

**COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006**

President Stewart called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag salute was lead by Mr. Donovan and roll call was conducted by Manager Sample; recording nine (9) 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 Woodman, and Engineer Wagner (*Secretary Tremblay was absent/medical leave*).

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to approve the February 8, 2006 List of Bills; amended to hold off on payment of second item under #410.23/\$80.50.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0), with exception noted by Mr. Donovan (#410.24).

**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION**

Mayor O'Connell read a Mayor's Proclamation recognizing Bill Cowher for leading the Pittsburgh Steelers to a victory (*Copy attached to and made a part of the Minutes*).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Patricia Radford, 103 Broadhead Road – Mrs. Radford reported that recently, that a car slid on the icy street and hit her porch/house. Mrs. Sappie, Mr. Cindric and Engineer Wagner visited her home to check it out. Her home sits below street level and she expressed concerns that this could occur again, and asked Council to consider guide rail installation for her safety and peace of mind. Mr. Stewart offered that Council will await a report from the Engineer on the feasibility and Penndot's qualifications for guide rail installation at this site (Mrs. Radford provided photographs to Council for review.)

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Wagner reported that Council should consider, early, the streets for the 2006 paving program. He reported on the guide rail request for 103 Broadhead. Penndot's criteria considers 4 items – 1) Clear zone of 10 ft. or greater, 2) Unobstructed distance of 8 ft., 3) Curve radius, and 4) Steepness and Height of the slope. Mr. Wagner stated that under this criteria, this site does not qualify for a guide rail. Mr. Cindric asked about the crown of the road. Mr. Wagner stated it is a normal crown that encourages water runoff to the sides of the road. Mr. Byers stated that although a guide rail may not be warranted according to Penndot criteria, the Borough could still install one; and this was confirmed by Engineer Wagner. Mr. Stewart remarked of a similar situation on Crafton Blvd., following 3 accidents, a guide rail was installed. Mr. Impavido asked how long of a section would be required; Mr. Wagner estimated 150 to 200 ft.; possibly at a cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000. Mr. Byers inquired on the guide rail inventory, and Manager Sample advised that he would look into it but doesn't believe there would be an adequate amount in inventory. Paving Program: Mr. Stewart suggested that each Councilperson do visual inspections of the streets, or do this as a group, and prioritize streets for paving consideration, and provide a written report to Manager. Sample to be provided to the Engineer, for the next meeting. Engineer Wagner reported that a paving management evaluation report was done by Gateway, as well as a cost estimate for 4 specific roads, that Council may want to review them as well. Ms. Koerbel expressed concerns of significant cost increases if street paving was deferred; which was confirmed by Engineer Wagner. Mr. Cindric reported that Black's Bridge needs to be considered and referred to inspection reports, and, also, the intersection of Crafton Blvd. and Noble. Mr. Stewart stated that he would like to speak to Al Beihler, Crafton resident and head of Penndot, regarding the status of a grant that is pending for Black's Bridge.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

None

**OLD BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Scanner: Mr. Stewart reported that changes in meeting packet preparation and distribution are being considered; for a cost savings and better efficiency, using a scanner – only 2 Councilperson would require a hard copy and everyone else could receive it electronically. Manager Sample reported that an estimated scanner cost is approx. \$460 to \$500, complete.

Jr. Councilperson: Program criteria/requirements were distributed to Council and Mayor O'Connell will visit Carlynton. Possibly, by the next meeting, Council can consider candidates. Mr. Ogden requested that this opportunity be made available to Canevin students, as well – perhaps one from Carlynton and one from Canevin.

Rate Resolution: Manager Sample reported that the current rate resolution was provided to all of Council for review for changes, particularly pool fees that were discussed during budget discussions. Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Cindric discussed Newsletter matters. Manager Sample stated that he will have an amended rate resolution for adoption at the next meeting.

Chartier's Trail Grant: Mr. Stewart reported that Crafton is to meet with Penndot and review the trail expectations; that specs can be changed so that a super highway does need to be constructed. There is \$180,000 grant, for Phase I, and Penndot would, eventually, desire that this trail become a connector. Mr. Donovan expressed concerns about ADA accessibility and emergency vehicle access, which is required under the Penndot specs. Mr. Stewart stated that all of this will be considered. Mr. Impavido stated that there are areas on the existing trail that are wide enough for a vehicle. Ms. Koerbel asked if issues concerning road ownership and Madigan Manor need to be considered, and there were questions concerning the CV Flood Control Authority's position on the trail.

Tree Planting: Arbor day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Council should consider, during March, placement ideas for tree planting. Mr. Cindric stated that there are possibly certain criteria for location, etc. to be considered as well as proximity to utility lines.

Open Commission Seats: Mr. Stewart asked Council to be aware of the open seats on various commissions. Mr. Stewart suggested that notice get out to the public via a press release to the newspapers and also in the borough newsletter.

**BUSINESS AGENDA****FINANCE:**

**MOTION**: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt the 2006 Budget.

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

**MOTION**: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Impavido, to adopt Ordinance No. 1575, fixing the tax rates on Real Property for the 2006 Fiscal Year at 5.5 mills for General Fund purposes. **COMMENTS**: Mr. Cindric announced that this represents a half mill decrease from the previously adopted Budget. Ms. Koerbel stated that it still represents a half mill increase to the taxpayers over the 2005 rate, and also represents a reduction in income for the paving program. The paving program was cut in half, which amounts to approximately \$70,000. Mr. Byers stated that Council will continue to look at ways to save money in the budget.

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Sappie reported that a meeting is scheduled for regarding the Senior Citizen dinner for Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and welcomed additional volunteers.

Mr. Impavido remarked on continuing to work on the budget to save taxes, over the next several years. Mr. Ogden asked that Council continue discussing the DANET matter.

Ms. Koerbel reported that the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Also, the Civil Service Commission met this past Tuesday, as required by statute. They expressed concerns and the desire to proceed on plans to establish an eligibility list.

Mr. Donovan asked that the Chief be required to attend meetings. Mayor O'Connell reported that she directs this, and did not require his attendance; and Mr. Donovan should speak directly to her concerning this matter.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mrs. Radford asked if Council would be making a decision on her guide rail request. Mr. Stewart stated that Council will examine this further and get back to her.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary