

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2007**

President Stewart called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center; Flag Salute was led by Ms. Koerbel. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded seven (7) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. 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. Council McNamara. (*Absent: Mr. Byers, Mr. Donovan*)

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the March 28, 2007 List of Bills.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*None Available*

**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 Collection Report, Police Report, Ordinance Officers report, REMs Report, Animal and Engineers Report. Mr. Christman moved to approve the reports; seconded by Ms. Koerbel. Reports were unanimously approved, by voice vote.

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Michael McClelland, 9 Union Avenue – Mr. McClelland noted his complaint regarding the property at 13 Union. It is, and has been for many years, a dilapidated property. The taxes aren't being paid and the owner continues to obtain building permits, but lets them expire. Mr. Stewart insured Mr. McClelland that this property, as well as possibly three others have been cited for property maintenance violations and have been turned over to the magistrate for legal action.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Deborah Darnbrough, newly appointed member of the Zoning Hearing Board, was sworn in by Mayor O'Connell.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that the Police Department responded to 204 complaints in February; and she referred Council to the written report. The department is looking into replacement of car #11-2, which will be timed the installation of the new camera. The purchase will be done through the State's piggyback program. The department has made application, through the cash forfeiture program, for moneys as a result of a very large drug bust; hopefully receiving \$9,000. It is money that will come to the police department and can only be used by the police department. CrimeWatch alerts are being e-mailed, and the crimes reported (home and vehicle break-ins) are ones the residents should be watching out for – if you see something suspicious, call 9-1-1. Mayor O'Connell reported that she will be going to jail on April 18<sup>th</sup>; the Muscular Dystrophy Jail, at the downtown Marriott. It is a good cause, and if interested in shortening her sentence, please contribute. Mr. Cindric noted that several years ago, council inquired on purchasing an alternative to the Crown Victoria, and perhaps Capt. Sumpter could look into this as well.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Stewart reported that Council received a copy of the second opinion, from HDR Engineering. This will be reviewed and discussed at the special meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Koerbel inquired as to why the bid date was changed. Mr. Stewart wanted to be sure that everyone had a chance to review the HDR report, and the one week wouldn't make that much difference. Mr. Cindric stated that any Council

questions should be made to the Borough Manager, so that he can have answers for Council at the meeting.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Wagner reported that the bid opening for the bridge was moved to April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm. Met with the two contractors for the sewer defect corrections, excavation contractor will be starting next Monday, and a pre-construction meeting will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> with the sewer lining contractor. They prepared the quantities for SHACOG for the year 4 – CCTV inspections; bid date opening at SHACOG will be sometime in May.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Ayoob reported that he was asked by the President of Council to explain the process of dealing with dilapidated structures. In accordance with the Borough's property maintenance codes, and proceed with enforcement action with a criminal citation. It is least expensive, and usually the best way, is to go to the local magistrate and force compliance. If determined by the Engineer or Building Inspector that property is in such disrepair, a threat to persons or adjacent properties, or unfit for human habitation, you can pursue a civil action in the Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, and initiate a process to declare the property unfit, unsafe, etc. and neglected by the property owner, and request a court order to tear it down, with borough funds, but then place a lien against the property. No Borough employee should go onto any property to board it up, tear it down, etc. without a court order, otherwise, you open up the Borough to potential litigation. This is a criminal proceeding and someone can be held in contempt of court for not complying with a court order, and can be incarcerated. He will work with the Borough Manager on the properties in question, if it is Councils desire. Solicitor Ayoob requested a brief Executive Session, following the meeting to discuss an old litigation matter dealing with a zoning application for Greicon, which is now mute, and needs to be settled.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample deferred to the discussion items.

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

- a) Planning Commission Appointment – Reappointment of Mark Halleman, term expires 4/13.
- b) Black's Bridge-HDR Report – Previously discussed; review and discuss at 4/4 special meeting.
- c) Resolution No. 2007-01 – Personnel matter; to be discussed further in Executive Session.
- d) 2006 International Construction and Property Code – Currently under the 2003 codes; need to update to 2006, will require ordinance preparation by Solicitor.
- e) CVFD Mobile Data Unit – Specs have been provided for a laptop to perform GIS mapping layers, with hydrants, building locations, etc. Either a Dell or through PA Costars pilot program, at a cost of approx. \$1,100., or consider a ToughBook for approx. \$3,500. Mr. Cindric stated that it would be mounted in the vehicle and not carried or jostled around.
- f) Crafton Celebrates Funding – Section 1202 (67) Borough Code – Once revenue begin to come in, Celebrates should become self-supporting, and repay funds to the Borough. Mr. Christman suggested \$8,000. Mr. Stewart stated that last year, they were only able to provide Fireworks, and have a very little fund balance for this year. It is their intention to have the five day festival, etc. this year.
- g) Parking at 39 White Avenue – Mr. Stewart expressed parking concerns in the area in front of 37 White Avenue. Larger and longer than normal vehicles force traffic into one lane only, and needs to be addressed; possibly make that area for compact cars only. Solicitor Ayoob stated that it would be difficult to enforce and define the size of a compact car. He, and Manager Sample stated that the fire department will also be reviewing turning and parking issues at street corners in the borough. Ms. Koerbel commented that Council was looking into remedies for the business parking on East Crafton, and asked that this matter be reviewed again for alternate parking solutions.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**ADMINISTRATION**

~~**MOTION:**~~ It was regularly moved by to adopt Resolution No. 2007-01 amending Resolution 2006-24 fixing the wages and benefits of certain employees. **MOTION TABLED.**

**BUILDING INSPECTION**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise Ordinance No. 1580, an ordinance amending Chapter 90, Article I of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, to make certain revisions to the Borough's Construction Code.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise Ordinance No. 1581, an ordinance amending Chapter 90, Article II of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, to adopt the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code as the Borough's Maintenance Code and to revise the regulations related thereto.

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

**FINANCE**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Cindric, that an appropriation, not to exceed \$8,000. be available on an "as needed" basis, for expenses incurred by the Crafton Celebrates Committee, for the Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks, in accordance with Section 1202 (67) of the Borough Code, with the understanding that the Borough will be reimbursed from festival revenues.

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the purchase of a Dell laptop computer for the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department at a price not to exceed \$1,200.

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

**PLANNING**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to re-appoint Mark Halleman to the Crafton Planning Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on April 13, 2011.

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

**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ms. Koerbel** – Reported that she attended a meeting in the Westgate area. They assured the public that the name of the proposed development would not contain the name "Crafton", and they are proposing to name it Renaissance West of Pittsburgh. It will be privately managed, and the developer is a Mr. Chin, 412-921-6414. She reminded everyone of the PA Great Cleanup scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Family Dollar development is seeking a variance with the Zoning hearing board.

**Mr. Ogden** – Need to confirm dates for summer employment interviews. Following discussion, Mr. Stewart stated that interviews will be held on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ms. McNamara** – Reported on the Carlynton musical – Danes at Sea

**Mr. Christman** – Reported that the next meeting of Crafton Celebrates is Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.

Mrs. Sappie – Reported that a Senior Citizen Dinner was just held on Sat. March 24<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Stewart's grandchildren had performed Irish Dancing; the next Senior Citizen Dinner is April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Viola – Reported that there are only three more Crafton Celebrates meetings before the festival, and there is a need for a lot more volunteers to help. The COG provided a road salt update; currently \$34. per ton, the next contract could be as high as \$50-\$60 per ton. She mentioned a grant that could be applied for by the fire dept. that may be able to assist with the purchase of new helmets.

Mr. Cindric – Referred Council to the Birmingham Bridge article. The COG has been considering a shared, municipal, specialist to advise the municipalities on the cable franchising, and Verizon cable. REMS is replacing an ambulance, at a cost of \$95,000.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ray Ratliff – Mr. Ratliff asked if Council could provide an approximate start date and completion date for the repairs to Black's Bridge. He was told that Council does not have the answer at this time, and to attend the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and possibly, have some answers at that time.

President Stewart stated that following the Council meeting, Council would be going into an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter, which would not require any action by Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary