

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 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. Cindric. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded all nine (9) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Stewart. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, Solicitor Ayoob, Engineer Wagner, and Jr. Councilperson Ms. McNamara.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Koerbel, to approve the October 25, 2006 List of Bills.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

(October 11, 2006 – Not available)

CARLYNTON SUPERINTENDENT PANZA – SPECIAL SESSION ACT 1 PRESENTATION

Dr. Michael Panza summarized the Special Session Act 1 Tax reduction, and it's possible affect on the Crafton/Carlynton school taxpayers (copy attached to the Minutes).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Tim Volk, CNC – Property Owner, Third Ward – Mr. Volk requested that Council consider the exoneration of delinquent property taxes on two parcels owned by the Chartiers Nature Conservancy (CNC), being #105-H-198 and #105-M-185. He stated that both the Allegheny County and the Carlynton School District have exonerated the back taxes. He also indicated that the CNC has given approximately \$3,000. to Crafton Borough for the Shade Tree Committee. Mr. Stewart reminded Mr. Volk and Council of an existing matter of litigation, filed by the CNC against the Borough. Manager Sample and Mr. Stewart indicated that this matter would be looked into further, and the matter would be considered at a future Council meeting.

Robin Koffler, 25 W. Crafton Avenue – Ms. Koffler indicated that she is experiencing parking problems on W. Crafton Avenue, particularly because of the school buses blocking the street and street work being done by Equitable Gas Company. She feels it is a safety issue that requires Council's attention.

Judy Seligman, 1935 Crafton Blvd. – Ms. Seligman commented on the closing of Black's Bridge, and it's affect on her business on Crafton Blvd, as well as others on the Third Ward side of the bridge, and indicated that they desire to post directional/business ground signs.

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. **COMMENTS:** Animal Control Report was omitted.

MOTION to accept the reports carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 209 complaints for the month of September, and referred Council to the written report. She reported that officers have received the updated DANET training, and the next training Session will be held in May. She reported that a Crime Watch meeting, with a consumer fraud presentation by a representative from the Attorney General's office, was held on October 23, geared for Senior Citizens; it was attended by 40-50 people.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Stewart stated that he had been looking at alternative repairs options for Black's Bridge, and was told that the Borough should look into a steel grid deck overlay; which could be at a cost savings to the Borough of almost 1/3 and may not have to wait until spring; he requested that Gateway Engineer's look into this and report back to Council.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wagner reported that they are preparing the engineering cost estimate for Black's Bridge, the Satira invoice, in the amount of \$37,288., for the work done thus far on the bridge has been provided to Council; and that amount equates to \$12.88 per sq. ft. They are beginning to work on the bridge repair specifications and should have preliminary plans for Council's review for the Dec. 12th meeting, and should have the final plans and specs available during the following month. He reminded Council of Gateway's annual presentation meeting scheduled for November 8th. Mr. Stewart asked why the Satira Invoice is so much? Engineer Wagner reported that the work done was very labor intensive; approx. 5 or 6 workers, equating to over 600 man hours.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None. He reported that, inn Executive Session, Council was updated on a personnel disciplinary action and on pending litigation concerning the status of the PA DEP matter.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported on the Pennvest loan approval for \$1.1 million at a rate lower than last years' loan. He reported that Ingram plans to pave Ingram Avenue and requested that Crafton participate in their contract for the 200 ft. section of the road which is Crafton's responsibility. Time and material is estimated to cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. He reminded Council to RSVP if attending the Allegheny County meeting regarding their draft of their Future Land Use plan. He reported that the is a tire collection program on November 18th at the Neville Island Fire Dept. He also reminded everyone of the next Budget Meeting, on November 1st.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/OLD BUSINESS:

1. Auditor: Mrs. Sappie indicated that she has heard of no problems with the current auditor, which would perform the required audit for less money than Case Sabitini. Mr. Stewart stated that you should not keep the same auditor, and should change to a different auditor periodically. Mrs. Sappie stated that is a contradiction to his comment regarding keeping the same Engineer. Mrs. Viola asked if the RFP was advertised; Mr. Sample reported affirmatively and stated that only 2 auditors submitted proposals. Mr. Cindric had no comment. Mr. Donovan spoke in favor of retaining Sharshan. Mrs. Koerbel and Mr. Ogden agreed, that Sharshan had performed the audit for the past several years, providing quality services, and there were no problems with his services, and he has submitted the lowest bid. Mr. Christman also agreed and felt it would be a good practice to keep Sharshan. Mr. Byers asked when this has to be acted on, and to allow them more time to review the scope of work. Solicitor Ayoob said there has been no valid motion yet, so there is nothing to table at this time. Mr. Byers questioned Sharshan referring to the audit as an Agreed Upon Procedure, rather than an audit, and expressed liability concerns of him not performing an audit. Mayor O'Connell stated that she was previously an elected auditor, and only an auditor can determine what is required. She believes the Case Sabatini proposal does provide a more detailed proposal. Mr. Cindric questioned the motion using the language, "an amount not to exceed". Mrs. Tremblay advised that in prior years, the

appointment did not include the language “for an amount not to exceed \$ ____”. Solicitor Ayoob stated that he could not review the proposals and conclusively state one is better than the other. As auditors, they are vested in complying with the certain requirements and he is sure that they both comply with the requirements of the state. Mr. Byers says he has a problem with Sharshan providing a disclaimer that it is not an audit, that it is “an Agreed Upon Procedure”. Mrs. Tremblay corrected Mr. Byers, commenting that the additional audit Mr. Stewart requested last year regarding certain 2005 expenditures was referred to as an “Agreed Upon Procedure”; that Sharshan does refer to the annual audit as an audit. Solicitor Ayoob commented that, in accordance with the Borough Code, when established by Ordinance, the Borough is required to appoint the auditor, by resolution, by the end of the prior year. Mr. Ogden suggested that the two auditor candidates be asked to give a presentation; similar to the interview procedure for a building inspection company. Manager Sample was asked to arrange for the interviews/presentations prior to the next meeting; commencing at 6:30 and provide each with 20 minutes time.

Mrs. Sappie asked that the Engineer provide a price, for Councils information and review, of the Engineers cost to prepare specs and plans for the bridge.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE:

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the articles for the Borough Newsletter; finished copy to be approved. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Stewart asked that the local organizations be listed; Mrs. Tremblay indicated that they have been included in the draft.

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

~~**MOTION:** I move to appoint _____ to perform the Borough’s 2006 annual audit at a price not to exceed \$ _____.~~ Motion removed

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare plans and specifications, and to advertise, for sewer repair contract bids; for the necessary defect repair work as required in conjunction with the Consent Order Agreement.

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

NEW BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Donovan – Requested that the Police Chief Rost attend the meetings. Mayor O’Connell indicated that she did not agree with Mr. Donovan, that the Police department is under the direction of the Mayor.

Mrs. Koerbel – Ms. Koerbel agreed with Mr. Donovan, and felt that various officials should be present at the meetings and be available to give reports, answer questions and offer comments.

Mr. Ogden – Mr. Ogden reported that he, too, misses that Fire Chief’s attendance at the meetings, and agrees that he, as well as the Police Chief and the REMS representatives should be present.

Ms. McNamara – Announced that this Friday that the Girl Scouts would be hold a bonfire at Crafton park on the evening of November 4th.

Mr. Christman – Mr. Christman reported that the next meeting of Crafton Celebrates is scheduled for Novemer 14th; and each month on the second Tuesday, at 7:00 pm, and still need more volunteers.

Mr. Byers – None

Mayor O’Connell - None

Mrs. Sappie – Mrs. Sappie asked what is the protocol for the Committee chairman and their committee responsibilities. Mr. Stewart stated that the President of Council appoints the chairman to each committee, and does plan on making changes in January; he asked Council to provide him with their committee preferences. Mrs. Sappie added, that the next Sr. Citizen dinner is scheduled for November 18th, featuring dinner and entertainment by the ICTUS Choir.

Mrs. Viola – None

Mr. Cindric – Mr. Cindric reported that he is the REMS representative and can provide the REMS reports to Council. He reported that he had attended the CharWest COG meeting. There are concerns for severe increases in the price of road salt. He announced that the Findlay connector (Rte 22/30) is open.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary