

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 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 Ms. Koerbel and roll call was conducted by Secretary Tremblay; recording seven (7) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Impavido, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, and Mr. Stewart. Also present were Manager Sample, Solicitor Woodman, and Engineer Wagner (*Mr. Byers, Mr. Donovan and Mayor O'Connell were absent*). President Stewart reported that, prior to the meeting, Council met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the March 8, 2006 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the January 25, 2006 meeting minutes. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Impavido requested that a remark by Ms. Koerbel on page 4 following his remark, be stricken (*re: Council salary motion*). He also asked that the Minutes be available, if possible, by the next meeting. Secretary Tremblay stated that they usually are, but it depends on the workload in the office and she also reminded Council that she had been off recently on medical leave.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Matt Greiner, 8 Alice Street - Mr. Greiner expressed his views on Council possibly replacing the current in-house Building Inspector with an outside contractor. It was his opinion that it should remain an individual, available 5 days per week, and not outsourced to a company. That he doesn't believe there will be any cost savings in making this type of change; that it will cost more for permits, and residents and contractors will be inconvenienced because an inspector will not be readily available. Mr. Stewart stated that Mr. Cindric has researched this and will be discussing it later in the meeting.

Lee Drozak, 19 Lyons Street (on behalf of Carlynton Little Cougar Football) – Ms. Drozak requested that Council consider allowing the Little Cougars to use the Afton Avenue Ballfield for team and cheerleader practice – mid July through October; games are held at Carlynton's field. Possibly allowing them to plant grass seed and move fencing. Following questions and answers, Council advised that they would consider it and will let her know their decision.

Don Urbanic, 2204 Crafton Blvd. – Mr. Urbanic asked that Council consider paving Crafton Blvd. That it is in deplorable condition. He added that there has been a lot of activity over the years; twice changing the direction, installing stop signs and speed humps, but no paving. General paving discussion continued.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

A list of roads and estimated costs was provided to Council; two sections of Crafton Blvd, just for re-surfacing is estimated at \$75,000. The open cut sewer repair contract has been completed, with the exception of restoration work. The sewer lining contract will be complete in approximately one week. The CCTV contract with Robinson Pipe is beginning. **Comments:** **Mr. Cindric** inquired on the method of repairing the intersection of Noble and Crafton Blvd. – concrete vs. asphalt patching overlay. Engineer Wagner suggested asphalt overlay to be more cost effective. Mrs. Sappie asked if the bricks could be kept on Oregon rather paving over them. Engineer Wagner stated that the bricks are too deteriorated to reuse, and to purchase new brick would be cost prohibitive. **Mr. Ogden** inquired if, in the long run, would

it be cost effective to replace the brick. Mr. Wagner said, eventually, it would be cost effective, but for now the cost would be significant. Concrete is preferred for West Crafton because of the heavy traffic. Ms. Koerbel asked about the problems that would arise with the guardrails along Backbone Road; that the rails would be too low if the road was just overlaid, and milling would be required.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Woodman stated that they are working on the Walgreen's assessment appeal.

OLD BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

2006 Paving Program: Mr. Cindric stated that Black's Bridge needs work; the deck surface, railing and curbing. Mr. Stewart stated that he is discussing this with Doug, and investigating some options – and will get back to Council on this at the next meeting. Mr. Cindric expressed concerns that Backbone, and Oregon, if paved, would become a race track and Backbone is a 15 mph park zone. The potholes and patches slow down traffic, and the traffic sounds on Oregon, traveling over the brick, give advance alert to children of oncoming vehicles. He would prefer that the brick streets remain, and be maintained by Public Works; and soon, Council will need to make a decision on McMunn and that brick surface. Mr. Ogden reported that there are an insufficient number of 25 mph signs along Dinsmore, and requested that Manager Sample look into this, and have Public Works install an additional sign or two. Manager Sample stated that PennDot will begin paving Rte 60 near the end of March; commencing with Steuben Street during the evening hours; then move on to Noble and Dinsmore. Mr. Impavido does not think that Backbone should be paved this year for financial reasons, but agrees that it does need improved. Mr. Chrsitman inquired on a possible intern program or trade program, where an apprentice or intern could work with our Public Works to remove and relay bricks; Ms. Koerbel agreed and said possibly create a model program. Manager Sample said replacement brick is limited, and if no low cost labor would be available, he would need at least 5 to 7 summer employees and the Public Works workers to do the brick work over the summer. Mr. Stewart re-iterated that, as an example, referring to Ewing Road between Hawthorne and Grandview, the condition of the bricks were deplorable and could not be reused, and new brick would need to be purchased. General discussion continued.

LGA Intern Program: Ms. Koerbel commented that application was made, and the Borough was awarded the opportunity, to have an Intern to prepare a report on the Steuben Street corridor; to create a more friendly business environment to attract more businesses. Manager Sample reported that it would be an Economic Redevelopment study, over a 12 weeks period, at a cost to the borough of \$5.00 per hour. The scope or criteria would be determined by a committee of members from Council, the Planning Commission and Mr. Sample. Mr. Stewart felt that the borough has better uses for an intern; possibly in the offices, and doesn't believe that a study is going to have any effect on attracting business. Mr. Ogden felt that it is not a huge cost and the result could be beneficial to the Borough. Ms. Koerbel explained that there is no up-to-date, accurate plans; specifically nothing for business districts. Previously, everything was based on joint planning and is about 25 years old. Mr. Sample stated that \$1,500 was budgeted for this intern, and the planning commission has budgeted \$500.

Jr. Councilperson: Mr. Sample reported that there are two candidates, from Carlynton, for Council's consideration and appointment. He has reviewed the program with Canevin, and they will get back to us. Ms. Koerbel suggested that they be involved with the Borough Newsletter.

Library Expansion: Mr. Stewart indicated that the person was not available this evening for a presentation on this matter; discussion tabled. Mr. Sample reported that the Library is applying for a Keystone grant and will need a borough resolution adopted at one of the upcoming meetings.

Chartiers Valley District Flood Control Authority – Resolution of Support: Mr. Stewart asked that Council review the resolution and consider adoption at the next meeting. He also asked Mr. Sample to find out when the 2006 meeting is scheduled. Mr. Cindric added that the tributaries are beyond the jurisdiction of the CV District, but with the recent flooding they would like to study the effect of the tributaries on Chartiers Creek.

Building Inspection: Mr. Cindric stated that Council is currently looking into the outsourcing of this service. Previous to the in-house inspector, the Borough had contracted service for two days per week; so Crafton would, again, be doing something similar to this. With an in-house inspector, the borough taxpayers are subsidizing the cost of building permits, and by outsourcing, the company would receive a percentage of the fee paid by the applicant. He added that, when our in-house inspector is out sick or on vacation, there is no one in the borough to perform his duties; whereas, with a company, one of many inspectors would be available to perform these duties. Ms. Koerbel and Mrs. Sappie asked that Council have an opportunity to interview the companies, and also, have adequate information and cost for the option of maintaining the in-house inspector. All that is being addressed is building inspection; and no one is speaking to other areas such as code enforcement, and she would like more information on that aspect. Mr. Ogden would like to see someone who has Crafton's interest in mind; someone that knows Crafton and would be an advocate. Mr. Cindric felt that Council, or a committee of Council, would be the liaison between the building inspector and the Crafton residents and businessmen. Also, the inspection companies insure continuing education and certification of their inspectors; at their cost not at the borough's expense. Discussion continued on the pros and cons of appointing an outside building inspection service. Mr. Stewart requested that company presentations and interviews be setup for Wednesday, March 15th, at 7:00 pm, and that Council be prepared to act on this at the March 22nd Council meeting.

BUSINESS AGENDA

FINANCE:

~~**MOTION:** I move to hire _____ to perform the Borough's Building Inspection and Zoning enforcement. *Motion withdrawn.*~~

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve participation in the LGA Intern Program, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. to perform a Strategic Plan Study for the redevelopment of the Steuben Street corridor; with an additional amount of \$500. to be paid from Crafton Planning Commission funds.

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

PUBLIC WORKS:

~~**MOTION:** I move to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare Bid Specifications for the 2006 Paving Program. *Motion withdrawn, pending approved list of streets..*~~

PUBLIC SAFETY:

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to approve and ratify the authority of motion made at the regular meeting of Crafton Borough Council held on the 28th day of December 2005, approving the Police Contract, for a four (4) year period commencing January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Sappie asked that the request of the Little Cougars be addressed at the next meeting of Council.

Mr. Impavido stated that he, Mrs. Koerbel, Secretary Tremblay and Manager Sample had a Borough Newsletter, and accomplished a lot, and there are plans to publish the names of the war Cindric expressed comments concerning Mr. Greiner's Foster Avenue development approval and the recent changes in zoning concerning Buffer areas; that his original approval was in a residential district and it is now an overlay district.

Mrs. Koerbel remarked on the Newsletter; that the deadline for articles is April and is scheduled for distribution the beginning of May. Also, looking into a company that will produce a Newsletter with the map inside, and it is paid for by advertisers, and plan on a fall mailing.

Mr. Ogden reported on a paper recycling fund raiser to be held at the Crafton Elementary School, to assist with the cost for playground equipment. It was suggested to place something on this in the Newsletter.

Mr. Christman reported that a sign up sheet has been posted for volunteers for the reformation of a 4th of July celebration committee – this year he is shooting for funds for fireworks on the 4th of July.

Mr. Stewart advised that they have made changes in the call-out procedures for winter maintenance. Reported that there are several vacancies on the various committees, i.e., civil service commission. He stated that a police test is coming up in September through the ShaCOG, and suggested that we wait and use this service for hiring. Reported a number of options were provided to Bill Cowher, and he would be happy to have Alley Q renamed after him. The residents need to be reminded that they are required to recycle in the borough. Dog owners should be aware of the recently changed State law; the Dangerous Dog Act, Title 3502.A, and this is a very serious matter, and dangerous dogs should be muzzled and under control at all times. Veteran's as listed on the plaque.

Mr. Cindric reported that it is time to consider tree maintenance and flower planting. He asked Mrs. Sappie to report on the Senior Citizen Dinners; Mrs. Sappie stated the date of the dinner and the meeting date. Mrs. Sappie confirmed that the Rec Board is running the program and Mrs. Sappie and others are volunteers assisting with the Senior Citizen Dinners. Mr. Stewart stated that he would be contacting Mr. Rullo, the Chairman of the Rec Board concerning this matter.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Blair Cress commented on Backbone Road, and asked if Backbone were to be just milled, would it be in a better driving condition similar to what PennDot did on Steuben Street from Stratmore to Grace Street. Engineer Wagner said he would have to look at it.

Mr. Greiner suggested that a survey be provided to the Oregon Avenue residents asking their input on brick vs. paving. He, as fundraiser coordinator for the Little Cougars, reported that plans are in the borough offices, for review and approval, for renovations to the Afton ballfields for building a football field; hopefully in time for the 2007 season. Mr. Greiner also reported that the planned playground will remain open for use by Crafton residents, and it will not be locked up. He argued points made by Mr. Cindric concerning the cost for the in-house building inspector, stating that Mr. Cindric's reasoning didn't take into consideration the zoning and code enforcement aspect of this position.

Mr. Urbanic, again, reiterated his request for Council to consider Backbone Road for paving. He stated that the potholes and poor condition of the road should not replace law enforcement. And, he argued that Backbone is a high traffic area and does deserve the attention for that type of traffic.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Ogden, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary