

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
January 13, 2020

The January 13, 2020 City Council work session 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 following Council members were present: Mayor Raymond Soliman, City Clerk Vicki Hackney, City Treasurer Glen Conklin, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman John Vershay, Alderwoman Barbara Sklare, Alderwoman Claudia Gazal, Alderwoman Tina Oberlin, Alderman Marco Coladipietro, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: Assistant City Administrator/HR Director Megan Fulara, Community Development Director Scott McMaster, Police Chief Ed Clark, Public Works Director Tom Migatz.

Absent were: City Administrator Heather McGuire, Director of Water/Wastewater Mark Siefert, Finance Supervisor Ashli Motyka.

TOPIC: Will County State's Attorney James W. Glasgow Presentation-Canine Officer.

Mayor Soliman presented a request for the addition of a Police Canine Program per the memo dated January 9, 2020. States Attorney James Glasgow was in attendance with members of his staff. Chief Ed Clark went over the background of the program. He feels that this would be a very good program for the City to get involved with. The dog would be a valuable asset in detecting drugs, articles and tracking people. The dog that we are looking at is a 3-year-old German Shorthair Pointer that is currently with the Berwyn Police Department. They are replacing the German Shorthair Pointer with a German Shephard per the request of their trainer. Chief Clark has seen the dog in training, has talked to the trainer and spoke with personnel from Canine Solutions. The last time we had a canine unit was about 25 years ago. Chief Clark went over the expenses that will be incurred by the City for having the unit. Another benefit of having the dog other than enforcement is enhancing community relations. The dog could attend community events and school functions interacting with citizens especially children. Chief Clerk introduced States Attorney James Glasgow. Mr. Glasgow explained that his office would pay for the purchase of the dog, the training of the dog, and the K9 insert for the squad car. Mr. Glasgow gave a presentation on the program and how the dog can benefit the City. He also explained how the various Police Departments can back each other up with the canine units. Mr. Glasgow gave a presentation on the therapy dogs that they currently have and what they are used for. Alderman Vershay asked how long would it take to get the dog trained and acclimated to a new trainer. Chief Clark said that it would take about 6 to 8 weeks. Alderwoman Oberlin asked if the trainer will be the only one that can utilize the dog. They would. Alderwoman Oberlin asked how long can the dog be utilized by the department. Typically, between 7 to 9 years. Chief Clark went over what the trainers work schedule would be. Alderman Coladipietro asked if the Chief had an Officer in mind to be the trainer. The Chief explained that there will be a process that any of the Officers who are interested in the program would go through. Alderman Albert asked if any Officers have expressed interest in the canine unit. There are five Officers who are interested. Alderman Albert asked why we didn't continue the K-9 program we had 25 years ago. The Chief was not employed with the City at that time,

but thought a lot had to do with the cost of the program. Alderman Vershay said that the original K-9 unit was kept in the City and lived with the Officer who was his handler. Alderwoman Gazal thought a canine unit would be a benefit to the City. Alderwoman Sklare also thought this would be a benefit to the City. Alderman Vershay asked how large the dog is. The Chief said between 60-70 pounds. Alderman Dyke said that Pointers are a very healthy dog breed. He then asked about the cost of re-fitting a squad car for the canine unit. The Chief explained that the K-9 insert would be provided to us and we would have to install it in the squad. Alderwoman Sklare asked if the dog would need a vest. The Chief explained that it would not. This K-9 is a tracking dog, not a biting dog or would be sent into a dangerous situation, so it would not require one. The Mayor felt that the dog would benefit the City. The Chief went over some of the costs that would be incurred by the City.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote on the Police Canine Program. All members present were in agreement.

TOPIC: Caton Farm & Weber Road Car Detail.

Mayor Soliman presented a request for the potential used car dealer at nw corner of Weber/Caton Farm Road per the memo dated January 13, 2020. Community Development Director Scott McMaster explained that Arien Whitehead was scheduled to be here tonight but was not in attendance. Director McMaster explained that Mr. Whitehead would like to open a used car dealership in a portion of the building. They would like to move their business from Romeoville to this location. Alderman Coladipietro did not feel a car lot would be a good fit for this location. Alderman Albert also did not feel this business was a good fit for this property. Alderman Vershay asked how many cars would be on the lot. Director McMaster said they would like to start with 8 to 10 vehicles, which is similar to what the car lot on Theodore has. The Mayor explained that he looked up the current location and they only had about 18 cars on the lot. They ranged in years from 2005 to 2016. Discussion followed. Director McMaster did not feel that a used car lot would be a good fit for this property. Alderman Albert would like to see a business that would utilize the entire building. Director McMaster explained that he showed the business owner other areas in the City that would be more conducive to this type of business, but they were not interested.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote on the potential used car dealer at nw corner of Weber/Caton Farm. Alderman Vershay was unsure. The remainder of the Council were not in favor of a used car lot.

TOPIC: Jasmine Creek Maintenance.

Mayor Soliman presented a request for the Jasmine Creek maintenance per the memo dated January 13, 2020. Assistant Administrator/HR Director Megan Fulara informed the Council that this was discussed at a work session on October 23, 2019. This was referred to Attorney Spesia. Public Works Director Tom Migatz explained that there is an 80/20 grant that we can apply for, but it would still cost the City a considerable amount of money. Assistant Administrator Fulara explained that even if we receive a grant once it expires, it would become our responsibility to maintain the creek. We can request that the various subdivisions chip in to keep up the maintenance or form a special service area. Unfortunately, there is not a clear answer on who is responsible. Discussion followed. Alderman Albert asked what the estimated cost would be to get the creek initially cleaned up. Director Migatz thought it would be roughly \$50,000.00. The ongoing maintenance cost could be as much as \$10,000.00 per year. Alderman Albert asked if we could work this cost into the yearly budget. Discussion followed. The

original owner of the property is a defunct developer, so we would be maintaining someone else's property. Treasurer Conklin sited other areas of the City with a similar situation. The Mayor explained that the portion of the creek on the east side of Gaylord Road is maintained. Discussion followed. The Mayor would like to have the City Attorney meet with the Council at a work session to go over our options. Discussion followed. Alderwoman Oberlin explained that there is one homeowner who maintains a large portion of the "creek". Alderman Kubal felt that if we are going to maintain the creek, we should charge the property owner. Director Migatz explained that as far as an assessment to the property owners, there is a large area of properties that contribute to the water going into this creek. This entails about 300 homes that are in the Gaylord Road/Theodore Street area.

TOPIC: 2020 Liquor & Tobacco Licenses Update.

Mayor Soliman presented the annual liquor license and tobacco license update. He went over the various classes of liquor license that we have and how many are in each class. The Mayor will be requesting a reduction in the number of class a license due to an establishment being closed. We ended the year with 15 video gaming license and will be increasing that when Speedway is approved for theirs. As far as the tobacco license, we had 22 at the end of the year. It appears that the hookah lounge on Renwick may not be re-opening. Also, Headventures moved from Plainfield Road to Cedarwood Drive and changed the name of the business. Alderman Albert asked what liquor classifications allow video gaming. The Mayor went over the list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

MAYORS UPDATES: The Mayor announced that we will have a middle school proclamation coming up. There is someone interested in the former Gippers on Plainfield Road. There is also someone interested in the former Friacos. Alderwoman Gazal asked if we can limit video gaming. The Mayor said that we can put a limit on it. The Mayor went over the revenue that we receive from the gaming machines.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES: Alderman Kubal suggested talking to the park district about holding classes in the basement of the new city facility when it is built. Alderwoman Oberlin questioned insurance liability. Treasurer Conklin thought you could have some type of intergovernmental agreement to cover it. Alderman Kubal said that we could possibly work with the park district to modify the area they would be using. Alderwoman Oberlin's other concern was accessibility to the rest of the building after hours. Alderman Vershay questioned who would maintain that portion of the building, and do all of the paperwork. Alderman Kubal said that this would have to be discussed with the park district. Discussion followed on the improvements that would have to be made to make the basement handicapped accessible. Alderman Albert felt you could also work with the township to use the space for possible senior classes. Discussion followed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: Assistant Administrator Fulara gave the Council an update on the property tax rebate program. We are estimating that we will be paying out \$300,000.00 versus last year's payout of \$500,000.00.

Assistant Administrator Fulara informed the Council that we had recently had an employee in Public Works who did not make the probationary period. We will soon be hiring a new employee off the current eligibility list. Jane Randolph retiring from the Police Department after many years of service and we will have to fill that position.

Alderman Vershay asked how many employees will we have in the Street Department. Assistant Administrator Fulara said 11, which is what we have budgeted for.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved this 20th day of January, 2020

As presented X

As amended _____



VICKI L. HACKNEY, CITY CLERK



RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR