

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of April 12, 2006

OATH OF OFFICE - JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON: Allison McNamara

Ms. McNamara was sworn in by Mayor O'Connell prior to the commencement of the Council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to approve the April 12, 2006 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Ms. Koerbel questioned the expense for a Special Audit (#402.11) in the amount of \$1,890.; Mr. Stewart said that it was requested to clarify certain spending on the Clearview wall project, Backbone sidewalk to no where, and other items, which will also be verified to the 2004/2005 Minutes. Ms. Koerbel questioned the amount being advanced by the Borough to Schaeffer Pyrotechnics for the Fireworks deposit in the amount of \$3,700., in anticipation of being reimbursed from fundraiser proceeds. She expressed concerns if fundraising goals are not met. Mr. Stewart stated that businesses have already been solicited and contributions are coming in, and, next, the residents will be sent a fundraising letter; and he is confident that adequate contributions will be received. Ms. Koerbel also questioned the Solicitor's invoice, noting that it was rather high for one month. She also questioned Solicitor Ayoob's rate; as this was not known at the time he was appointed. Mr. Cindric stated that his rate is \$135.00 per hour, and the previous Solicitor was \$125. per hour for general matters, but had a 2 or 3 tier rate -- \$150.00 for land use, and another rate -- which averaged out to approximately \$142. per hour. Ms. Koerbel questioned Mr. Cindric's calculations. Mr. Stewart questioned the 2005 county tax/Jordan Tax bill for 37 White Avenue. Mrs. Tremblay explained that when the Borough took ownership last year, the 2005 county taxes were not paid; but exemption has been applied for, for 2006, Mr. Sample is to research the Paychex bill and report to Mr. Stewart with a summary, and Mr. Sample, in response to Mr. Stewart's question, advised that the Zoresco bill was for repairs to the salt spreader auger.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Byers, to approve the March 8, 2006 meeting minutes. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Stewart noted two necessary corrections.

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

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Joan Kury, Lincoln Avenue – Ms. Kury said that she heard a lot of positive comments on the last senior citizen dinner. She asked why Crafton crimes are not being reported in the Post Gazette; that gives a false sense that there is no crime in Crafton. She noted a recent incident concerning a backpack found on a local street that contained a gun; and how no one was aware of it. That this type of incident and other crimes need to be reported through the media and Crime Watch. Perhaps have notices posted at the churches and businesses. She asked that Crime Watch consider meeting monthly, rather than once per year. She also expressed concerns on the lack of motorist observance of crosswalks; specifically speaking of White Avenue. She requested better signage and enforcement. Mr. Stewart said that he, and Mayor O'Connell, would review these items with Chief Rost and also with the Crime Watch officers.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wagner reported that the sewer defect repairs are nearing completion, and only restoration and some punch list items remain. He reported that the paving project has been put out to bid- a base bid and an alternate bid - and bids will be opened on May 2nd. The CCTV contract has commenced. Also, begin to think about the CDBG pre-applications for some road reconstruction projects. Also, suggested that Council possibly consider financing major road improvements with a bond. He recommended that the borough provide its GIS data to Alcosan; per the 3 RWW inquiry. Mr. Ogden questioned prevailing wage rate requirements when bidding out contracts. Engineer Wagner advised that we are required to comply with prevailing wage requirements when bidding out contracts. The proposed dye test ordinance and it's requirements were discussed; to be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Ayoob stated that they are continuing their review of prior matters and files, and will report on certain matters to Council in Executive Session. Mr. Stewart noted that Council will be going into Executive Session following the meeting to discuss two personnel matters.

OLD BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Crafton Celebrates/Fireworks - Ms. Koerbel expressed legal concerns, requesting that contracts, bank accounts and donation checks be in the name of Crafton Borough, not Crafton Celebrates – Solicitor Ayoob agreed. Solicitor Ayoob added, that they would need to be a committee of Council, conduct business in the name of the Borough, funds would require separate auditing, the members would be under the Borough's immunity and the event covered under the Borough's insurance. Mr. Stewart indicated that a new committee with new rules and regulations would be established, and reviewed by the Solicitor. Mr. Byers informed everyone of a fund raising opportunity, to benefit the Fireworks drive, being an auction of two kindergarten chairs from the 1st Ward School. More information on these chairs is available on the Crafton reunion website.
2. Ordinance Officer Position – Discussed the position and consideration of re-hiring Art Londino. Ms. Koerbel asked why this wasn't discussed previously and the position advertised, and candidate interviewed, as done for other positions. Mrs. Sappie indicated that she did not know Mr. Londino, or anything about him, and she would be abstaining from voting for him. Mr. Ogden and Mr. Byers stated that Mr. Londino is a long-time resident of Crafton, raised his family here and had previously performed this job well.
3. Zoning Permit Fees and Zoning Officer – BIU will not be issuing Zoning Permits; need to establish Zoning Permit Fees for General Fee Resolution, and appoint a Zoning Officer.
4. Electrical Inspections – Non issue/no discussion.
5. Occupancy and Rental Inspection Fees – BIU contract/fee schedule provided to Council for consideration and amendment to current General Fees Resolution.
6. Concession Stand Manager Position – An adult made application for the position; she is currently a Borough Crossing Guard. Would be to Boroughs benefit to have adult supervision in the concession stand. Position and rate would have to be re-established in Wage Resolution.
7. Spring-Summer Newsletter – Draft to be provided to Council for next meeting.
8. Recycling Stickers – Samples provided to Council. Consensus to include wording "Reuse the Used", and order 5,000 at a cost of \$810.
9. McMunn Laterals – No serious defects found, per further inspection. Road to be repaired under paving program.

BUSINESS AGENDA**FINANCE:**

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-04 in support of increased funding for the Fiscal Year 2006 CDBG program budget.

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

MOTION 1: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric to adopt Resolution No. 2006-05A intending to amend Wage Resolution No. 2005-21, re-instating the Ordinance Officer position and setting the wage for 2006.

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

MOTION 2: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-05B intending to amend Wage Resolution No. 2005-21, re-instating the Concession Stand Manager position and setting the wage for the year 2006.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Christman, to remit the required 50% balance deposit to Schaeffer Pyrotechnics Company, in the amount of \$3,700. from line item #458.56 Borough Tributes, to be reimbursed back to the Borough's General Fund from the Crafton Borough-Celebrates Account.

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

PROPERTY CODE & ZONING ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to hire Art Londino to perform the Borough's Code and Ordinance enforcement, effective April 17, 2006.

MOTION carried by Five (5) Yes, One (1) No (*Koerbel*), and One (1) Abstention (*Sappie – does not know Mr. Londino*).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Christman, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-06, adopting the fees established by Building Inspection Underwriters for Building and related permits.

MOTION carried by Five (5) Yes, Two (2) No (*Koerbel, Ogden*) Roll Call Vote.

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare demolition specs for the 37 White Avenue property.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Byers, to grant permission to 3 Rivers Wet Weather to release Municipal-owned sewer manhole and pipe GIS data to Alcosan; and authorize the Borough Manager to sign the approval form, Option 1.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve advertisement for the adoption of an ordinance intending to amend Chapter 177 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Sewer and Sewage Disposal – regulating the connection of storm or surface drainage, maintenance responsibilities, and to require dye testing of properties with separate sanitary sewers. This ordinance would cover homes and businesses that are hooked up to sanitary sewers lines, rather than the combined sewer lines; as storm water is not permitted to be discharged into the sanitary sewer lines. Dye testing would be required on all properties before they are sold.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Stewart to approve the 2006 Summer Employment Hiring List, dated April 12, 2006, as presented to Council.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Christman, to appoint Cathy Butler, as the Crafton Crocodile representative, to the Crafton Recreation Board for the balance of an existing four (4) year term, to expire on September 30, 2006.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Ms. Koerbel, to appoint Joan Kury, as the Performing Arts representative, to the Crafton Recreation Board for the balance of an existing four (4) year term, to expire on September 30, 2009. **COMMENT:** She will be replacing Margie Couch.

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

PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to re-appoint William Ogden to the Crafton Planning Commission for a four (4) year term to commence on April 14, 2006.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Byers, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-07, adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State and Local governments to respond to and recover from domestic incidents. **COMMENTS:** Mayor O’Connell commented on the Federal requirements for training of our police officers, and other emergency personnel and officials (Council and Mayor). Our police have been completing the training on line. Non-compliance could effect any federal funding we receive, including our liquid fuels funds.

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

LIBRARY

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Christman, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-08, ensuring the undisturbed use of the expansion area located at 136 – 140 Bradford Avenue as a public library for 50 years or the useful life of the project. **COMMENT:** Mayor O’Connell stated that this resolution is a requirement for the Keystone Grant application. Mr. Stewart thought that a prior resolution of sorts was created in 1996 when the library was opened, but there is none on file. Mr. Cindric asked that Manager Sample assess the loss of public works space in the rear of the Rea Building.

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

MOTION ADDED

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Byers, to adopt (*inserted Resolution No. 2006-09*) approving the amended fees for Rental and Occupancy Inspections, per the Building Inspection Underwriter’s Addendum to Contract. **COMMENTS:** Ms. Koerbel inquired on the process of these inspections; landlord reporting and notification of new tenants. Mr. Stewart said that previously the borough hired census enumerators to assist with updates, and he would like the Solicitors input on this process.

MOTION carried by a Six (6) Yes, One (1) No (*Koerbel*).

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Sappie reported that many volunteers helped with the last Sr. Citizen dinner, which was a success. The next dinner is scheduled for April 29th, and the next committee meeting is scheduled for April 24th; at 7pm, and volunteers are welcome to attend.

Mr. Cindric reported that he had attended the ALOM conference. He also referred Council to information he distributed regarding Allegheny Places.

Jr. Council McNamara thanked Council for the opportunity and appointment as a Jr. Councilperson.

Ms. Koerbel reported that the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for April 24th, at 6:30 pm; due to the Easter holiday. She asked for a further report from Mr. Cindric on the ALOM conference. Mr. Stewart requested he provide something in writing. Mr. Cindric also reported that Mr. Donovan had fallen at the conference and had broken his collarbone. Ms. Koerbel inquired on a request by the Republican Committee to place an announcement in the Borough Newsletter. Mr. Stewart said that no political items or non-borough news would appear in the newsletter.

Mr. Ogden reported that resident, Lee Drozak, had suggested that the various organizations in the borough provide one volunteer member to the new Celebrates committee. Mr. Stewart said he would like to run a lot of this past the Solicitor first.

Jr. Council Luxbacher expressed her delight that there would be Fireworks this July 4th.

Mr. Christman stated that they are still looking for volunteer for the Fireworks/Celebrates committee.

Mr. Stewart commented on the wasteful spending by the State, Port Authority, etc., and communities, like Crafton, can't get any funding for anything. Mr. Stewart also added that new council chairs may be forth coming from All State insurance.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mrs. Kury suggested that a picture of the ordinance officer be posted to the Borough's Website, so residents will know who he is. She asked that Little Cougar Football not use the Afton fields on Thursday nights during the summer while Performing Arts has stage performances; Mr. Rullo was present and confirmed that they would comply.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary