Gazal.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(573)

(584) Mayor Soliman congratulated Mr. Izquierdo on his appointment and asked him to go over his background.

(623) Mayor Soliman announced that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Lockport Park District Hassert Park Phase II on Renwick Road. The park consists of baseball fields, a concession stand and a splash park.

(660) Mayor Soliman announced that we have reached negotiations with Dow for the use of a portion of their property for storage of certain city equipment.

CITY CLERKS REPORT: (695) City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall had no report. Alderwoman Oberlin wished the Clerk a happy birthday.

CITY TREASURERS REPORT: (705) City Treasurer Joe Bobikiweicz had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (710) Alderman Convery said that there was a letter to the editor in the paper from a resident. They referenced the aggregation of the electricity that was voted on in April and lack of notification to the residents on the public hearings that were held in June. Alderman Convery explained that one of the comments referenced what Mr. Hoover was being paid. The City works with a cooperative who is paid by the suppliers and we do not need to know what he is being paid. Also, the resident complained that we did not advertise the public hearings. A notice was placed in the newspaper on May 27th and June 3rd announcing that we would be holding public hearings on June 6th and June 20th. This is the same newspaper that the resident sent his complaint letter to. The agenda is also posted in the lobby the Friday prior to the meeting and is also on the website. Also, if the resident had taken the time to contact the City Hall, he could have gotten the information that he wanted.

NEW BUSINESS: (829) There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (834) Beautification, Alderman Dyke reminded everyone that nominations for the August "Keep it Green and Clean" are due in by July 15. Alderwoman Gazal congratulated all of the winners.

Events, (849) Alderwoman Oberlin thanked Vicki Soliman for her bakery donation at the Lidice ceremony. Alderwoman Oberlin reminded the Council and residents that the second annual picnic will be on Sunday August 7, 2011 at St. Joes Park from noon to 9:00 p.m. She went over the schedule of events for the day. The Mayor explained that as far as the Bob Dozak providing music, the gentleman is having some health issues and we will have to see what happens.

Economic Development, (949) Alderman Convery informed the Council that the Economic Developer is working on a new website and we hope to have it up and running very shortly.

Cable, (966) Alderwoman Oberlin had no report.

Marketing, (970) Alderwoman Gazal had no report.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: (974) Alderwoman Oberlin congratulated the winners of this months green and clean contest. Alderman Convery commended the winners of the contest and also welcomed Mr. Izquierdo to the Plan Commission. Alderman Inman congratulated the winners of this months green and clean contest. Alderwoman Lelis welcomed Mr. Izquierdo to the Plan Commission. Alderman Dyke thanked Maribel for all of her help with the beautification committee. Alderman Vershay congratulated Mr. Izquierdo on his appointment to the Plan Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (1034) Brenda Dodge 1913 Cowing Lane informed the Council that they are having problems with one of the neighbors with noise, alcohol and drugs. She also asked how many people could reside in a single family resident. Mayor Soliman asked if the Police have been called and they have. Chief Wilkerson asked if he could meet with Ms. Dodge and the other neighbors in attendance to discuss the matter. Ms. Dodge also complained that the neighbor places their garbage in front of her property in the parkway and then the animals tear it open.

(1222) Lori Lathem 1917 Cowing Lane said that she has also experienced problems with noise and drugs on the street with the same neighbor. Her biggest concern is the children and she would speak with the Chief after the meeting.

(1269) Tara Calcaterra 1912 Cowing Lane explained that the windows are broken out of the house and also on the garage. She explained that one of the children from the home in question has a problem with not wearing clothes and needs to put some on when outside of the home. She is concerned with the welfare of the children living in this home.

(1343) Bob Roth 803 Elrose Ct asked for the date of the picnic and was given that information. Mr. Roth said that he was not aware that residents were required to check the board in the lobby, the website or the newspaper for the public notices or to find out what is going on in the city. He feels that residents should be notified in a better way. Mr. Roth said that over the 4th of July weekend he called the Police Dept. numerous times regarding illegal fireworks that were being shot off. Something needs to be done about this with either residents being arrested or fined. He also commented on the water bill being in the owners name versus putting it in the renters name.

(1632) Alderman Convery explained that as far as notification to residents, we only have a certain number of ways to do that. We publish the notices in the local paper because we are required by law to do so. Alderman Convery said that as far as Mr. Roth being a renter, we are not aware of it and if the landlord is getting the water bill he is receiving the information that is sent out. A newsletter was put in with the water bill for the residents to read regarding the electrical aggregation. Alderwoman Lelis said that it was printed on the water bill and also on the local cable station. The Mayor explained that we notify residents by using the local cable station, the website, Facebook, Twitter, our own water bills and posting in the lobby. Mayor Soliman said that in regards to the fireworks he was also disappointed that there were so many going off. Only certain fireworks are allowed to be sold in Illinois and people go out of state to get them. We had extra patrols out over the weekend and we are not the only city that was experiencing problems with illegal fireworks. Unfortunately, there are other Police calls that take priority over fireworks. Chief Wilkerson explained that we have started to put people out on patrol in plain clothes to help with the problem. Mr. Roth had a few suggestions on how to curb this problem and would discuss them with the Chief in the future. Mr. Roth asked why renters cannot get the water bills in their names. The Mayor explained that we have an ordinance that states the bill is put in the owners name. If a renter moves out and it's in their name, we have no recourse to get payment for the bill. If it's in the owners name we have recourse to get the payment. Discussion followed.

(2143) Brenda Dodge Cowing Lane commended the Police Department for the increase in patrols during the 4th of July. The amount of fireworks going off has decreased over the years.

(2186) Mark Gregory 1716 Cora informed the Council that he is starting an online photography business. He filled out an application to participate in the city picnic as part of the business expo. As part of his booth he was going to have Heather Furr, a member of the lingerie football team be in attendance to sign autographs and have pictures taken. She would appear in shorts and a t-shirt, not her team uniform. Mr. Gregory posted this information on Facebook and within an hour or so after received a call from Mayor Soliman telling him that this was inappropriate. Last year we had Ms. USA/Ms. America in attendance at the picnic. Part of that pageant involves the contestants wearing bikinis and lingerie. Mr. Gregory would have liked to discuss this issue with the events committee and had a vote taken on it rather than addressing this at a Council meeting. Mr. Gregory said that he has a copy of the contract that he signed and all it says is that he can't have electricity and can only have a four foot table. If things are going to be scrutinized, they need to be in the contract. Mr. Gregory asked if he is going to be scrutinized for what he proposed, is the City going to contact every other participant and find out what they are going to do? The Mayor said that he did not feel what Mr. Gregory proposed is going to be appropriate. The business expo is set up right by the children's games and he did not feel that having someone from the lingerie football team signing autographs was appropriate. Mr. Gregory said that he does not have a problem with the Mayor's decision, but feels that if he needs to be held accountable, everyone that has a booth should. Mr. Gregory explained that Ms. Furr would be in shorts and a t-shirt. Mr. Gregory said that he would have liked to have had the opportunity to sit down with the committee and discuss what his plans were and worked with them rather than being told no without any discussion. Alderwoman Gazal said that she was concerned when she saw the word lingerie, but after Mr. Gregory's explanation she did not see a problem with the young lady wearing shorts and a t-shirt to the event. That is the attire that most people wear to a picnic. She feels that this is discrimination against a female.

Alderwoman Gazal said that she has been to functions where women were in shorts and t-shirts doing promotions and this is how they make their living. We have a restaurant in our city where the servers wear shorts. Mr. Gregory commented that everyone should take a look at the football league on the internet. The women wear shoulder pads and helmets and play football. Alderwoman Gazal felt that if Ms. Furr were dressed appropriately there should not be a problem. Are we having a dress code for this picnic. You cannot pick and choose how you treat people. This is the young ladys job. Alderman Sternisha asked why we allowed something like this last year with Ms. Illinois and won't this year. The Mayor felt that this was inappropriate this year and made his decision. Alderman Sternisha questioned the two letters in the packet concerning this matter. The Mayor said that these came to him and he copied them for the Council. Alderman Vershay felt that there should have been a meeting with Mr. Gregory to discuss this before a decision was made. Alderman Sternisha agreed that there should have been some kind of meeting since Mr. Gregory has already put the groundwork into this project. Alderwoman Gazal said that the Council is suppose to work as a team and felt that the Mayor does not respect the elected officials when it comes to matters like this. Alderwoman Lelis did not agree. Mr. Gregory felt that we set a precedence by having Ms. Illinois attend, which his wife arranged last year. Alderwoman Lelis said that for the future we should reword the contract.

(2946) Alderwoman Lelis said that she understands that fireworks are illegal, but the residents that are putting up with the drug deals and disrespectful neighbors is more of a problem than something that happens once a year.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion for adjournment was in order.

(#5) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Vershay to adjourn the July 5, 2011 City Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Convery, Inman, Oberlin, Sternisha, Vershay, Dyke, Gazal, Lelis.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(2987)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Approved this 18th day of July, 2011

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR

