

**COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 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. Ogden. 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. *Mr. Stewart apologized for starting the meeting late (7:50), due to an Executive Session of Council held to discuss legal and personnel matters.*

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-03 authorizing participation in the Pa State Association of Boroughs Junior Council Person Program.

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

**OATH OF OFFICE - JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON: Grete Luxbacher**

Ms. McNamara was sworn in by Mayor O'Connell.

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Byers, to appoint Carlynton students Grete Luxbacher and Allison McNamara as Junior Council Persons in accordance with PSAB guidelines, and Resolution No. 2006-03.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the March 22, 2006 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric asked about a paychex payment noting ESA payroll – Mrs. Tremblay stated that was for the Crossing Guard payroll noting it as an Educational Service Agency.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Impavido, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the February 8 and February 22, 2006 meeting minutes. **COMMENT:** Mr. Cindric asked for a correction to his name in the minutes; which was noted.

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

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**Roy Hermes, S. Linwood Avenue** – Mr. Hermes commented on the proposed change in building inspection services. He did not support Council's removal of the current building inspector; that he has performed very well in the borough. He doesn't believe a part-time person can provide the same service to the residents as was provided by the in-house inspector.

**Dr. Panza, Carlynton School Superintendent** - Dr. Panza thanked the Borough for appointing two of Carlynton's students as Junior Council persons.

**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.  
COMMENTS:

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 166 complaints for the month of February, and referred Council to the written report. She noted two Crime Alerts; one regarding counterfeit \$20. dollar bills showing up at area businesses and, two, reported break-ins during the evenings along Steuben Street.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Stewart commented on complaints about dangerous dogs in the area; that he will ask the Solicitor to advise Council on recent changes to State laws concerning dangerous dogs. There have been complaints regarding trash and recycle pick up; and the Borough will be aggressively enforcing the recycling ordinance. He has asked that recycle stickers be available for the residents, as previously provided, to be placed on recycle containers.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Wagner reported that a list of roads for paving has been provided for consideration. The CCTV contract will commence next month. He noted that there is a request for Gateway to release a copy of our 9 Minimum Controls report to Alcosan; Mr. Cindric requested a motion to approve this action – under New Business.

### **SOLICITOR' REPORT**

Solicitor Ayoob had nothing to report.

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

Manager Sample reported that preliminary work has begun on Rte 60 by Penndot; work will be done mostly in the evening. He will be looking into ordering recycling stickers. Secretary Tremblay reported that the Crafton Volunteer Fire Dept. will be carrying on the long-time tradition of Crafton Celebrates and will be holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Park. She also was requested, by a resident, to remind everyone to report non-working street lights to the office.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Library Expansion: Ms. Eileen Cox introduced herself as a member of the Library Board and the liaison to Council. She thanked Council for the 5% increase in the annual contribution to their operating budget and thanked Ms. Koerbel for her contribution. She noted that the Library's Book and Bake Sale is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and a Card Party on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Mary Luxbacher added that former Councilperson, Mark Viola, has donated his architectural services to the Library for the expansion project. She noted one change; they were able to gain 2,000 sq.ft by extending plan to the brick wall, and adding a door, additional exit (emergency) for them and the magistrates' office. The cost is estimated at \$165,000., and they currently have \$55,000., so several fund raisers are planned.

2006 Paving Program: Mr. Sample stated that the budget provides for \$75,000. the recommendations have been provided to Council; including McMunn and Black's Bridge through the Noble intersection. All sewers will be televised before paving any street. Possibly the City of Pittsburgh will share in repairs to the Bridge; since approx. 25% of the Bridge is in the City. Bridge sidewalk would be handled in-house. Cost was estimated at approx. \$121,000. The McMunn sewer lateral issue and sinkholes must be resolved. It was suggested that Public Works do repair work to the brick streets.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer – Mr. Impavido stated that the company will provide services to meet the borough's needs. Mr. Cindric advised that all permitting requirements will be

handled in a timely fashion; he will be a certified building inspector, in all classifications, as required by Labor & Industry. Ms. Koerbel stated that the Borough can have the services as much as needed, but it would be charged to the Borough at an hourly rate which is not at a cost savings. That this matter has not been discussed enough, and adequate information has not been provided for Council's consideration, and feels this action is unfortunate for the Borough. Mr. Stewart stated that the company they are considering is the most competent and at a good price. The fees will be paid by the permittee, and not at the expense of the borough, and this should be at a cost savings. Mr. Cindric stated that his decision is not necessarily a cost saving issue; it is to assign the permit fee to the permittee and not to the rest of the community. Also, when the in-house inspector is absent, there is no replacement. With a company, there would be one. This company would insure continuing education of it's inspectors. Mr. Christman stated that the company isn't working out, there is an opt out clause. Mr. Byers stated that all three choices are self-insured and would eliminate any liability to the Borough. Mr. Ogden liked the idea of a team approach. Ms. Koerbel concurred, and preferred Plan Examiners; their educational and team approach. Mr. Impavido added that if Council is not please with the inspector, he can be easily replaced from within the company without any concerns of litigation or discussion.

Fireworks, including tax write-offs/other questions – Mr. Stewart stated that the Borough has provided Fireworks displays each year since 1975, and Mr. Christman has made arrangements to contract for service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Stewart states it is their desire to fund this through contributions and at no expense to the Borough. Ms. Koerbel asked who would the contract be between; Mr. Christman advised that it would be between Schaeffer Pyrotechnics and Crafton Borough. Ms. Koerbel asked how the proposed Celebrates organization would fit into this. Mr. Ayoob advised that any committee created by Council would not be a legal entity, but would have certain authority, and the borough would be required to sign contracts. Past practices, membership, etc., of the Crafton Celebrates organization was discussed.

Construction of football field on the Afton Avenue fields – Manager Sample advised that plans have been submitted to the office designing a football field, drainage, etc. by the Carlynton Little Cougars, for Council to review and consider. This has nothing to do with the Agenda motion to allow the Little Cougars to practice on the Afton fields.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the hiring of a soil expert to test and analyze the soil composition at the Duncan II site, per the recommendation of Attorney Thomas Dempsey, Sr., at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. **COMMENTS:** Solicitor Ayoob stated that due to the current litigation, he could not speak on this matter; except that this is to provide for an expert witness.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-02 in support of grant-funded studies by the Chartiers Valley Flood Control Authority to determine the impact of tributaries that drain into the Chartiers Creek. **COMMENT:** Mr. Cindric advised that this involves no cost to the borough; provides only it's support.

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

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the use, by Carlynton Little Cougars, of the Afton Avenue ball fields as practice fields for their 2006 football season, to commence on or after July 5, 2006, subject to certain use guidelines.

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

**PROPERTY CODE/ZONING ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Byers, to hire Building Inspection Underwriters (BIU) to perform the Borough's Building Inspection and Zoning enforcement. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Stewart advised that several companies were interviewed and Mr. Cindric requested that Building Inspection Underwriters name be inserted into the motion. Ms. Koerbel and Mr. Ogden stated that they preferred Plan Examiners. Mr. Byers felt they did not have enough of a track record, and felt that BIU had a lot of experience in all fields; Mr. Stewart added that they have been in business for 50 years. Ms. Koerbel expressed concerns that they are not local, similar to the concerns Council addressed when considering Jordan Tax Service. Mr. Impavido did like Plans Examiner's approach, but felt BIU would be the better choice. It was suggested that BIU might be receptive to the historic considerations of the properties in the Borough.

MOTION carried by a Six Yes, Two No (*Koerbel, Ogden*), and One Abstention (*Donovan – Not enough information*) Roll Call Vote (6-2-1).

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare Bid Specifications for the 2006 Paving Program; with a base bid and an alternate bid to include Noble Avenue. **COMMENTS:** It was commented that there is only \$75,000. available to do \$121,000. worth of work; and to bid out a base bid and an alternate bid.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to permit Gateway Engineers to release the borough's 9 Minimum Controls Report to Alcosan.

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Koerbel noted that the Planning Commission had interviewed 3 LGA internship candidates.

Mr. Ogden felt that Crafton would benefit from whichever intern is selected.

Ms. Luxbacher, Jr. Councilperson, thanked Council for the appointment.

Mr. Christman asked for a motion at the next meeting to provide the 50% deposit (\$4,200.) for the Fireworks to hold that date; 50% of \$8,400.

Mr. Cindric asked if the Jr. Councilperson would have any assignments; it was suggested to help with the Newsletter committee. He reported that the COG was looking for sample Rental Inspection ordinances for Bridgeville. He mentioned that PayPal is offered by Coraopolis as a method of payment. A household hazardous waste collection to be held in April at Settler's Cabin park, and there will be a charge of \$2.00 per gallon. He asked that the next Agenda provide for a motion to authorize a \$25 door prize for the annual COG dinner. COG continuing discussion on a Congressional multi-municipal grant.

Mr. Impavido expressed his comments that Council is attempting to do the best for the community; if something is not working, it can be changed.

Mrs. Sappie reported that the Senior Dinner will be on Saturday; volunteers are welcome. She and Mr. Ogden will be meeting with Manager Sample to review some pool and recreation items.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mrs. Luxbacher inquired on the comments for building permits and the cost to be paid solely by the permittee, and asked if it would be more. She asked that information be posted on what work requires a permit and also post the fees. Mr. Stewart advised that the fee schedule will be available soon, and the fees may be higher. Mr. Cindric advised that the fees would be in line with other communities.

Mr. Stewart stated that if anyone is interested in volunteering for the celebrates committee, they are looking to provide Fireworks this year and have a committee to begin working on 2007 – and to contact the secretary’s office. Rege Patton volunteered his services. A resident (Mr. Fincher) inquired on the Tax write-off status for contributions for the fireworks – being a committee of the borough, contributions would not qualify for a tax write-off. Ms. Linda Breeden asked when the change to the new inspector would take effect – Mr. Stewart said the 1<sup>st</sup> of April; but be assured there would be no lapse in inspection coverage.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary