

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

The July 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: City Administrator Heather McGuire, Community Development Director Scott McMaster, Finance Supervisor Ashli Motyka.

Absent were: Assistant City Administrator/HR Director Megan Fulara, Director of Water/Wastewater Mark Siefert, Police Chief Ed Clark, Public Works Director Tom Migatz.

TOPIC: Family Outreach Fundraiser

Mayor Soliman presented a request from Family Outreach Program, Inc. for additional tag day permits per the letter dated July 10, 2020. Mr. George gave a presentation on the request for the additional tag days. They would provide insurance certificates for each tag day. Mr. Chadwick explained how Bread of Life supports the Family Outreach program. He went over the difficulties that they have faced during the pandemic. They serve roughly 150 families every week. Mayor Soliman explained that the request tonight is for four permits per organization through the end of the year. Clerk Hackney explained that Bread of Life has already had one permit this year. Bread of Life would then be allowed three permits and Family Outreach would be allowed four permits. Clerk Hackney informed the Council that we received a call regarding another tag day from a Veterans group. Mayor Soliman went over the dates that were being requested which were, August 7th, 8th, 28th and 29th. September 11th, 12th, 25th and 26th. October 9th, 10th, 30th and 31st. November 13th, 14th, 27th and 28th. Alderman Coladipietro asked what type of events were going to be held. Mr. George explained that this would be collections at the approved intersections in the City. Alderwoman Oberlin asked if the volunteers would be wearing masks properly. They would. Mr. Chadwick explained how the donations will be collected. Discussion followed on the approved intersections. Alderman Albert explained that there are a few dates that are being requested that are during the Lion's Club and Knights of Columbus' national events. He is concerned that there are going to be taggers on the street corners every weekend. Alderman Coladipietro asked if there were State restrictions. Administrator McGuire explained that there are. These additional days would only be for this year because of the pandemic and not extended beyond that.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote for seven tag days for Bread of Life (3 permits total) and Family Outreach (4 permits total) and to work with the schedule of other organizations. All members present were in agreement.

TOPIC: City Logo Update

Mayor Soliman presented the City of Crest Hill Logo per the memo dated July 13, 2020. Director McMaster gave a presentation on the proposed logo that was designed by Serafin. Administrator McGuire asked for comments and input from the Council on the design. Alderman Coladipietro liked the font and color, but not the houses. Alderwoman Oberlin was not in favor of the design. Discussion followed on the logo for Joliet. Alderwoman Gazal felt that this felt more like a real estate sign. Alderwoman Sklare did not care for the houses. Alderman Vershay felt that it looks generic. Alderman Dyke felt the design looked too busy. Administrator McGuire said that we can start the process over again if the Council is not happy with this rendering. Alderman Kubal said that the survey that was done indicated people associated the City with homes and neighbors. He did not have a problem with the design. Discussion followed. The Mayor asked the Council if they want to continue with Serafin or go with a different company. Discussion followed. Administrator McGuire suggested getting some more logos from Serafin and also reach out to other companies for a logo. Treasurer Conklin felt that concept was good, but the design looked busy. Alderwoman Oberlin felt that there is no rush to get this done and we should have something that will look more professional. Mayor Soliman said that we will get updates for the Council and present them at a future meeting.

Mayor Soliman announced that there is a need for an executive session on personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)).

(#1) Motion by Alderwoman Oberlin, seconded by Alderman Coladipietro, to go into an executive session on personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)).

On roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Ald. Albert, Kubal, Vershay, Dyke, Gazal, Sklare, Oberlin, Coladipietro.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

The executive session began at 7:43 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

TOPIC: Water Shutoffs

Mayor Soliman presented the request for discussion on Water Penalties per the memo dated July 13, 2020. Supervisor Motyka gave the Council a presentation on the re-implementation of the water penalties and shut offs. These bills would be issued in July and due by August 19, 2020. We have waived penalties and shutoffs for two billing periods to date. If penalties are reinstated for the next billing, we would have had a loss of \$37,000.00 in penalties for the fiscal year. As far as the \$50.00 credit, we should have this in place by the September billing cycle. Alderman Coladipietro asked how many accounts are currently delinquent. There are roughly 94 accounts with a balance of at least \$500.00 and 960 accounts with balances up to \$500.00. There are 328 that have not made any payments since March of 2020. Alderwoman Gazal asked if the residents misunderstood and think that they do not have to pay the bills at this time. She asked if a letter would be sent out. Supervisor Motyka explained that anyone who has contacted us was told that the bill still had to be paid, but we would not be charging a late fee for a short period of time. Discussion followed. If a resident contacts the City, we can set up a payment plan to help the residents out. Mayor Soliman asked out of the 328 bills that

haven't paid since March, are many repeat offenders. They were. Supervisor Motyka explained how the shut off process is done. A resident has roughly 4 months before the water is scheduled for shut off. We would have typically sent out the shut off notices in March and they would have been due at the end of April. You have ten days from the date of the notice to comply. We also deliver an orange hand tag to the residence because we do have property owners that do not provide their tenants with a bill. You have three business days from the hand tag to pay the amount due. After that, the water is shut off. Alderman Albert asked what other communities are doing. Administrator McGuire explained that several are starting to reimplement penalties. Supervisor Motyka explained how the bill that is due in August will be worded. The people that are due to be shut off are at least 7 months delinquent. Discussion followed on how the payment plans are set up. Alderman Albert asked when the \$50.00 credit would be going on the accounts. It would be for the September bill.

Mayor Soliman asked for an informal vote on implementing the shut off notice. Alderman Vershay, Dyke, Kubal, Coladipietro and Alderwoman Oberlin, Gazal, Sklare were in agreement. Alderman Albert would like to see us wait until September. Alderman Coladipietro asked how far behind Stateville was. They were behind roughly 2.5 million. Discussion followed on the Stateville billing. Alderman Albert asked if there were any other non-profits that are not charged late fees. Supervisor Motyka was not aware of any.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

MAYORS UPDATES: Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he has census yard signs and door hangers written in English and Spanish. These are available to post in yards. Alderwoman Oberlin informed the Council that Mr. and Mrs. Johnson recently passed away. Mrs. Johnson was one of the founding members of the Women's Civic League.

Mayor Soliman informed the Council that he received a letter from Abe Katz, who is the owner of Hillcrest Shopping Center commending Deputy Chief Hertzman during the protests. Administrator McGuire also commended Deputy Chief Hertzman.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES: There were no committee/liaison updates.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: City Administrator McGuire went over how the meetings are going to be conducted now that we are back in the building. The Council members have been spaced out as best we could. Alderman Albert would like to have the department heads in attendance, possibly in another room until they are needed for questions. Alderwoman Gazal would also like to see the Department heads in attendance. Mayor Soliman said that the virtual meetings were frustrating to do with technical difficulties. Alderman Albert said that a number of residents are interested in hearing the reports from the Department heads. Discussion followed on how everyone can be accommodated for the meetings. Alderwoman Gazal would like to have a discussion at a work session regarding the fireworks and the Police Department. She is disappointed in some comments that were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Approved this 20th day of July, 2020

As presented ✓

As amended _____

Vicki L. Hackney By: 
VICKI L. HACKNEY, CITY CLERK

Raymond R. Soliman
RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR