

**COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF JULY 26, 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. Donovan. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded seven (7) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, and Mr. Stewart. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, Solicitor Ayoob, and Engineer Wagner, and Jr. Councilpersons Ms. Luxbacher and Ms. McNamara. (*Absent: Mr. Christman, Mrs. Viola.*)

**President's Comment:** President Stewart announced the recent passing of Councilman Ogden's father, William Ogden, and requested a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to approve the July 26, 2006 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0), with exception noted (*Mr. Donovan/Item #491.06*).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to approve the June 28, 2006 meeting minutes.

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

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**Sandy Burns, Lawson Street** - Mrs. Burns announced that a former Crafton resident was killed Monday in Iraq, and requested a moment of silence for Capt. Jason West. She noted that she was unable to attend the Crime Watch meeting, but tuned in to the televised July 12th Council meeting, only to learn that the citizens were turned away from the meeting. Mrs. Burns addressed Mayor O'Connell and stated that there was no conspiracy, only a communication problem; that the wrong message was sent by denying admittance to the citizens, and she looks forward to the Crime Watch meeting scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup>. These citizens have concerns on crime and Craftons' non-participation in DANET. They have been berated, not given any answers, only provided inaccurate information. She addressed Mr. Byers prior remarks, stating they were condescending; saying that they should be more self-reliant and they do nothing to help themselves. She thanked the Crafton Police for taking their comments serious, and when assisted by Allegheny County, 3 arrests were made recently at a house on Lawson. She commented on Chief Rosts remarks that he is not against DANET, but only willing to work with them in Crafton. The officials should be willing to use all resources available to them. Lastly, she addressed Mr. Stewart. She stated that he has taken a personal affront; his writing A Tale of Two Cities was irrelevant, and was inflammatory to get the citizens to react. These citizens have displayed their courage and conviction in this matter, and to imply that every thing is hunky-dory is being in denial.

**Mary Slusser, Lawson Avenue** – Ms. Slusser commented on Mr. Stewarts remarks that many municipalities have pulled out of DANET, and he has yet to identify these municipalities. Ms. Slusser stated that she had inquired on her own, and discovered that only Crafton has pulled out. She said that Mr. Stewart stated that there were no arrests in Crafton by DANET, but she also learned that 60 investigations generated in Crafton, 34 Crafton arrests via other boroughs, 22 arrests in Crafton, 10 of which were Crafton residents and these investigations started in Crafton. She continued, that Mr. Byers and Mr. Stewarts comment about DANET not making one arrest in Crafton was untrue, but with these numbers, the overtime money was well spent. Her comment for Chief Rost was that you need to

work with and in other boroughs to make it work. She reported that Mt. Lebanon has a special drug training program, and other communities, such as Armstrong County communities have a drug enforcement team, and this sends a message that drug dealing will not be tolerated in their communities. Crafton needs DANET and their involvement in the larger investigations.

Robin Koffler, 25 W. Crafton Avenue – Ms. Koffler accused Mr. Stewart of telling them untruths; that the residents are not stupid – she reiterated comments concerning DANET arrests in Crafton. She asked that Mr. Stewart re-evaluate his reasons for being on Council.

Joan Kury, Lincoln Avenue – Ms. Kury felt that an apology was owed to Mrs. Koerbel for the remarks. She reported that she invited someone from DANET to the meeting at the gym; no one else. She, and others, return and make the same comments over and over again so Council will hear their comments. Certain Council members are a disappointment and practice shaky politics; accusing the citizens of whining. Council provides lame information to the citizens. Without good, accurate information, the citizens are unaware of the crimes around them and this makes them a potential victim. If the citizens are uninformed they become targets. She accused members of sticking their heads in the sand. This is 2006, live in the present and learn from the past but not live in it. She spoke to many police chiefs and they spoke favorably of DANET and indicated that there was no downside. Lastly, she stated that the Chief and at least one police officer live in a DANET-protected community – if it's good enough for them, why not for the families of Crafton.

Mr. Stewart re-iterated his position, stating that the police officers are paid a very good salary, and are expected to be fresh, bright-eyed and bushy tailed in their service to this Borough. Drug investigation and arrests should be performed by a specific, full-time unit, not part-timers. Mr. Stewart referred to several incidents of crime in other communities, which were reported in the news, and mentioned an incident where a gun owner foiled a crime in a parking lot by pulling out his gun. (*Unidentified*) Resident asked Mr. Stewart if he was advocating gun-carrying citizens.

### **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, Ordinance Officers Report, Fire Department's Report, REMs Report and the Engineer's Report.

MOTION to accept the written reports was made by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric; and unanimously approved (7-0).

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 191 complaints for the month of June, and referred Council to the written report. She added that the continuation of the foot and bicycle patrol has provided a savings of 12-13 % less vehicle mileage. She acknowledged the police officers for their good basic police work in a recent drug arrest in Crafton. She reminded everyone of the Crime Watch meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and added that this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Crime Watch in Crafton. She stated that the speed checks are ongoing in the Borough. She announced that the Library will be conducting a fund raiser; an Art Expo, wine and cheese Gala, in September, in the library and community center, and the cost is \$10. and tickets will be available for sale in the library. She also mentioned the August plans for the playground construction at Crafton Elementary School, and the police departments measures to secure the facility.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Stewart stated that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. He commented on state taxpayer money, \$50,000,000. being given to PNC Financial, while we, and other municipalities are financially burdened by the Consent Decree to make sewer repairs and

borrow millions of dollars. He encouraged everyone to write to Federal, State and County officials and ask that those monies be redirected to these needy municipalities. He mentioned that we would be losing one of our Junior Councilperson, Grete Luxbacher, and wished her well. Ms. Luxbacher thanked Council for allowing her to be a part of the Council.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Wagner reported that the sewer lining contractor expects to complete a few punchlist items. The paving program is scheduled to begin in August, and the sewer contractor will be making the necessary repairs on McMunn next week, prior to paving. He is awaiting the contract, from the COG, for the 37 White Avenue demolition and upon receipt, will schedule a pre-construction meeting. He reported that the Consent Order-required progress report has already been submitted, which was due by July 31<sup>st</sup>. He reported that bids will be received by SHACOG in the fall regarding the year 3 CCTV program.

### **SOLICITOR' REPORT**

Solicitor Ayoob had nothing to report. Ms. Koerbel asked that Mr. Ayoob clarify the events of the Special meeting held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, for the purpose of appointing someone to the vacant Council seat. Mr. Ayoob first reported that another matter had also been addressed; a matter of litigation resulting in a proposed settlement with Morgan Stanley regarding the police and employee pension funds. The proposed settlement agreement was unanimously approved. He then commented on the process of appointing Mrs. Viola to the vacant Council Seat. He did not have a clear definition on the meaning of a "split vote" vs. a "tie vote; that it is used synonymously with a tie vote. He did clarify that there was not a need to have 5 affirmative votes, only the majority vote of a quorum – which in that case, only needed 4 votes would have been sufficient. So, the vote in question, being Mayor O'Connell's vote did not matter; that the motion carried with the 4-3-1 vote, and her vote did not nullify the vote. Mrs. Sappie commented that she did not appreciate the remark in an e-mail that "she did not hesitate to vote for her best friend's husband". She noted that she knew Marty Kury long before she knew Joan and he is a fellow professional.

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

Manager Sample reported that there is an applicant to provide aqua-robics at the pool, for Councils consideration. That he is reviewing the proposed sewer repairs and preparing to submit an application to PennVest for the needed financing. He is also looking into outside funding. He has delayed his budget review until August to allow for all of the pool receipts through July to be included, and give a more accurate financial picture. He and Public Works have received many compliments on the completion of the Black's Bridge project.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS/OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Enterprise Zone – Favorable comments; no downside, could benefit Crafton and job market in the area; relates to industrial zone which would have no direct impact on Crafton.
- b. Park Vendor Application – Insurance issues and security deposit, and fees were discussed. Will be researched further by Mr. Sample and addressed at another meeting.
- c. Commission Seats - Several letters of interest were provided; Mr. Stewart believes there may be another person interested, and he asked that Council be prepared to act on this at the August 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

#### **FINANCE/GRANTS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappied, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-16 being the Concurrent Resolution formally requesting grant funds, in accordance with the Year 33 – CDBG program, for South Grandview Storm Sewer and Street Reconstruction Project.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-17 being the Concurrent Resolution formally requesting grant funds, in accordance with the Year 33 – CDBG program, for the Middle Street Storm Sewer and Street Reconstruction Project.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-18 being the Concurrent Resolution formally requesting grant funds, in accordance with the Year 33 – CDBG program, for the Community Center Handicap Access - ADA Improvements Project. **COMMENT:** Manager Sample clarified that this involved automatic-opening entrance doors.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Byers, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-19 being a Resolution to approve the submission to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Enterprise Zone Program to Plan for a Proposed Joint Enterprise Zone with Other Municipalities located West of the City of Pittsburgh and South of the Ohio River in Allegheny County, PA. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric read the resolution in its entirety. It was the consensus that there would be no downside to this program, and could, eventually, benefit Crafton and supply nearby industrial jobs to our residents.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, approve the hiring of Deborah Chiocca as Aqua-Robics Instructor, for the remainder of the 2006 pool season, in accordance with the current Wage Resolution.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mrs. Sappie** commented on the Senior Citizen dinner; approx. 80 people and very enjoyable entertainer. The next dinner will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> and will feature a chalk artist, and fish dinner with macaroni and cheese. She also complimented the work done on Blacks Bridge. She noted that she did not agree with the comments in the Tale of Two Cities, authored by Mr. Stewart. She thanked the citizens for their comments, and agreed with Mr. Stewart's comments ... to swallow your pride and anger, and move forward to a common goal.

**Mr. Cindric** thanked Mrs. Kury for her door prize efforts at the Senior Citizen dinner. He reported that he attended the REMS meeting and they reported an incident where a home in Thornburg could not be located because it lacked required house numbering. This is a common problem in Crafton as well, and by ordinance, house numbers are required in the borough. He, also, commented on the death Capt. Jason West, that he was a friend of his daughters.

**Mr. Donovan** commented that Chief Rost was not in attendance, nor was the new Councilperson.

**Mrs. Koerbel** agreed that Chief Rost, and other emergency officials, used to attend the meetings. They were present to answer questions and provide input. This gave a face and presence for our residents, and she asked that they be present at the meetings. She also thanked the citizens for being brave enough to comment at these meetings, and she remarked that it has been disappointing for them, that they cannot get direct answers. She reminded everyone that there is a public hearing scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>, prior to the Council meeting, for the purpose of acting on a zoning matter on Foster Avenue.

**Mr. Cindric** commented that there is no need for Chief Rost to attend, that the Mayor provides the Police report. That while Ivan Hull was mayor, he did not provide any reports, so there was a need for the Police Chief to be present. Also, he attend the REMS meetings, and can provide an adequate REMS report to Council.

Mr. Ogden agreed that he would also like Chief Rost to be present, he then could hear the citizen comments, and maybe respond. He commented on the passing of his father; that he was a good man and his hero. It saddened him that his father could not complete his dream to live his remaining life on a farm.

Mr. Byers re-iterated comments on the death of Capt. Jason West.

Mrs. Tremblay reported that the pool was going to provide a water polo program for one week in August.

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Artascas, resident – Asked that Council reconsider participation in the drug task force.

Mrs. Kury and Mrs. Burns – Stated that anger is a great motivator, and encouraged the citizens to stand by their convictions. She noted that she had contacted numerous police chiefs (Moon, Carnegie, McKees Rocks, Greentree, Ingram) and they all had positive responses regarding DANET. She asked that the Mayor and Police Chief reconsider participation. It would be nice to think there is no crime in the borough. She stressed her request that Council reconsider participation in DANET.

Mr. Stewart stated that it is Council that would approve and act on DANET; the Mayor would be in charge of the officer assignments. Mayor O’Connell stated anyone on Council can address this and place a motion on the agenda. Mr. Stewart suggested that it be placed on the next meeting agenda. After further discussion, Mr. Ogden decided to proceed with a motion to act on the DANET matter.

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Donovan, that Council reintroduce DANET in Crafton Borough. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Ogden expressed concerns that his motion was improper or not worded appropriately. Mr. Stewart stated that it was.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary