

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2005**

Vice President Koerbel called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center; Flag Salute was led by Mr. Stewart. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded seven (7) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Cindric, Mrs. Damits, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. McDonough, Mrs. Sappie, Mr. Stewart. (*Mr. Byers and Mr. Crown were absent*). Also present were Mayor Hull, Manager Sample, Solicitor Wolfe, and Engineer Minsterman.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Stewart, to approve the August 24, 2005 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to approve the July 27, 2005 and August 10, 2005, meeting minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Reverend Edward Bowen, Crafton U.P. Church – Rev. Bowen reported an incident that occurred during the Crafton Celebrates festival in the park. He believed that they were not treated fairly by the Committee, were first permitted to participate and distribute literature, and the second day were told they had to leave and were not permitted. A letter was sent to Crafton Celebrates, requesting that they cease such practices and asked for an apology, six weeks ago; for which there has been no response. He asked that the Borough discontinue its association with Crafton Celebrates due to their practice violating civil rights and religious discrimination.

Alicia Conboy, 80 Bradford – Ms. Conboy, an Officer of the Crafton U.P. Church – Ms. Conboy described the various programs the church offers, and the literature that was being distributed contained that information which benefited the Crafton citizens, And, she too asked that the Borough distance itself from Crafton Celebrates.

Karen Black and Sean Black, 82 S. Linwood – Ms. Black advised that the church has done a lot for her, as a single, working mother, and for the youth in the community. Her son, Sean, spoke on behalf of the church and his experience participating in the church youth program, and how it helped him.

Ms. Koerbel stated that it was her belief that Crafton Celebrates is a separate entity from the Borough, having 501(c)3 status. Mr. Stewart responded, stating that Celebrates is not a 501(c)3 organization. He and his wife have been very active with the Committee at various times over the years, and he apologized on behalf of Council and stated that this will not happen again. He referred to past opinions of the Borough Solicitor advising that Celebrates could not deny anyone their right to participate; even if it were the KKK.

**RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS**

The following written reports were provided in Council's Packet: The Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Fee Reports, Property Tax Collector's Report, Police Report, Building Inspector and Public Works reports, Fire Department's Report and the Engineer's Report. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric inquired on the Public Works report, as to which brick streets were repaired and how is their street repair prioritized? He stated that Noble Avenue is in very bad condition as you exit Ingram. Mr. Sample stated that he was aware of that section of Noble, and would provide the list of streets included in the report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Hull reported that the Department responded to 243 complaints during the month of July 2005 and referred Council to the written report. Mr. Cindric asked what the initials CISC stand for in the report; Mayor Hull advised that would be Crafton Ingram Shopping Center.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Rost reported on opportunistic crimes that occurred recently in the borough; asking that residents lock their doors when working in the yard and close/lock garage doors. That numerous vehicles and homes were spray painted on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Schools open – drive carefully. Solicitor Wolfe advised that there have been a rash of these same incidents where he lives in Moon. Ms. Koerbel stated that she had called 911 to report youth on a garage, and she stated that they did not ask for her address, but asked if she wanted to see an officer. Chief Rost advised that some people do not want to see an officer when they respond. Mr. Cindric stated that it is his belief that even blocked numbers appear on 911 calls.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Hermes referred Council to the written report. He reported possible delays on the work on the new truck, but they are within the requirements of the contract. He presented a section of hose for Councils inspection, reiterating previous comments regarding vehicles running over fire hoses. He, again, reported difficulties locating house numbers; this past Saturday night while responding to storm calls. Mr. Cindric inquired on the number of tones on the siren. Chief Hermes stated that it should only be sounded once for 4 rounds, but county has been sending the signal twice which is their protocol, and that sounds 8 rounds. Chief Hermes reported that they are the recipients of grant funds; toward the purchase of the new truck, in part, and other equipment.

**ROBINSON EMS REPORT**

A REMS representative reported at total of 60 calls for the month of July, and 38 so far for August.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

None

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Minsterman reported that the sewer defects repairs are almost complete, in preparation of PennDots repaving of Rte. 60. Punchlist items are still being finished from the 2005 paving program.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Wolfe reported that the deed and other documents for 37 White Avenue have been received and provided to the Borough, and the next step is to have it made exempt from real estate taxes. Need to review the current Civil Service Regulations and see if there are any necessary revisions needed prior to proceeding into hiring. Mr. Cindric, considering the remarks made during Citizen Comments, asked if the Solicitor could provide a written opinion or provide some written guidance for future reference. Mr. Stewart asked for clarification that this action is necessary just to establish a new list; not to commence any actual hiring. Ms. Koerbel confirmed that the prior eligibility list has expired and it is necessary to begin the process to establish a new list.

**SECRETARY'S/MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample stated, in response to Mr. Cindric's earlier question, that the brick streets that were repaired were McMunn, Walnut, Clearview and Barr. Chartiers Avenue is complete and he reported that the City of Pittsburgh did an excellent job. Mr. Cindric asked if the Borough would be discontinuing use of the COG's vactor since our street sweeper is equipped to clean out the catch basins. Mr. Sample advised that the vactor is still necessary for some isolated locations.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

Secretary Tremblay provided the Building Inspection report for the period July 25 – August 20, 2005, reporting 11 property complaints being: 1 failure to secure a permit, 1 property maintenance, 1 trash, 2 zoning issues and 6 high grass and weeds; also, issued 22 permits and performed 42 inspections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Koerbel advised that, due to the Borough's change in Solicitors, the Planning Commission was seeking new legal Counsel for the Commission which are mainly needed for advisement not necessary meeting attendance. Several individuals were interviewed, and Mr. Stewart provided approximately 20 additional names for consideration. The Planning Commission provided their recommendation for Councils consideration, to appoint John Vogel of Tucker Arensberg. She noted that Council had previously voted favorably to retain Tim Bish as legal Counsel for all matters of which he was previously involved; being the Madigan Manor development. Ms. Koerbel confirmed that Mr. Vogels rate would be the same as previously incurred by the Borough; being \$150. per hour, that Thorp, Reed and Armstrong rate was \$175., and Mr. Marmo's rate was \$95.00 Ms. Koerbel advised, regarding Section 4.3 of the Rules and Regulations, Commission shall appoint several individuals to perform various tests during the hiring and examination process. It is the Commissions intention to hire a firm to perform these duties, and have a third party conduct the interviews. It was asked of Chief Rost for his opinion or recommendation on this process. Chief Rost advised that the State can provide services as well as going in with other municipalities as a joint endeavor. Mrs. Damits asked who made up the Commission; Mrs. Tremblay reported that Ms. Koerbel, Edward Doherty and Tom Gilles were the Commissioners. Mr. Cindric wanted to review the Shade Tree ordinance and asked for the return of his Ordinance Codification book. Mrs. Tremblay advised that she would provide it to him after the meeting, and she reminded everyone that the ordinances can be accessed electronically via General Code or through Crafton's website.

**BUSINESS AGENDA****PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Damits, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize the Civil Service Commission to commence police hiring procedures to establish a new police officer eligibility list.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Damits, to adopt Ordinance No. 1570, amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, establishing additional parking restrictions on certain streets in the Borough.

MOTION carried by a Six (6) Yes, One (1) Abstention (*Mr. Stewart abstained: Reason – On the basis of Cost.*)

**FINANCE**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Damits, to authorize the proper Borough Official to secure a Line of Credit with PNC Bank, for the amount of \$1,000,000., to be used exclusively for sewer deficiency repair work and repayment shall be made through PENNVEST loan funds. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric asked if this matter was discussed at a previous meeting. Discussion took place explaining the need to have funds available to pay contractors in advance of waiting for the distribution of funds and reimbursement through the PennVest grant. Mr. Cindric, again, expressed his concern over not making the contractors aware of PennVest funding, which was intentionally done by Manager Vukotich; that this could have had a definite impact on the contractors bids. Engineer Minsterman felt that Manager Vukotich's felt otherwise, that better prices would be obtained if the contractors knew they were getting paid by the Borough and not waiting for Pennvest funds. Ms. Koerbel asked what would result if the borough did not have this line of credit. Mr. Sample advised that we

would not have the funds readily available to pay the contractors which could jeopardize the performance and completion of the required sewer work, and could present a legal or liability issue for the borough.

MOTION carried by Six (6) Yes, One (1) No (*Cindric*) Roll Call Vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary

Approved this — day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.