

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
February 7, 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.

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

Absent were: none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 18, 2011 as amended for Council approval. Alderwoman Oberlin asked that the Clerks Office check motion #10 as to who made the motion.

(#1) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderwoman Lelis to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 18, 2011 as amended with motion #10 to be checked.

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.

(27)

(46) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that State Representative Emily McCCasey was in attendance at tonight's meeting. Representative McCCasey informed the Council that she has recently moved her office to Romeoville and will be hosting satellite hours every other Friday at the Crest Hill City Hall. She thanked the Mayor and Council for all of their support. Mayor Soliman explained that Representative McCCasey has tried to work on grants for the City.

(163) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that Merichkas Restaurant was recently showcased on a television show called Chicago's Best. Mr. Zdravich from Merichkas spoke with the Mayor and explained that after that show aired, their weekly business increased up until the night of the blizzard. The Mayor said that anyone that hasn't had the opportunity to try a poorboy, double baked potatoes or onion rings from Merichkas should try them out.

CITY ATTORNEY: (296) City Attorney Nick Sakelariou had no report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: (301) City Administrator John Tomasoski informed the Council that there is a website administration contract. There was a request to extend the contract for two months until March 31, 2011.

(#2) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Lelis to authorize the extension of the website contract until March 31, 2011.

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.

(318)

(330) Administrator Tomasoski informed the Council that there is a proposed ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied from the year 2010 to pay debt service on taxable general obligation bonds, series 2010. The ordinance was prepared by the bond counselor Chapman and Cutler. If this ordinance is passed it abates the bond being on the levy.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal to authorize an ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied from the year 2010 to pay debt service on taxable general obligation bonds, series 2010.

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.

Ordinance #1557

(359)

(373) Administrator Tomasoski informed the Council that there is a proposed agreement with Wermer, Rogers and Doran for the adjustment for the employers quarterly tax return.

(#4) Motion by Alderman Convery, seconded by Alderman Sternisha to authorize the agreement with Wermer, Rogers and Doran for the adjustment for the employers quarterly tax return.

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.

(381)

(386) Alderwoman Oberlin asked that the Administrator explain the agreement. Administrator Tomasoski informed the Council that there were mistakes made on nine of the officers fica that was taken out of their checks that wasn't necessary. Alderwoman Oberlin said that this went back for six years and we can only go back three years. Administrator Tomasoski explained that some were up to six years and some were less.

Alderman Oberlin asked if the tax issues had been corrected and Administrator Tomaszoski said that it is being worked on. Alderman Oberlin asked for a report once this is resolved. Alderman Vershay asked if we know how long this may take. Administrator Tomaszoski thought that they had $\frac{3}{4}$ of the work done on this.

(489) Administrator Tomaszoski informed the Council that Senator Wilhelmis office did respond to one of the requests for grant funding for the comprehensive plan and zoning book. At this point there are no funds available for this project. Administrator Tomaszoski informed the Council that there was an e-mail from NIMEC regarding the pricing for electricity.

(520) Administrator Tomaszoski informed the Council that in regards to the landscape median resolution, there was one passed in 2009 and Robinson Engineering did a follow up on it.

(531) Administrator Tomaszoski informed the council that there will be a work session on Monday February 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion on Crest hill Lanes, Build America Bond (bond proceeds management) and Buckley Companies (Crossroads East).

(544) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that the City was well prepared for the recent blizzard that we just experienced. He thanked all of the employees for their hard work and dedication during this time. Mayor Soliman explained that when we became aware that this storm was coming we took a pro-active stance. He commended the department heads, Eric Newberry, John Roberts, Chief Wilkerson, and the City Administrator. The Mayor also commended Lockport Fire Department Lieutenant Mike Gale for working with us to coordinate the efforts. We kept our street crew home on Tuesday and had them start work at 3:00 p.m. They would plow for 16 hours and then be relieved by the STP employees. Public Works would then return on Wednesday night to complete the plowing. We had extra Police on patrol on Tuesday and Wednesday. The battalion chief for Crest Hill was given a radio so that he could be in contact with any of our trucks in case the ambulance or fire truck needed an escort to anyone's home or business. The Mayor explained that he spoke with John Grohn from Allied/Citiwaste and they chose to suspend garbage pick up on Wednesday due to the blizzard. This was a good move on Allied's part. Mayor Soliman explained that he was riding with Brian Webb on Tuesday night and the conditions were so bad it was hard to see in front of the plow. A number of our employees that have been plowing for close to 20 years commented that they have never seen a storm like this. The Mayor said that we had about 46 motorist assists on Tuesday night and about 10 minor accidents. The Police were out in their vehicles and the city's building department SUV's. The Mayor explained that we had officers riding in the plows to check on abandoned vehicles on Weber Road. If there were occupants in the vehicles they were being transported to the Thornton's station. The Mayor informed the Council that the majority of the staff in the Clerk's Office, Water Department, Police Department and Treasurer's Office were at work and he commended them for coming into work when they could have chosen to stay home. The Mayor said that after the storm a lot of the mailboxes were plowed in and asked that if possible, please clear in front of the mailboxes or make a path to the mailboxes that are on the houses. The street crews have been out trying to clear the mailboxes at the curbs. The Mayor also asked if able to please dig out the fire hydrants in case of emergency. The Mayor explained that we will reevaluate our plan before the next time. One of the things of concern was the number of cars that were left on the street and not moved into driveways and yards. Another problem that we encountered was the private snow plowers pushing the snow

back onto the streets. The Mayor would like to thank Mr. Siegel for helping Will County to clear Weber Road. Mr. Siegel also offered assistance in clearing intersections of needed. The Mayor thanked Giovan from Giovanns Restaurant for providing complimentary lunches for any of our employees that wanted to stop in. He thanked WJOL, and CHCTV for broadcasting information and Administrator Tomasoski for getting the information on our website. The Mayor also informed the Council that we had three separate water main breaks on Saturday and then it snowed again on Sunday.

(1066) Alderwoman Oberlin commended the Mayor for coordinating the storm efforts.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: (1091) Working Foreman Eric Newberry thanked the Mayor for his comments. He commended all of the departments that helped out and worked together during the storm.

(1123) Foreman Newberry informed the Council that the start up date for the traffic lights at the intersection of Caton Farm and Perinar Drive has been delayed and he would keep the Council updated on when this would happen. Alderman Dyke informed Foreman Newberry that the stop sign at Raynor and Elsie is missing. Alderman Convery commended Foreman Newberry on a job well done.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT: (1169) STP John Roberts thanked the Mayor for his comments. Alderman Inman commended the crews for keeping their sense of humor after the snow and water main breaks.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: (1209) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that Commissioner Kuczkowski had his knee surgery and is up walking around. He is currently going through rehab and hopes to be back sometime soon.

POLICE REPORT: (1241) Chief Dwayne Wilkerson informed the Council that there is a memo in the packet regarding the retirement of Office Ralph Smith after 30 years of service.

(1256) Chief Wilkerson informed the Council that during and after the storm we had 126 calls for services and we typically have about 40 to 50. The Chief said that with the help of the street department we did about a dozen rescues of people in their cars. He thanked the street crews, and all of his officers for a job well done. Alderman Dyke said that there are still some vehicles that are on the streets that haven't been moved yet, what are we doing about them, have they been ticketed. The Chief explained that a number of them have been ticketed. Alderman Dyke explained that he got a call from a resident that received a ticket and is upset that these cars are still sitting there. Mayor Soliman commended Ralph Smith on his retirement.

MAYORS REPORT: (1346) Mayor Ray Soliman informed the Council that there is a request from Lockport Fire District for the waiving of the permit fee for the sprinkler system at fire station #2 on Root Street. Rich Burnt from the Fire Department addressed the Council. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their comments regarding the recent storm. Mr. Burnt explained that station #6 is fully sprinkled and alarmed and they would like to get station #2 done as well. The Mayor explained that he spoke with Commissioner Kuczkowski from the Building Department and his recommendation was to approve the request. The Mayor said that we have waived fees in the past for some of

the public entities such as the library, park district and fire department. All inspections will still be made through the building department.

(#5) Motion by Alderman Convery, seconded by Alderwoman Oberlin to authorize the waiving of the fees for the sprinkler system at station #2 on Root Street per the request of the Lockport Fire Department.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Dyke, Gazal.

ABSENT: None.

There being six (6) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

(1427)

(1431) Alderman Vershay asked if they have to put a larger pipe to the building. STP Roberts explained that they installed a new main to that building about two years ago.

(1463) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a resolution honoring Mayor Art Schultz on his retirement from the City of Joliet. Mayor Soliman informed the residents that in 1994 when Officer Simenson was killed in the line of duty, the City of Joliet stepped up on their own and provided police protection to Crest Hill for the days of the wake and funeral. We were never charged for their services. They have offered us the use of their street sweeper when ours has broken down and have been a help to us throughout the years. He announced that our entire Council has been invited to attend the February 15th Joliet Council meeting to honor Mayor Schultz with this resolution. The Mayor read the resolution.

(#6) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Dyke to authorize a resolution honoring Mayor Schultz on his upcoming retirement from the City of Joliet.

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.

Resolution #831

(1640)

(1660) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a request from Will County Senior Services for a donation toward their senior programs. This was discussed at a previous work session.

(#7) Motion by Alderman Convery, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal to authorize a donation in the amount of \$100.00 to Will County Senior Services.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Ald. Sternisha.

ABSENT: None.

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

(1672)

(1681) Alderman Convery said that last year 1054 Crest Hill residents received services from Will County Senior Services. He went over the various programs and services that are offered. Alderman Convery feels that \$100.00 is an appropriate amount to donate.

(1752) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a proposed resolution for the Weber Road and Renwick Road intersection improvements project.

(#8) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderwoman Lelis to approve the resolution for the Weber Road and Renwick Road intersection improvements project.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #832

(1759)

(1781) The Mayor informed the Council that they are in receipt of a letter from NIMEC. We will be putting a question before the voters in April to allow the Mayor and Council to seek alternative electrical suppliers for the residents at a reduced rate. Mayor Soliman explained that there are about 20 communities that have contracted with NIMEC to be put on the April ballot. He explained that he will be speaking about the referendum at St. Ambrose Church on February 10, 2011. There are several other places that the Mayor and Council have been invited to speak about the referendum in February and March.

(1850) Mayor Soliman announced that the third annual state of the city address will be on February 16, 2011 at Prairie Bluff Golf Course from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will be hosted by the Crest Hill Chamber of Commerce and tickets are available.

(1896) Mayor Soliman congratulated the Richland 7th grade boys basketball team. They are currently in the Illinois Elementary School Association tournament and will be playing for the championship on Thursday February 10th in Winona Illinois. Mayor Soliman congratulated the Green Bay Packers and all their fans including Alderman Dyke on their super bowl win.

CITY CLERKS REPORT: (1970) City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall presented the monies to report. Motor fuel tax from January of 2011 was \$42,805.08. Police fines from January of 2011 was \$4,891.87. Telecommunication franchise from January of 2011 was \$43,861.23. DUI fines from January of 2011 was \$390.00. State income tax from December of 2010 was \$96,504.37. State income tax from January of 2011 was \$98,968.37. Local use tax from January of 2011 was \$28,806.64 for a grand total of \$316,227.56.

(2007) Clerk Vershay-Hall informed the Council that there is a request from the Crest Hill Pointe Condo Association for the use of the Council Chambers on Thursday February 10, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their association meeting.

(#9) Motion by Alderman Inman, seconded by Alderwoman Oberlin to authorize the use of the Council Chambers on Thursday February 10, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. per the request of the Crest Hill Pointe Condo Association for their association meeting.

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.
(2014)

(2026) Clerk Vershay-Hall informed the Council that there is a request from ASPIL to change the date of their meeting from March 17, 2011 to March 10, 2011. This request was approved in October of 2010.

(#10) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal to change the date for the use of the Council Chambers per the request of ASPIL from March 17, 2011 to March 10, 2011.

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.
(2039)

(2051) Clerk Vershay-Hall informed the public that city stickers are on sale now through March 31, 2011 and can be purchased during regular office hours.

CITY TREASURERS REPORT: (2075) City Treasurer Joe Bobikiweicz had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (2095) There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: (2099) Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there is a Plan Commission recommendation for the final plat for Weber Farm Crossings. This is for a parcel of property north of the Menards property. Clayton Thurston from Geotech addressed the Council. He went over the final plat with the Council which is for lot 32. Mayor Soliman asked for comments or questions and there were none.

(#11) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Vershay to concur with the Plan Commission recommendation to approve the final plat for lot 32 in Weber Farm Crossing.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being eight (8) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.
(2227)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (2252) Beautification, Alderman Dyke informed the Council that the draft rv ordinance will be going before the Plan Commission at their meeting in March and then will come back to Council for their approval.

Events, (2274) Alderwoman Oberlin informed the Council that the committee worked hard to raise the money for all of the events that we had in 2010. When the committee was formed \$10,000.00 was set aside for expenses, but it was not used. Enough funds

were raised to pay for the Police presence at the picnic and the parade. Alderwoman went over the list of events that took place over 2010. She thanked all of her committee members, and co-chair Alderman Inman. Alderwoman Oberlin also thanked Mr. Slocum at the radio station, Maribel DeHaro at city hall, and Vicki Soliman. Alderman Inman congratulated Alderwoman Oberlin on her leadership with the events committee. Mayor Soliman commended everyone that helped with the 50th anniversary celebration. Alderwoman Lelis thanked the events committee.

Economic Development, (2740) Alderman Convery informed the Council that the committee recently met with the developer of Weber Farm Crossings. Alderman Convery said that the relocation of the NICOR tower is progressing at the site in Joliet. Alderman Inman informed the Council that the committee along with Economic Development Director Gay attended a meeting on January 24th in Lisle. They will be attending the ICSC conference in Chicago on February 17th.

Cable, (2887) Alderwoman Oberlin thanked CHCTV for getting the notice about the garbage delay due to the blizzard on the air for the residents to see.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: (2916) Alderwoman Gazal thanked the department heads, and Police for their hard work during the storm. She thanked everyone in the community who helped their neighbors during the storm. Alderwoman Gazal thanked Fran Zelinski, Patricia Leone, and Erin Grey for helping out. Alderwoman Lelis thanked all of the department heads for the work during the storm, and the events committee for their work in 2010. Alderman Vershay thanked the street crews for a job well done. Alderman Dyke thanked the department heads and employees for a job well done on the streets. There was a big difference between the job that was done in our city compared to some of the other cities that took a lot longer to get their roads cleared. Alderman Dyke congratulated Ralph Smith on his retirement. Alderman Dyke wished his wife a happy 25th anniversary and wished everyone a happy valentines day. Alderman Inman commended the crews on a job well done. Alderman Convery thanked the staff for a job well done on the snow removal. Alderman Sternisha congratulated Officer Smith on 30 years of service. Alderwoman Oberlin thanked the crews for an outstanding job. She also thanked all of the neighbors that helped each other out during the storm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (3277) There were no public comments.

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

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

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of February, 2011

As presented _____

As amended _____

CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK

RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR