

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of November 8, 2006

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 Mr. Donovan. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight members of Council present (8), as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Christman, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Stewart – Also present were, Manager Sample, Engineer Jacobs, Solicitor Dan Austin, and Ms. McNamara, Jr. Council. (*Absent: Mr. Ogden*)

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the November 8, 2006 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola noted a correction; change the noted HRA reimbursement to Petty Cash #401.21. Also, inquired on the vhs tape duplication being charged to the borough rather than to the Police budget. Mrs. Tremblay advised that the tape duplication was requested by Solicitor Ayoob for the borough; not requested by or for the police department. Mrs. Sappie noted her objection to 404.31, Engineer's cost for preparation for the annual presentation. Mr. Donovan noted his objection to a legal expense under #430.31 (Dempsey/Duncan property).

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0), with exception noted by Ms. Koerbel (#404.31).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the October 11, 2006 meeting minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (8-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Robin Koffler, 25 West Crafton Avenue – Ms. Koffler noted that she had come before Council on 10/25 concerning parking issues in front of her home, and on 10/26 Officer Amendola came to her home to see how he could assist in this matter. She was not pleased that an officer came to her home, and she believes this is a matter to be remedied by Council, not the police. School buses double-park while waiting for students; they prevent access to and from parking spaces and they would block access by emergency vehicles.

Vincent Coppola, Chartiers Nature Conservancy – Mr. Coppola provided background information on the CNC; being a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization whose purpose is to promote and protect the Chartiers Creek area. He reiterated Mr. Volk's previous request to exonerate the delinquent taxes on 2 parcels of land (105-H-198, 105-M-185) owned by the Chartiers Nature Conservancy. He asked that the borough join in with both the County and School District and forgive the taxes on these parcels. Formal legal proceedings, by the Borough, have commenced to recover delinquent taxes and costs on several delinquent properties in the borough, of which these two properties are a part. He noted that the face tax amount is very miniscule, that a large part of the debt is penalty, interest, lien and attorney fees. He provided a copy of a letter, from the school board, confirming their forgiveness of the taxes on the property. Ms. Koerbel expressed concern that the CNC is requesting this debt forgiveness while having an active lawsuit against the borough concerning access roads along the creek. Mr. Coppola explained that this is just a technicality, to name the borough in a petition, but it is actually a moot point. It is also his understanding that one member of Council has brought this matter to body of Council to consider how to handle this issue. It was noted that the CNC is custodian of approximately \$2,700 collected as a memorial to Tony Kueshner, and that funds would be donated from this fund to plant trees in Crafton under the direction of both Judy Kueshner and Robin Anthony. Mr. Stewart advised that the CNC's request would be considered for action at the next Council meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wagner reported that the paving work has been completed, and a recommendation for final payment will be presented to council. He is recommending payment to Satira Construction for work completed on Black's Bridge, in the amount of \$37,288. This cost was based on square footage, and was for concrete removal of approx. 2,900 sq. ft., equals a little more than \$12.00 per sq. ft. The 37 White Avenue demolition project is progressing slowly, and a letter has been sent to the Contractor. They will be working closely with the Borough Manager over the next few months on closing a loan with PennVest. Manager sample added that the Pennvest loan represents a savings to the borough, over 20 years, of approximately \$290,000. Mrs. Sappie asked if the Engineer had an Engineer's cost report available, and he indicated it would be available at the regular meeting of Council.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Austin had nothing to report. He mentioned legal advice concerning the Crafton Celebrates non-vendor contracts, but Mr. Stewart asked that this be addressed in January.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Auditor - A motion to appoint the auditor is on the Agenda. Two firms are being considered: Case Sabatini-\$7,200. and Estermyer-Sharshan-\$5,000.
2. Bond Issue - Manager Sample offered that in addition to refinancing the existing debt and the Blacks Bridge repair project, approx. \$1.3 million in paving would be included, as well as roof repairs to the Community Center, HVAC replacement in the District Court, pool pumps, pool vacuum, roof vents in the concession stand and filter house, and Public Works equipment; air compressor and paver. It was suggested that Manager Sample seek other proposals in addition to PNC Bank. It was also discussed to consider a state PIB loan at 1.25 %, but it could possibly delay funding, which would delay the start of the bridge work and awarding the contract. This financing would be discussed with more definite options at the next budget meeting.
3. Brenlove Subdivision – Due to Mr. Brenlove's time delay in submitting plans to the County, Mr. Brenlove is in need of "re-approval" of the subdivision plans; just a technicality.
4. CNC Tax forgiveness Request – Mr. Cindric asked that this matter be discussed in Executive Session prior to the next Council meeting.

BUSINESS AGENDA**ADMINISTRATION**

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Ms. Viola, to appoint Case Sabatine to perform the Borough's 2006 annual audit at a price not to exceed \$7.250. **COMMENTS:** Ms. Koerbel, Mrs. Sappie and Mr. Donovan did not support this appointment and commented that the audit has been done properly in the past for less money and that no significant additions were being provided by Case Sabatini to justify the increase in cost. Mr. Byers, Ms. Viola, and Mr. Stewart believed that Case Sabatini would be working toward GASB 34 compliancy in their cost, and felt that more beneficial information would be provided to the borough for the increase in cost. Mr. Christman expressed concern of the 3 year quote; but Mr. Stewart advised that this would be an annual appointment.

MOTION carried by Five Yes, Three No (*Donovan, Koerbel, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote (5-3).

FINANCE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to approve payment to Satira Construction in the amount of \$37,288.00, as recommended by Gateway Engineers, for the work done on Black's Bridge.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

PLANNING

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Christman, to re-approve the Combined Preliminary/Final Subdivision application as submitted by Nicholas Brenlove, Owner, for the Brenlove Plan of Lots, per the recommendations of the Crafton Planning Commission.

MOTION carried by a Seven Yes, One Abstention (*Viola-Reason: Not present for the original vote; has no information on the plan*), (7-1).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Donvoan, to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare time and material emergency contractor specifications for bid. **COMMENT:** Solicitor Austin requested the word “emergency” be included in the motion. It was requested that the engineer provide an Engineers cost estimate and scope of work. Engineer Wagner stated that he would prepare one for Council’s review.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the final payment to Insituform Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$27,793.80 contingent upon receiving the final maintenance bond, as recommended by Gateway Engineers, for Contract B; sanitary Sewer Repairs.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

NEW BUSINESS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Koerbel – Historical Society Gala upcoming on Dec. 2nd, at the Witt home on Hawthorne.

Mr. Christman – Next Crafton Celebrates meeting scheduled for Nov. 14th, 7pm.

Mr. Byers – Inquired on the status of the salt shed; Manager Sample stated that it is need of repair, that the back and side walls are held up by spent asphalt. Mr. Donovan stated that he may be able to obtain some prices for storage buildings.

Mrs. Sappie – Thanked Ms. Koffler for her comments, and apologized if having a police officer come to her door was an embarrassment, and it is their desire to resolve the problem. She advised that the next Sr. Citizen dinner is scheduled for Nov. 18th featuring a turkey dinner and ICTUS Choir.

Mrs. Viola – Commented that the lighting needs attention at the front of the borough building; bulb replacement.

Mr. Cindric – Commented that Mrs. Sappie’s son, Anthony, was named All Conference, 1st Team guard.

Mayor O’Connell – Thanked the CVFD for their assistance on Halloween night. Crimewatch has Jr. Police stickers to handout to children, Howitzer dedication at the American Legion on Sunday, 11/12 at 2pm. Donations are accepted by the American Legion. She also apologized to Ms. Koffler; Mr. Stewart commented that this situation would be looked at further.

Mr. Stewart – Commented that Gateway Engineer provided a presentation to Council, prior to the meeting. 2007 projects were discussed, including Black’s Bridge. He noted that this is an immense inconvenience to the Third ward.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Blair Cress, Noble Avenue - Mr. Cress could not understand the excessive cost for the amount of work done by Satira; and when was it discussed and approved to increase the square footage from the original 1,200, to 2,100 to 2,900. Engineer Wagner indicated that it was done by change order.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (8-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary