

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2006**

President Stewart called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center; Flag Salute was led by Mr. Christman. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded all members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Impavido, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, and Mr. Stewart. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, Solicitor Ayoob, and Engineer Wagner.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the January 25, 2006 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0), with exceptions noted by Mr. Donovan (#410.24, #410.42).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was regularly moved by Mr. Impavido, seconded by Mr. Byers, to approve the meeting Minutes of January 11, 2006.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Marie (MiMi) Schmidt, S. Grandview Avenue – Ms. Schmidt requested that Council consider paving a section of S. Grandview in the 2006 paving program; that it is in bad need of repair (distributed photos showing the condition of the street). Mr. Stewart stated that Council and the Engineers will be reviewing the various streets and develop a paving program. Mr. Sample stated that Public Works would address the large potholes as soon as possible with cold patch materials.

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, Fire Department's Report, REMs Report and the Engineer's Report. Mr. Cindric advised that the REMs report was not included in the packet. Mr. Cindric advised that he had attended the REMs dinner/meeting, last evening. They displayed a Power Point presentation showing the newly purchased vehicles; a "Disaster Response Vehicle", and have ordered a "Disaster Response Trailer" which will be available for major disasters such as a chemical spill.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Rost reported that the 2005 Annual Report was provided to each Council person; Mrs. Tremblay asked that a copy be provided to the office. He advised that persons should be aware of "sad story" phone scams, asking for money. Report any such calls to the Police. An officer was assigned to Carlynton High School on January 19th, to speak to three 11th grade classes about the Motor Vehicle Code, as a continuation of the "Adopt a School Program".

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 156 complaints for the month of December, and referred Council to the written report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Stewart reported that the final Budget session was held last Wednesday and the 2006 Budget was available for public review. Also, Crafton sponsored the January CharWest COG dinner meeting; and he thanked Mrs. Tremblay and Mrs. Keeley for making the dinner and other arrangements. The COG reported that Federal grant funds may be available to each community, in the amount of \$100,000. –

Manager Sample stated that he would be providing details during his Manager's Report. Mr. Stewart advised that the Sewer Fund is not a budget account; it is an expense account that needs to be reviewed monthly by Council, and the auditor will be including this in the 2005 audit. He also reminded everyone that future Council meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wagner stated that he has submitted recommendation to Council to pay A. Merante Contracting the amount of \$143,110.62. for the current Consent Order sewer repairs.

SECRETARY'S/MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported that the Crafton Rec Board made application for, and has been awarded a \$5,000. grant for the Senior Citizen program; earmarked for exercise equipment and a weekly Senior program in the Community Center. The Borough received a park grant award of \$10,000. for the building of a storage shed in the main park and cameras to secure that area in the park. He is working on the \$100,000 COG grant; preliminarily looking at funding for a recreation plan along Chartiers Creek, football field in Crafton Park and Library expansion. He reported that a copy of the rate resolution/fee schedule has been provided to Council for review and input on any desired changes; which will be acted upon in February. Lastly, he met with Carlynton Superintendent Panza and will be meeting a candidate for Junior Councilperson.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Inspector Skorich reported that for the period of December 27, 2005 – January 20, 2006 he investigated 5 complaints of property and/or structure non-compliance, issued 22 permits, and performed 40 inspections.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Impavido, to approve only one representative from Crafton Borough to attend the 2006 ALOM Annual Conference to be held at Seven Springs Resort. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Donovan requested an Executive Session to discuss a possible ethics violation. Following the Executive Session, Mr. Stewart advised that Council may proceed on this motion as there is nothing of substance concerning any ethics violations. Ms. Koerbel asked for clarification if the one person was from Council only, or would Manager Sample be the designated representative. Mr. Stewart stated that due to costs, this would provide attendance by a Council person only; that the manager has other sources and meetings to gain information. Ms. Koerbel felt that if anyone should attend on behalf of the Borough, it should be the manager. He works with all aspects of borough government on a day to day basis, and would have the most to gain from this conference.

MOTION failed on a Five (5) No, Four (4) Yes (*Byers, Christman, Impavido, Stewart*) Roll Call Vote (5-4).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Impavido, to designate Councilman Daniel Cindric to represent Crafton Borough and attend the 2006 ALOM Annual Conference; *amended to include* attendance by Borough Manager, Douglas Sample. **COMMENTS:** Ms. Koerbel reiterated her position that Manager Sample should also attend; she added that Mr. Cindric and another councilperson are running for the Office of State Representative, and perhaps sending Mr. Cindric would send a message that Crafton implicitly supports him. Mr. Impavido asked if any other Councilperson would desire to go. Mrs. Sappie said she did not have a problem with Mr. Cindric attending, but she agreed that the Manager should also go; both representing the Borough. Mr. Donovan felt that the Manager should be the only one attending, rather than limiting it to only 1 councilperson. Mr. Ogden felt that one councilperson and the Manager should both attend. Mr. Christman felt that since Mr. Cindric was already going to be there, that the borough should then only authorize the Manager to attend. Mr. Stewart suggested a friendly amendment to read that both Councilman Cindric and Manager Sample be authorized to attend; a friendly amendment was accepted.

MOTION carried by an Eight (8) Yes, One (1) Abstention (*Cindric*) Roll Call Vote.

FINANCE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Christman, to ~~adopt~~ *accept the "Proposed" 2006 Budget and have it available for Public Inspection. (*Solicitor Ayoob requested the word *accept* be substituted for the word *adopt*.) **COMMENTS:** Mr. Ogden expressed concerns that accepting the amended Budget may conflict with his opinion on not terminating the DANET program, since no funds were budgeted for the DANET program. Mr. Cindric asked why no funds were budgeted for Dickey, McCamey litigation regarding the Morgan Stanley lawsuit. Mr. Sample stated that it was not known yet if the Pension funds could pay this cost. Mr. Stewart and Solicitor Ayoob provided a brief summary of the pending litigation against Morgan Stanley. If to be paid from the General Funds, funds would come from the previous line item (#410.32). Mrs. Koerbel asked if it would be proper, at this time, to consider her motion for Council to forego a salary. Mr. Stewart asked that a new motion following the set Business Agenda.

MOTION carried by a Seven (7) Yes, Two (2) No (*Donovan, Koerbel*) Roll Call Vote (7-2).

PLANNING

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to appoint Thomas Ayoob, III, as the Solicitor for the Crafton Planning Commission, effective February 1, 2006. **COMMENTS:** Ms. Koerbel stated, with no disrespect to Mr. Ayoob, that the Planning Commission went to a lot of trouble to seek and interview candidates and were very pleased with Mr. Vogel. Mr. Stewart stated that additional names were provided to the Commission but were not considered; additionally, he believes that only one Solicitor should represent both the Borough and its planning commission. Solicitor Ayoob answered Mr. Cindric's concerns, stating that the Zoning Hearing Board must have separate legal counsel and that there is no conflict of interest if he were to represent both the borough and the planning commission.

MOTION carried by an Eight (8) Yes, One (1) No (*Koerbel*) Roll Call Vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Impavido, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to authorize the Borough Manager and Solicitor to take action to terminate the agreement with the Allegheny County Drug Task Force (i.e., D.A.N.E.T). **COMMENTS:** Mr. Stewart summarized the program and costs incurred; that regular overtime is reimbursed but, over recent years, the borough is incurring increased court overtime costs that are not being reimbursed. Chief Rost explained that the prior Council had started looking into this and discussing it with him; that court time has never been reimbursed by the County. Mrs. Sappie asked what has the Task Force done specifically for Crafton; has Crafton directly benefited from the program. Chief Rost responded that some leads have resulted from Crafton arrests, and some leads from outside communities have led to arrests in Crafton. Can and will Crafton make arrests without participating in the drug task force; yes, it always has and will continue to do so. Mr. Byers stated that previously there had been communication problems, and asked if it had been resolved. Chief Rost stated yes, that was under the old drug task force. Mr. Ogden asked if withdrawing from the force would affect Crafton's networking with the County and other municipalities; and the Chief stated it would have no affect. Chief Rost added that court postponements add to the cost; officers appear, and then must re-appear, and by contract they are paid overtime even for postponed hearings, etc. Mrs. Tremblay stated that the DANET generated court overtime can be calculated. Mr. Impavido felt it was inappropriate to spend Crafton's tax dollars for costs generated outside our community. Chief Rost confirmed that some grants monies have come to Crafton for the bikes, etc. It was the consensus that Crafton would not be harmed by terminating the DANET agreement.

MOTION carried by a Seven (7) Yes, Two (2) No (*Donovan, Koerbel*) Roll Call Vote (7-2).

PARKS/RECREATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Christman, to authorize the advertisement for 2006 Summer Employment positions. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie inquired if the

employment position included management; Mrs. Tremblay confirmed that management was included and those positions have been included in the budget.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve payment to A. Merante in the amount of \$143,110.62 from the PNC Line of Credit, to be reimbursed by PennVest funds, per the recommendation of the Engineers. (*Motion amended to include "PNC Line of Credit to be reimbursed by" language, per Mr. Cindric's/Mr. Stewart's request.*) The drawdown and reimbursement procedure was discussed.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Cindric, that William Ogden be appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Crafton Planning Commission. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Ogden stated that he would accept the appointment, but wanted to be sure that there was no conflict of interest since he will be running for the Office of State Representative. Mr. Cindric confirmed that 2 members of Crafton Council are permitted to sit on the 5-member planning commission.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0)

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Donovan, that Council forego salaries this year. **COMMENTS:** Ms. Koerbel stated that eliminating Council salaries would save the borough \$16,200. Mr. Cindric offered that each council member should be allowed to, individually, make this decision. Mr. Stewart added that anyone on Council can dedicate their salary to other line items, but it should be their choice. Mr. Impavido stated that he misses work to attend most evening meetings, which is a loss of income to him, and so he would desire to keep the Council salary. * (*Line stricken here, per 3/8/06 Minutes approval.*) Mr. Byers stated that, on an expense account basis, it may cost even more. This line item has been stagnant for decades and it is actually a small amount when you consider the amount of time and work.

MOTION failed by a Seven (7) No, Two (2) Yes (*Donovan, Koerbel*) Roll Call Vote (7-2).

Mr. Cindric offered that a motion be made to allow Council to dedicate their salary or forego the salary. Mr. Stewart stated that this is not necessary; if you don't take a salary you will not receive a W-2.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Sappie stated that a meeting of the Rec Board and other volunteers on January 23rd, regarding the Senior Dinners. Dates have been selected, and another meeting will be held on February 20th for anyone interested in volunteering; and the first dinner is scheduled for March 18th. She appreciated the turnout of volunteers.

Mr. Stewart suggested that new chairs be considered for Council; Mr. Sample stated he would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary