

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2005**

President Crown called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Damits. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded all members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Broglie, Mr. Byers, Mr. Cindric, Mrs. Damits, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. McDonough, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Crown. Also present were Mayor Hull, Solicitor Wolfe, and Engineer Wagner.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Broglie, to approve the January 26, 2005 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Stewart questioned a bill from General Code for \$800. under item #414.46 – Mr. Crown advised that this was the annual maintenance fee for the Codification and internet E-Code version; Mrs. Tremblay advised that our ordinances are accessible on the Internet via the General Codes website.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote, with exception noted by Mrs. Damits (#453.23) and Mr. Donovan (#410.24) and Mr. Stewart (#414.46).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. McDonough, to approve the January 12, 2005 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Rose Weber, 184 Promenade - Ms. Weber reported of an incident that occurred at 182 Promenade; she expressed concerns that members of the fire department visited the site to consider it for fire training and also, it was after dark and it had frightened her. Mr. Crown confirmed that this was already addressed with Ms. Weber by Chief Hermes, and that an actual burn or live fire of the structure was not being considered, only practice and fire training were being considered. Ms. Weber also asked what the plans are for this property by the new owner; Mr. Crown advised that the Borough has not received any plans or applications from the owner so at this time the Borough does not know his intentions; and when plans are developed and presented, the Planning Commission will hold public meetings and insure that all of our ordinances and regulations are met.

Ed Stewart, Councilman, 104 Hawthorne Avenue - Mr. Stewart remarked, similarly on this subject, and responded to an e-mail from Mr. Crown regarding the occurrence at 182 Promenade, which he felt was impertinent and arrogant (Mr. Crown's e-mail and Mr. Stewart's written comments are attached to the Minutes).

Thomas M. Byers, Councilman, 136 Fountain Street – Mr. Byers also commented on the incident at 182 Promenade Street as well as receiving the same e-mail from Mr. Crown; expressing the same concerns as Ms. Weber and Mr. Stewart. Mr. Byers asked why the Fire Department does not take advantage of the County's training facility and why wasn't Fire Marshal Ciampelli consulted on this. Mr. Crown advised that the Fire Marshal is not involved with training but this was actually discussed with him and .

Linda and Jeff Vicari-Baker, 58 Afton Avenue - Commented on the new regulations concerning rental property inspections and fees. Mr. Crown advised that this had been discussed at the last Council meeting with several other landlords, and that Council will be considering amendments to the requirements.

RECEIPT OF COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Tremblay reported that miscellaneous correspondence was included in the Council Packet. Engineer Wagner provided a supplement to the paving program estimates.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Secretary Tremblay advised that the following written reports were provided in Council's Packet: The Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Fee Reports, Police Report (Dec. 2004 and 2004 Annual), Fire Department Reports and Engineer's Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hull reported that the Department responded to 189 complaints during the month of December 2004 and referred Council to the written report. He credits good police work with the 11 DUI's reported for December for such a small municipality.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Rost warned of numerous reports on identity theft and to be aware of what the youth are doing on the computers and on the internet. Mr. Byers stated that a letter from the Chief was not included in his packet; Chief Rost advised that the letters had been mailed.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Hermes commented on the 182 Promenade; that he is reluctant to set a fire in the Borough, and has never authorized a live burn for practice purposes. He has stated several times, and has re-iterated the fact that there was never any intention to consider the property for a live burn. He stressed the necessity, however, for fire practice – an actual dwelling provides real-life training for the young members without having an actual fire; and the County provides only block buildings and mazes for practice, in answer to Mr. Cindric's question (County facility/Community College classes). He indicated that there may be a slight convenience to vehicular traffic if the fire trucks are parked at the site. Chief Hermes advised that this type of opportunity does not come around that often; and it was not his intention to invite outside companies. Someone asked why the abandoned house, that was torned down by the Borough, wasn't considered for the training. Chief Hermes advised that it was too hazardous and unsafe. Mr. Broglie commented on the inconvenience to vehicular traffic, asking why this would be any different from various resident requests to block off their street for a block party; as long as there is sufficient notice. Mr. Byers inquired on a hold harmless letter concerning liability in a building; Mr. Crown advised that it was not necessary the fire department's insurance covers training and the department does have a hold harmless letter. Mr. Byers commented on consideration by former Fire Chief Lucas of a live burn to a structure on Lincoln Avenue across from Max Alston's house; that it was not done because of the unsafe location of this structure. Mr. Crown advised that there was never a permit sought for that structure to the County because it was never considered; and the Fire Marshal does not have any jurisdiction over this aspect of the department. Discussion continued on the type of training and facility provided by the County versus the opportunity to train in a regular house. Mayor Hull commented that it is now perfectly clear that there were no intentions of performing a live burn at Promenade and he thanked Chief Hermes for his work with the department. Chief Hermes reported that the Fire department reports have been provided, and due to miscommunications the reports were not being provided; but should be provided to Council on a regular basis in the future; and he commented on the numbers in these reports; which is based on a national reporting system, and answered Council's questions. Lastly, Chief Hermes commented on the specifications for the new rescue/pumper truck.

ROBINSON EMS REPORT

Director Meredith reported responding to 39 calls in November, 44 calls in December, and a total of 587 calls for the year (2004), and 24 calls so far for January.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Crown reported that an Executive Session of Council was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wagner reported he provided the updated pavement management program information and a preliminary 2005 street paving list was provided to Council for consideration. Mr. Cindric inquired on the status of the semi-annual progress report submissions to the DEP; Engineer Wagner advised that it

had been completed and sent to the DEP. Mrs. Damits suggested street repairs to Warren, between N. Emily and N. Linwood.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Wolfe advised that there is correspondence from Solicitor Lucas in their packets concerning a litigation matter and if anyone has any questions to contact him. He noted that the motion to advertise an ordinance to amend the non-uniform employees pension plan was to have the plan coincide with changes provided in the Public Works labor contract

SECRETARY'S REPORT

None

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Inspector Skorich reported that 48 violation warning notices were issued for this month (snow removal), and he had issued 3 building permits, and performed 4 property inspections for the month of January.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Stewart suggested that Council consider an amendment to the \$2,000. wage ceiling for the \$52.00 EMS tax. He asked if Council would address the \$50.00 property inspection fee issue, as well. He noted that the year end financial report indicates \$105,000. paid to the Solicitor which was \$52,000. over budget. He also noted that the December 22nd Wage Resolution categorized the Chief as an administrative employee, with which he disagrees and hadn't noticed at the time of adoption. This, and some other facts need to be considered and addressed concerning the Chief of Police. Mr. Cindric asked if the \$52.00 tax was to be paid by Council to the Borough; it was confirmed that this Council pay did not qualify.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE & PERSONNEL

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to adopt Resolution No. 2005-01 amending the 2005 Wage Resolution to include the position of Assistant Manager.

MOTION carried by a Six (6) Yes, Three (3) No (*Byers, Cindric, Stewart*) Roll Call Vote.

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Koerbel, to hire Charles J. Vukotich as Borough Manager and Douglas R. Sample as Assistant Borough Manager.

MOTION carried by a Six (6) Yes, Three (3) No (*Byers, Cindric, Stewart*) Roll Call Vote.

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Damits, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Borough Manager position and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Assistant Manager position.

MOTION carried by a Six (6) Yes, Three (3) (*Byers, Cindric, Stewart*) No Roll Call Vote.

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mrs. Damits, to approve the advertisement for summer recreation employees.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Broglie, to approve the advertisement of a proposed Ordinance intending to amend the Non-Uniformed Employee's Pension Plan to be in accordance with the contractual changes in the Public Works Labor Agreement.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Broglie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary