

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
May 2, 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 everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence on the passing of Brian Dzurney, a Lockport Fireman who passed away and also one of our former employees, Jim Dobbs who also recently passed away. The Mayor informed the public that a trust fund has been established at the Harris bank for Mr. Dzurney's children.

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 Sakaleriou, Police Chief Dwayne Wilkerson, STP John Roberts, Working Foreman Eric Newberry, Building Commissioner Steve Kuczkowski, City Administrator John Tomasoski, Deputy City Clerk Janet Serdar.

Absent were: none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the regular meeting held on April 18, 2011 for Council approval.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Lelis, seconded by Alderman Dyke to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on April 18, 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.

(88)

(97) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that Mr. Siegel and his daughter Katie were in attendance to promote their Crest Hill business Cottonwood Farms. Mr. Siegel said a few words about Mr. Dzurney the firefighter who recently passed away. Katie Siegel went over the background of the farm and some of the activities that happen there. She explained that they are currently hosting their spring flower sale and explained some of the other items they have for sale. Mr. Siegel explained that they now have various types of frozen pies for sale and also roasted nuts.

CITY ATTORNEY: (312) City Attorney Nick Sakaleriou had no report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: (317) City Administrator John Tomasoski informed the Council that there will be a work session on Monday May 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. for

discussion on NIMEC and the aggregation of residential power. The second item is with Robinson Engineering for a discussion on the IEPA loan/grant.

(338) Administrator Tomasoski informed the Council that in regards to the IEPA loan grant, we were informed today that it would not include the construction work. The Administrator will be meeting with various representatives to get clarification on this matter.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: (366) Working Foreman Eric Newberry requested approval from the Council for the hiring of 4 seasonal workers for a 90 day period.

(#2) Motion by Alderman Convery, seconded by Alderwoman Lelis to approve the hiring of 4 seasonal workers for a 90 day period.

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.

(390)

(402) Foreman Newberry informed the Council that new population signs will be going up on Rte 53 and Rte 30. The new population is 20,837. Alderwoman Gazal asked if we are on schedule for pot hole filling. Foreman Newberry explained that the road work has just begun and can be taken care of in the next few weeks. Mayor Soliman informed the Council that we received a thank you letter from a resident to the street department for some work that was done.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT: (477) STP John Roberts informed the Council that in regards to Highland Avenue there has been quite a bit of sinking and where the work was done and this will taken be care of within the next few weeks along with the reseeded of the properties.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: (510) Building Commissioner Steve Kuczkowski informed the Council that invitations were sent out regarding the grass cutting services. We received two bids back. The low bidder was J. Hassert Landscaping in the amount of \$58.00 per yard. Administrator Tomasoski explained that this cannot be voted on tonight as it was not on the agenda.

(538) Commissioner Kuczkowski informed the Council that the sidewalk work in Renaissance Crossing should be completed today. He went over the additional work that is needed to be done in the subdivision. Commissioner Kuczkowski informed the Council that the Lockport Park District is on the May 11, 2011 Plan Commission agenda for a number of variances for the sports fields. Alderwoman Gazal said that in the fall she had asked for a work session to discuss the mobile food wagons that park in the city and sell food. She would like to know when we are going to schedule this. Commissioner Kuczkowski said that he would like to sit down with the Administrator and figure out what direction we would like to go with this matter. Administrator Tomasoski said that he did not have a problem adding this item to one of the work sessions in May.

POLICE REPORT: (636) Chief Dwayne Wilkerson informed the Council of the report on file.

MAYORS REPORT: (643) Mayor Ray Soliman informed the Council that he is seeking concurrence for two reappointments. The first is the reappointment of Eugene Shelemi to the Police Pension Board for a two year term effective May 1, 2011 to May 1, 2013.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Inman, seconded by Alderman Convery to reappoint Eugene Shelemi to the Police Pension Board for a two year term effective May 1, 2011 to May 1, 2013.

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.

(670)

(680) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he is seeking concurrence for the reappointment of John Evans to the Plan Commission for a three year term effective May 1, 2011 to May 1, 2014.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderwoman Oberlin to reappoint John Evans to the Plan Commission for a three year term effective May 1, 2011 to May 1, 2014.

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.

(696)

(713) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a proclamation naming May as motorcycle awareness month in the City. The Mayor asked the Council members from Ward I and Ward II to read the proclamation.

(#5) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal to authorize a proclamation naming May as motorcycle awareness month.

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.

(811)

(821) Bill King a city employee and member of ABATE addressed the Council and gave a brief speech regarding motorcycle awareness and classes that are offered for new cyclist and also refresher courses. Mr. King also asked for approval for the placement of a banner in the triangle property at city hall and the waiving of the fee. The Council has approved this in the past. Administrator Tomasoski explained that we cannot approve it tonight because it was not on the agenda. We will put it on the next meeting agenda for

approval. Alderwoman Oberlin commended Mr. King for his work with ABATE. Alderwoman Lelis also thanked Mr. King.

(963) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a proposed resolution opposing reduction of State collected revenues due municipalities. Since 1969 the State has shared income tax money with the municipalities for their budgets. The Mayor explained that letters were sent to Senator Wilhelmi and Representative McCassey. The Mayor asked the Council members in Ward III and Ward IV to read the resolution. Alderman Convery said that in the resolution it does not state how much we are going to lose. Administrator Tomasoski explained that the resolution reflects how much additional revenue the State would be taking away from all the municipalities. Alderman Convery said that the residents should know that we would stand to lose \$500,000.00 and we can't afford to lose that. The Council members read the resolution.

(#6) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Dyke to authorize an ordinance opposing reduction of State collected revenues due municipalities.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #844

(1159)

(1172) Administrator Tomasoski informed the Council that there was an article in the Chicago paper that the Governor is considering suspension of payments to local municipalities until the lawmakers approve a 4.5 billion dollar borrowing bond or until December 31. A group of Administrators met with Senator Wilhelmi and explained that they don't want any more of the lgf be taken away from the communities. The Mayor urged the residents to contact Senator Wilhelmi and Representative McCassey and express their displeasure and ask for their support in the withholding of funds to the communities. Alderwoman Gazal is concerned over how this is going to affect the budget. The Mayor said that we will start budget discussions in May and may have to make some hard decisions. Alderwoman Gazal hoped that the department heads will take a look at their budgets closely. Alderman Sternisha questioned the first paragraph of the letter that the Mayor sent to the State representatives and asked if he could elaborate on it. The Mayor explained that he gave credit to past administration on their hiring practices. Many of the other cities have had to reduce their personnel to make their budgets more acceptable, we did not have to do that. In the past 18 months we reduced a full time position to a part time position. The Council and Department heads are going to have to sit down and put some serious thought into our next budget.

(1431) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that Gus Tomac, who is the superintendent at Chaney-Monge will be retiring after 35 years of service. We will be honoring him with a resolution at the next Council meeting. The Chaney-Monge School Board will be holding their May 17, 2011 meeting here in the Council Chambers and it will be televised. The Mayor invited the Council to attend that meeting to present the resolution to Mr. Tomac.

(1471) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he received a letter from Pete Delaney stating that he would like to resign from the Plan Commission. The Mayor explained that

this will leave a vacancy on the Plan Commission. Any residents who would like to serve on the Commission can fill out an application and submit it to the Mayor. The candidates will then be interviewed by the Council. The Mayor would like to have someone in place before the June meeting.

(1542) The Mayor commended all of the City Officials who have served with him for the last two years and also congratulated the newly elected officials who will be sworn in tonight.

CITY CLERKS REPORT: (1596) City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall had no monies to report. Clerk Vershay-Hall reminded the residents that the spring city wide garage sale will be on May 19, 20, 21, 22, 2011. The cut off date to get on the list will be May 17<sup>th</sup>. The fee to participate is \$5.00 and the city will place the ad in the Herald News. Alderwoman Oberlin thanked the Clerk for handling the annual garage sales, the residents appreciate it.

CITY TREASURERS REPORT: (1630) City Treasurer Joe Bobikiweicz had no report. Alderwoman Gazal asked the Treasurer to explain the letter that was a part of the packet. The Treasurer explained that there are two areas that are addressed, operational items and non-operational items. When an item is purchased an employee signs the receipt. He checks the paperwork to make sure we received the items that were signed for. Alderwoman Gazal questioned the first paragraph of the memo where the Treasurer states "I will as we go forward review payment of invoices with more attention to non-operation expenses and will no longer pay bills of this nature until they are approved by Council". The Treasurer explained that we will hold onto these types of bills until the Council has a chance to review them and vote on them. He explained that even if we choose to not pay a bill, we may still be obligated to pay it because it was signed for by someone with the city. If there is an item that seems to be irregular, he will bring it up to the Council or discuss it with the person or persons involved. Alderwoman Gazal feels that we keep changing the way bills are approved. The Mayor explained that on July 20, 2009 the Council passed a purchasing policy. This gave the Department heads the authority to work within the budget to make their purchases. If the Council would like to change the policy then they can. Treasurer Bobikiewicz explained that this is for operation items, not non-operation items. Some of the items the City no longer pays for is the annual convention that Alderwoman Oberlin wanted to attend, or the Christmas party. Alderwoman Oberlin said that she has paid for her attendance at the annual convention for the last two years and does not want to be characterized. There were other members of the Council who also wanted to attend the conference. Discussion followed. Alderman Convery asked if we could discuss this at a work session so we can get into further detail. Administrator Tomasoski did not see a problem. Alderman Vershay said that in the past, if you knew you wanted to purchase something you would present it to the Council, get approval, and then purchase the item. Now we just buy what we want and when the bills come due we pay them without approving them first. Alderman Vershay said that we remodeled the Council room without giving approval first. We've bought two flat screens. The Mayor explained the remodeling of the Council room and lobby were talked about during a work session. Alderman Vershay said that no one waits to get anything approved first and that is why he votes no on the list of bills. We are spending taxpayers money and his money also and he doesn't like it. Just because the money is in the budget doesn't mean you have to spend it. Treasurer said that he supports the letters that were sent to the State representatives. We cannot afford to lose the money that the state owes us.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (2369) There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: (2370) Mayor Soliman announced the swearing in of the newly elected officials.

(2389) Clerk Vershay-Hall read the oath of office and swore in Tom Inman as Alderman in Ward IV. Alderman Inman gave a speech.

(2539) Clerk Vershay-Hall read the oath of office and swore in Tina Oberlin as Alderwoman in Ward III. Alderwoman Oberlin gave a speech.

(2633) Clerk Vershay-Hall read the oath of office and swore in Claudia Gazal as Alderwoman in Ward II. Alderwoman Gazal gave a speech.

(2820) Clerk Vershay-Hall read the oath of office and swore in John Vershay as Alderman in Ward I. Alderman Vershay gave a speech.

(2891) Mayor Soliman congratulated the newly elected Council members.

(2926) Clerk Vershay-Hall invited everyone for cake and punch after the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (2947) Beautification, Alderman Dyke informed the residents that we will be presenting our keep it green and clean program from June through September. There will be one home per ward and one business per month that will be recognized. If you would like to nominate one of neighbors you must do so by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month and you can contact Alderwoman Gazal or himself to do this. The Beautification committee will be having a work session in the Council chambers on Monday May 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss beautification on Broadway and community involvement.

Events, (3034) Alderwoman Oberlin informed the Council the past weekend was the annual clean up of the Rock Run creek. We ended up with so many volunteers that we were able to split into two teams in the city. Alderwoman Oberlin thanked Comcast, the Forest Preserve and everyone that came out to help with the clean up.

Economic Development, (3105) Alderman Convery had no report.

Cable, (3110) Alderwoman Oberlin had no report.

Veterans, (3114) Mayor Soliman informed the Council and the public that there will be a clean up of the memorial garden on Tuesday May 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Monday May 30, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

(3163) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he feels the committee's are working out fine and will leave them as is. The Mayor has an idea for a new committee and will bring this before Council at the next work session and if the Council is in agreement place it on the May 16<sup>th</sup> agenda.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: (3183) Alderwoman Gazal expressed her feeling on the recent death of Osama Bin Laden. Alderwoman Lelis commended the events committee on the

weekend clean up of the creek. Alderman Vershay congratulated everyone who was re-elected. Alderman Dyke congratulated everyone who was re-elected and commented that he is looking forward to working with them. Alderwoman Oberlin explained that she attended the ground breaking ceremony at Hassert Park along with Alderman Convery. Alderwoman Oberlin informed the public that Giovanns Restaurant will be holding its sixth annual SIDS fundraiser on May 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Convery congratulated the newly elected officials. Alderman Convery said that with the recent events that have taken place we remember every one who lost their lives on September 11 2001. Alderman Convery wished Alderman Inman and Alderman Sternisha a happy birthday. Alderman Inman congratulated all of the recently elected officials.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (3405) There was no one wishing to address the Council.

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

(#7) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Vershay to adjourn the May 2, 2011 City Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(3419)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011

As presented \_\_\_\_\_

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

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CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

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RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR