

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 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 Mr. Ogden. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight (8) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, 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. Donovan*)

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the April 25, 2007 List of Bills. **COMMENT:** Mr. Stewart recalled a fire incident involving Blystone tree service and suggested that the borough not use their services in the future. Manager Sample stated this decision was made based on telephonic bids received by the Shade Tree Commission.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0), with an exception noted (#455.45) by Mr. Stewart.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the meeting Minutes of April 11, 2007.

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

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Jim Bernhaur, 50 McMunn Avenue - Mr. Bernhaur reminded Council of his previous request for placement of a stop sign at McMunn and Elmwood, and that he had presented a signed petition at that time. Mayor O'Connell acknowledged his request, stating that it has been recommended by Chief Rost, and now Council needs to adopt an ordinance to authorize placement of the stop sign. That Penndot requirements will need to be considered, and a traffic study reporting such things as occurrences of accidents, traffic volume, sight line. Mr. Stewart added that, shortly, the fire department will be examining parking and turning problems that prevent their access onto certain streets with fire equipment. So, in addition to the McMunn stop sign, other traffic and parking restrictions will be considered for adoption.

Linda Breeden, 49 N. Linwood Avenue - Ms. Breeden requested that she be considered for appointment to the vacant seat on the Zoning Hearing Board, and requested her comments be made a part of the Minutes and public record: She had asked to be appointed as a regular sitting member of the Zoning Hearing Board in the same manner that other members of other boards have been re-appointed when their terms have expired. She also stated that she would resign her position from the Rec Board in order to be on the Zoning Board, if this is a concern of Mrs. Viola.

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, and Animal Control (*Note: Engineer's Report was provided at the 4/11 meeting*). Mr. Byers moved to approve the reports; seconded by Ms. Koerbel. Reports were unanimously approved, by voice vote.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell reported that the Police Department responded to 208 complaints; and she referred Council to the written March report. She advised that one of the newer police cars was out of service and transmission being rebuilt; under extended warranty. A Crime Watch meeting was held at the Towers,

and was well attended by 35-40 residents. Chief Rost provided the residents with identity theft packages. She reminded residents to Opt-In to receive Crime Watch alerts and reports; only 112 persons are currently registered. She attended the Library Board meeting, and plans are underway for the expansion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Stewart reported that he attended the Char Valley Flood Control Authority meeting on March 29th and provided a written summary of the meeting. He is concerned about a spraying program they are planning to do along the creek, and each municipality's public works crew would do the spraying. He noted that Goodwill, through a federal program, provided a cleanup program along the creek two years ago, and inquired if there is a federal program this year whereas they could provide brick laying work or similar work, but there is none. He has been in touch with a cement expert, and anticipates have a report for the 1st meeting in May. He reminded Council and residents that the Borough's Association has provided information on a \$1,000. scholarship available to applicants from Crafton Borough.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wagner reported that the sewer defect contractor has begun work, and the sewer lining work will commence shortly. He also reported that the year 3 CCTV program is underway.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Ayoob reported that the Board of Viewers hearing for May 3 was cancelled, and will be rescheduled for sometime in June; held at the City-County Building, 8th floor.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample stated that the Borough received a thank you from the CharWest COG for the gift certificate provided for their annual dinner. He noted that this is Secretary's Day, and he thanked Mrs. Tremblay and Mrs. Keeley for all that they do in the office and for Council.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Review and Discuss Black's Bridge – Mr. Stewart advised that four meetings were dedicated to discussions on Black's Bridge. At the last special meeting, the bids were rejected, and RFPs will be requested for the repair work. Ms. Koerbel explained that all funding possibilities were explored. Mr. Cindric referred Council to the L-Tap information sheets that were provided to them.
- b) Review and Discuss 2007 Paving Program – After much discussion, the following streets were approved to be placed on the 2007 paving list (all asphalt):
 1. Afton; upper and lower
 2. Richmond
 3. Coulter (N. Emily to Linwood, N. Linwood 300' toward Broadhead)
 4. East Crafton (Noble to Underhill)
 5. Grace
 6. Noble (from Cross to Steuben)
 7. S. Grandview (Woodlawn to Terminus, S. Grandview)
 8. Ingram Avenue (with Ingram)
 9. Middle Street (through CDBG funding/CharWest COG)

Gateway will prepare specs to require a base bid and an alternate bid; alternate would cut Afton, Richmond and Grace Streets. Costs are anticipated to be approx. \$245,000.+ for road paving. Borrowing would additionally include capital purchases and budget shortfalls, requiring approx. \$70,000. Manager Sample confirmed that the joint purchase, with Ingram, of a paver has been removed from the list for now. This totals \$315,000., but paving costs are an estimate and could run higher. Motion would be to borrow an amount not to exceed \$350,000. Manager Sample estimates an anticipated ½ mil tax increase to cover the cost of borrowing – PNC 4 ½ to 5%, over five years. Gateway recommended replacing curbing when repaving, due to elevation changes and for a nice, professional job, but Council stated that this would only be approved at their

discretion. Public works to repair and patch other streets; such as Duncan at Backbone, Crafton Blvd. hill near Home and S. Grandview, Churchill repair, and concrete repair and preventative maintenance on Union and raise the manhole to street level.

- c) Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy – Two candidates have expressed interest; Motion to appoint is on the Agenda for Council’s action (Breedon, Harlich).
- d) 2007 Summer Employee Hiring List – Addition to the list: Justin Kozak, lifeguard.
- e) 2007 Spring/Summer Newsletter – A draft newsletter was provided to Council for comment; will be going to print and should be sent to residents by early May.
- f) Installation of Signs at Crafton Elementary – Memo provided to Council, regarding drop-off areas. Motion to approve is on the Agenda for Council’s action. Mrs. Sappie stated that there was no crossing guard posted at the school. Mrs. Tremblay, and Mayor O’Connell, confirmed that the post in front of the school is handled by the school district, not the borough. Manager Sample would inquire on the status.
- g) Wage Resolution – Changes that were previously discussed. Motion to adopt is on the Agenda for Council’s action.
- h) Added: Ballot Referendum Question - Ms. Koerbel inquired to the Solicitor of his research regarding the ballot referendum question. He stated that the question cannot ask whether the Borough should or should not renovate, or to what extent the bridge should be renovated. The referendum question can ask if the Borough can borrow X amount. There was no general catch-all. As to time requirements, Mr. Cindric stated that it was his understanding that the election board needed to be contacted at least 45 days prior to the election, and there would not be sufficient time before the primary election. Solicitor Ayoob continued, the governing body must adopt a resolution signifying it’s intent and a copy of the resolution, in the form of a question, must be certified to the County Board of Elections at least 45 days before the election. Mr. Ogden asked if the question could also advise the voters that this could result in a tax increase. Solicitor Ayoob stated that this would need to be done in Council meetings when discussing the tax enabling ordinance. Solicitor Ayoob said there are a lot of unanswered questions that first need to be addressed before even considering a question on a referendum. Mr. Byers stated that he is not in favor of a referendum question, because the borough is going to need to borrow funds regardless, to get the bridge open. Mr. Cindric explained that the borough is limited to borrowing 250% of our average revenue for 3 years; that is non-electoral debt, and Council can make that decision. The question to the public would be, can we borrow in excess of the 250%. And, presently, there are questions as to whether or not the PennVest borrowing should be considered in this percentage, since it is specifically funded through sewer fund revenue.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Ms. Koerbel, to adopt Resolution No. 2007-01 amending Resolution 2006-24 fixing the wages and benefits of certain employees.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Byers, to approve the 2007 Summer Employment Hiring List, dated April 23, 2007, as presented to Council.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to approve the 2007 Spring/Summer Borough Newsletter articles; as submitted, subject to any necessary formatting adjustments by the Newsletter Committee.

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

FINANCE:

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to authorize the proper Borough Official to secure short term financing with PNC Bank, for an amount not to exceed \$350,000., to be used to cover 2007 budget shortfalls in lieu of the proposed bond issue.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to authorize the installation of signs designating specific areas for bus drop-off and pick-up of students at Crafton Elementary, with all costs to be assumed by the Carlynton School District and the installation to be assisted by Crafton Public Works.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the joint paving of Ingram Avenue with costs based on square yardage, and prorated with Ingram Borough.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Christman, to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare Bid Specifications for the 2007 Paving Program.

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

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to appoint Jeffrey Harlich to the Crafton Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2007.

MOTION carried by a Four (4) Yes, Four (4) No Roll Call Vote (*Christman, Koerbel, Ogden, Sappie*), with the One (1) Yes tie-breaking vote by Mayor O'Connell.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Koerbel – Reported that approx. 45 people participated in the Great Pa Cleanup in Crafton, including many students from the National Honor Society. It was a beautiful day. She thanked Blair Cress, Mrs. Tremblay, Ms. McNamara and everyone that participated.

Mr. Ogden – Suggested that this Council consider re-instating the Road Tax Fund in next years budget.

Ms. McNamara – Reported that she and 28 National Honor Society students participated in Crafton's cleanup program.

Mr. Christman – Reported that the next Crafton Celebrates meeting will be held on Monday, May 14th at 7:00 pm, meeting to commence at Crafton Park.

Mr. Byers – Reported that employee interviews were held by him, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Manager Sample and the Pool Manager, Julie. Mr. Byers also requested an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter concerning a property on Promenade Street.

Mrs. Sappie reported that the next Senior Citizen Dinner is scheduled for April 28th. She thanked Mrs. Breeden for her interest to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mrs. Viola – Inquired on a date for the Spring planting of the borough's flower beds. The earlier the date is known, the more time there will be to recruit volunteers. She noted that there was no increase in the cost of pool passes this year, and encouraged residents to purchase pool passes.

Mr. Cindric – Reported that he had attended the CharWest COG dinner, and the Borough received a certificate for perfect meeting attendance in 2006. He noted that he had provided a written report to Council regarding his attendance at the ALOM conference.

Manager Sample – Reported that, while attending the ALOM conference, he had received the dividend check from MRM, in the amount of \$37,362. This is an increase of approx. \$7,000. from 2006's dividend, and that the claims analysis and dividend report is available in the office for review.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ed Doherty, 7 Sterrett Street – Mr. Doherty questioned Council on the paving program, and asked why they acted to get rid of the Road Tax Fund. He expressed concerns that without that dedicated fund, roads are not getting paved, and that future Councils will have to increase the tax millage, possibly to 6 ½ mils, to pay for the loan this Council is approving and an annual paving program. Mr. Byers stated that an increase in millage is not guaranteed; and Mr. Cindric concurred, that proceeds from a recent pension fund settlement and other items will improve next year's budget and availability of funds. Ms. Koerbel agreed with the resident, that the Road Tax fund would have significantly improved the Borough's ability to perform necessary street paving.

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 Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Ogden, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary