

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
January 17, 2022

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, 1610 Plainfield Road Crest Hill, Will County, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Mayor Soliman asked that everyone remain standing to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Roll call indicated the following present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, City Treasurer Glen Conklin, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman John Vershay, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: City Administrator Jim Marino, Director of Public Works Mark Siefert, Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Police Chief Ed Clark, City Attorney Mike Stiff.

Absent were: HR Director Renee Herbst, Finance Director Lisa Banovetz, Interim Planner Maura Rigoni, Interim Management Consultant Steve Gulden..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 3, 2022 for Council approval.

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Gazal, seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 3, 2022 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(71)

(84) Mayor Soliman presented the minutes from the work session held on January 10, 2022 for Council approval. Alderwoman Gazal asked why the minutes are not more detailed and contain more of the Council's comments. Clerk Vershay-Hall explained that the minutes are a summary of the meeting and not done word for word. She explained that she typed the minutes from the work session. Alderwoman Gazal asked that her comments be amended regarding the Water Commission and the Mayor's appointment.

(#2) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderman Kubal, to approve the minutes from the work session held on January 10, 2022 with an amendment to the comments made by Alderwoman Gazal regarding the Water Commission and the Mayor's appointment.

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Vershay, Jefferson, Gazal, Cipiti, Albert, Kubal.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Ald. Dyke, Oberlin.

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

(88)

CITY ATTORNEY: (144) City Attorney Mike Stiff presented A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF WILL COUNTY CASES NOS 20 CH 755 AND 21 MR 2343. Attorney Stiff informed the Council that there was a copy of the settlement agreement provided to them on the dais prior to the start of tonight's meeting. He went over the background of the cases. Any questions or comments regarding the resolution can be discussed in executive session. Members of the Council asked for an executive session for further discussion. Attorney Stiff explained that one of the cases that is part of this resolution has been previously addressed and resolved.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: (240) Administrator Marino presented A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE. He went over the background of the resolution. This is for the sale of the existing City Hall and vacant lots. Once the proposals are received, staff would review them and then present them to the Council for their approval.

(#3) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to approve A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1133

(264)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: (296) Public Works Director Mark Siefert presented A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FORMATION OF A REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION, MAKING PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF FUTURE LAKE MICHIGAN WATER NEEDS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS. This was discussed at a previous work session. Alderperson Oberlin said that she was not in attendance at the work session and asked how the representatives' and backups were chosen for the City. Mayor Soliman explained that the appointments were his choice. Alderperson Oberlin asked how the representatives were chosen. The Mayor said it was his choice of which Council members would be a backup. Alderman Albert agreed to be the alternate if the Mayor cannot be in attendance. Alderman Vershay asked that a correction be made to the date on page 7.

(4) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to approve A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FORMATION OF A REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION, MAKING PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF FUTURE LAKE MICHIGAN WATER NEEDS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being nine (9) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #1134

(342)

(418) Alderperson Oberlin voted yes for the best interest of the City but is not happy with certain aspects of the decisions.

(436) Mayor Soliman gave a brief presentation on the future of Lake Michigan water and the City's participation in the Water Commission. He thanked everyone who was involved with the project. Alderperson Oberlin said that the majority of the residents that she has spoken to have been in favor of the water source change. Alderwoman Gazal commended everyone who was involved in this process. Alderman Albert felt this would be beneficial to the future of the City.

(592) Director Siefert presented a request for approval of the East Water Reclamation Facility Phosphorus Removal Upgrades Contract 2.2021 per the letter dated January 4, 2022. This was discussed at a previous work session.

(#5) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to approve the East Water Reclamation Facility Phosphorus Removal Upgrades Contract 2.2021 per the letter dated January 4, 2022.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(622)

(644) Director Siefert thanked the Council for all of their hard work on the lake water study.

CITY ENGINEER: (654) City Engineer Ron Wiedeman presented the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Audit for the period beginning January 1, 2013 to April 30, 2019 per the letter dated December 28, 2021. Engineer Wiedeman has been working with IDOT on the audit. He also explained the unobligated funds that were in the report.

(#6) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Dyke, to approve the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Audit for period beginning January 1, 2013 to April 30, 2019 per the letter dated December 28, 2021.

On roll call, the vote was;

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(709)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: (734) There were no agenda items for discussion. The reports were on file.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: (739) Police Chief Ed Clark presented a request for the Comcast Contracts for City Center and Police Station per the memo dated January 13, 2022. This was discussed at a prior work session. Alderwoman Gazal asked what the time frame for Comcast would be. The Chief explained that they are roughly 90 to 120 days out. Alderwoman Gazal asked that we please keep in contact with Comcast.

(#7) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderwoman Gazal, to approve the Comcast Contracts for City Center and Police Station per the memo dated January 13, 2022.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(770)

MAYOR: (820) Mayor Raymond Soliman presented A Proclamation Commemorating the City of Crest Hill School Choice Week. Members of the Council read the proclamation.

(#8) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderman Cipiti, to approve A Proclamation Commemorating the City of Crest Hill School Choice Week.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(897)

(917) Mayor Soliman presented a request from the White Oak Library District for the waiving of special event permit and one day liquor license fee for the 100 year anniversary of the library district celebration that will take place on Friday February 4, 2022 at the Crest Hill Library.

(#9) Motion by Alderman Cipiti, seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to approve the waiving of special event permit and one day liquor license fee for the 100 year anniversary of the library district celebration that will take place on Friday February 4, 2022 at the Crest Hill Library.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(970)

(994) Mayor Soliman presented A Proclamation Recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the White Oak Library District. Members of the Council read the proclamation.

(#10) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to approve A Proclamation Recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the White Oak Library District.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being eight (8) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.  
(1157)

(1240) Mayor Soliman commended the Library on their anniversary and gave a brief speech. Director Pointon from the White Oak Library District thanked the Council for the recognition of the libraries 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He gave a brief speech and gave a presentation on the history of the library. Members of the Council commended the library on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

(1570) Mayor Soliman presented A RESOLUTION HONORING JANET M. SERDAR ON HER RETIREMENT AS DEPUTY CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF CREST HILL. Members of the Council read the resolution.

(#11) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Albert, to approve A RESOLUTION HONORING JANET M. SERDAR ON HER RETIREMENT AS DEPUTY CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF CREST HILL.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Resolution #1132

(1694)

(1707) Mayor Soliman gave a brief speech. Members of the Council commended Jan Serdar on her retirement and wished her well.

CITY CLERK: (1888) City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall had no agenda items for discussion. She thanked the Council for approving the resolution honoring Jan Serdar on her retirement.

(1905) Clerk Vershay-Hall announced that per the recent Local 150 contract, the Administration Offices, Building Department, Public Works Department and Water Department will be closed on Monday February 21, 2022 in observation of the Presidents Day holiday. Therefore the regular Council meeting scheduled for February 21, 2022 will be rescheduled for Tuesday February 22, 2022.

CITY TREASURER: (1925) City Treasurer Glen Conklin presented the regular and overtime payroll from December 20, 2021 to January 2, 2022 in the amount of \$266,137.50.

(1939) Treasurer Conklin presented the list of bills in the amount of \$1,266,513.68 for Council approval.

(#12) Motion by Alderperson Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Jefferson, to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$1,266,513.68 as presented.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being eight (8) affirmative votes, the MOTION CARRIED.  
(1950)

(1973) Alderperson Oberlin commended Finance Director Banovetz for implementing a program that has recovered funds for the City. Treasurer Conklin explained how the program works. There is no cost to the City.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (2033) There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: (2035) There was no new business.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS: (2038) There were no committee/liaison reports.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: (2040) Alderperson Oberlin reminded everyone that today is the day we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and what he did for our country. Alderwoman Gazal announced that January is thyroid cancer awareness month. Alderman Jefferson thanked the Mayor for the opening remarks regarding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. He also asked for an update on the El Guero store. Alderwoman Gazal said that there is a meeting coming up that Alderman Jefferson will be invited to.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (2130) There were no public comments.

Mayor Soliman informed the Council that there was a need for an executive session on litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)).

(#13) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to go into an executive session on litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)).

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Executive session 8:02 p.m.

(2148)

(Tape #2 begins)

(#14) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderperson Oberlin, to reconvene from the executive session on litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)).

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

Reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

(15) Attorney Stiff recommended the tabling of A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF WILL COUNTY CASES NOS. 20CH755 AND 21MR2343.

(#15) Motion by Alderman Albert, seconded by Alderman Dyke, to table A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF WILL COUNTY CASES NOS. 20CH755 AND 21MR2343.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

(25)

There being no further business before the Council, and no action needed from the executive session a motion for adjournment was in order.

(#16) Motion by Alderman Dyke, seconded by Alderman Vershay, to adjourn the January 17, 2022 City Council meeting.

On roll call, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Approved this 7 day of FEBRUARY, 2022

As presented       

As amended       

  
CHRISTINE ~~VERSHAY~~-HALL, CITY CLERK

  
RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR