

**COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING**  
**Minutes of June 13, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Byers called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute was led by Mr. Christman. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight members of Council present (8), as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, and Mrs. Viola – Also present were Mayor O’Connell, Manager Sample, Engineer Wagner, Solicitor Austin, and Ms. McNamara, Jr. Council. (*Absent: Mr. Stewart*)

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the June 13, 2007 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie requested that future Gateway Engineers invoices also list the Budgeted amount less the work completed to date, and the remaining balance on the invoice for any work that has been budgeted. Ms. Koerbel and Mrs. Sappie questioned the Gateway Engineers invoice; charges related to downloading GIS on Mr. Cindric’s laptop computer. Mr. Cindric stated that he felt Council is entitled to this information to assist Council with their work on behalf of the Borough. Mrs. Tremblay advised that the invoice on this bill list reflects charges for Mr. Cindric’s inquiry only, that next month’s invoices will probably reflect the charge for the GIS computer work done at the Borough offices including the download to Mr. Cindric’s laptop.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0), with exception noted by Ms. Koerbel (#430.31).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the May 9, and May 23, 2007 meeting minutes.

MOTION carried by a Seven (7) Yes, One (1) No (*Viola*) Voice Vote (7-1).

**CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Colleta Perry, 10 Baldwick Road – Spoke on behalf of herself and the Crafton Historic Society, expressing their desire for Council to preserve, and not remove or pave over, the brick streets in Crafton.

Regis Sunny, 123 East Crafton Avenue – Referred Council to his letter regarding alternative options for repairing Blacks Bridge; specifically using a thin bonded overlay and surface lamination, FHWA approved, application. His opinion that the repair proposals are too high, the piers are good, the bridge isn’t that old, core samples went only 5” but the concrete is 28” thick, and he feels the lamination application would work for Blacks Bridge.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Engineer Wagner reported that work is ongoing on the sewer repair and lining contracts. They are recommending Council award the paving contract to Caruso, for the base bid and alternate bids A, B and C, for the amount of \$300,924.65. Once awarded, Caruso has already expressed his willingness to accept a change order to remove the Noble Avenue work, which would reduce the total cost by \$34,961.40. The low bidder for the CharWest COG-Middle Street project was Caruso, for a bid of \$22,000. of which the borough’s share would be approx. \$17,000. The low bidder for the SHACOG CCTV-Year 4 is Advanced Pipe Technologies. Gateway recommends that the Borough approve the contract and notify SHACOG, and the Borough’s share would be approx. \$52,000. **QUESTIONS:** Mrs. Sappie commented that the Middle Street project was first estimated at \$7,000, then \$15,000, and is now estimated at \$17,000.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT***None – Not in attendance.*

Mr. Byers stated that a brief Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss possible litigation.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a) RFP for Black's Bridge Design – The Kimball proposal, for a load rating analysis, for a cost of approx. \$6,400, was discussed. Mr. Cindric spoke in favor of having the analysis completed to determine if passenger cars could travel the bridge, posting a stricter weight restriction and performing surface repairs that would last 3-4-5 years. It was noted by Mrs. Sappie, Ms. Koerbel that there is no guaranteed funding on the TIP, also having concerns based on the petrographic report, that the concrete will continue to deteriorate and create an unsafe base even for passenger cars. Following a lengthy discussion, it was suggested that both Gateway and HDR be asked to provide a cost to perform a load rating analysis. It was the consensus of Council to table the Kimball proposal motion until the next meeting. Mayor O'Connell recommended to make reasonable repairs and get on the TIP; get financing later. Manager Sample stated that previously, Council had considered making minimal repairs and to wait. The partial deck repairs were estimated to cost \$250,000, which actually came in at approx. \$450,000. for repairs that could last 10 years, and it was Council's decision not to expend that kind of money for partial repairs, and instead, consider full deck replacement
- b) Verizon Franchise Agreement – Manager Sample reported that sharing the services of Cohen Communications with the other COG municipalities would represent quite a savings to the Borough. He also reported that Solicitor Ayoob favored the expertise of Cohen to negotiate a Verizon Cable Franchise agreement. It was noted that currently, the Borough receives a 3% franchise fee through Comcast, which nets about \$45,000. in revenue to the Borough, annually.
- c) Ordinance Amendments
1. Prohibited Parking – Parking on Opposite Side of the Street: Clearview Avenue, Noble Avenue and Oregon Avenue: It was the consensus of Council to remove Clearview Avenue from consideration, due to other road and curbing concerns along Clearview. That Noble paving was deleted from the paving program in order to preserve the brick street, and changing the parking side of the street on both Noble and Oregon Avenue may defer repairs and improve driving conditions.
  2. Prohibited Parking - Emergency Vehicle Access – Tabled; info should be available for the next meeting.
  3. Hedge Height Restrictions – It was clarified by Manager Sample, that this issue does not involve hedge heights at intersections, that it is already addressed in the zoning ordinance (clear sight line, etc.) – and the issue at Noble and Steuben received a conditional use in 1999, but it was subject to revocation; and can be considered at a later time by Council. Mr. Byers recommended that the solicitor review this for any legal challenge. Council has been asked to consider overall hedge height restrictions throughout the borough.
- d) Minimum Wage Increase – Manager Sample reported that the State's minimum wage increased to \$6.25, and accordingly, the wage resolution needs to be amended now for that increase. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.15 an hour, so the amendment also takes this into consideration, and adjusts the rates accordingly
- e) In-Car Video Recording Devices – Mayor O'Connell stated that the Fire Department requested the old video cameras when removed from the police cars. It would be with the understanding that there are no guarantees as to their operation or reliability.

- f) Fire Hydrant Installation – Manager Sample indicated that, depending on the proximity to an existing waterline, there would be no cost to the borough for installation of 2 additional fire hydrants (Steuben @ Mildred, S. Grandview @ High St.), as requested by the Fire Dept. There would only be the usual fee that the Borough pays for hydrant rental; \$120. per year. There was also a request to remove a hydrant, in the woods, behind Rogers Street, which is not accessible; and to either move the hydrant on Noble at the A-Plus Sunoco or install posts to protect it, since the hydrant is regularly hit by cars leaving the gas station.
- g) Other – Old Business – Parking Meters. Manager Sample stated that he would have information for July, since he will be on vacation and will not be in attendance at the June 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, for both parking meters and parking permits.

**SET AGENDA BUSINESS FOR REGULAR MEETING (June 27, 2007)**

1. Kimball Report
2. Emergency Vehicle Access Ordinance
3. Conditional Use – 55 Warren Street
4. Adopt Ordinances – Parking, Stop Signs and UCC Building Permit requirements.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to adopt Resolution No. 2007-03 authoring the Borough to enter into a Joint Municipal Agreement in participation with the Char-West COG for cable franchise negotiations with Verizon, at a cost not to exceed \$3,200.  
**COMMENTS:** It was agreed to insert the \$3,200 limit into the Resolution.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Resolution No. 2007-04 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. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to hire Rob Johnson as a summer public works laborer. **COMMENT:** Manager Sample indicated that one of the hired employees had quit, so Johnson would be a replacement.

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

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mrs. Koerbel, to authorize the preparation and advertisement of an ordinance amending the Chapter 90 Code Enforcement of the Borough Code of Ordinance, Section 90-11 Part B, modifying the International Property Maintenance Code to add a new Section 302, Exterior Property Areas for: a) clear site requirement and b) front yard hedge height restriction. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola spoke against such a restriction, that the Borough should not micro-manage. Mr. Sample indicated that the proposed restriction mirrors the fence ordinance requirements, and was requested by Mr. Londino to assist him in enforcing property maintenance and safety issues; and that many property owners hedges serve as a fence and should be looked at as such. Mr. Byers reminded Council that this motion is not to adopt the ordinance and restrictions, but is a motion only to advertise the proposed action on an ordinance. The property maintenance code does provide for maintenance violations regarding hedges, but nothing relating to their height. Mr. Cindric added that this may be the case in S. Fayette or Cranberry, where a uniform look is desired, but certain hedges have existed in front of Crafton homes for over 100 years. He also recalled Mr. Londino's attempt, in 2003, to enforce a hedge height under the fence height ordinance, and property owners refused to comply.

MOTION failed by Six (6) No, Two (2) Yes (*Donovan, Koerbel*) Roll Call Vote (6-2).

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to donate the two out of service car camera units to the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department. **COMMENTS:** These will be donated with the understanding that the equipment is being donated “as is”, with no guarantees of condition or operation.

MOTION carried by a Seven (7) Yes, One (1) No (*Ogden*) Roll Call Vote (7-1).

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Christman, to authorize the preparation and advertisement of an ordinance amending the Chapter 214 Vehicles and Traffic of the Borough Code of Ordinance, Section 214-35 changing parking side of street for ~~Clearview Avenue~~, Noble Avenue and Oregon Avenue. **COMMENTS:** Concerns that sections of Clearview could not handle parking on the northerly side, and felt that this needed more review and consideration. Clearview Avenue was removed from the proposed Ordinance language.

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

~~**MOTION:** I move to authorize the preparation and advertisement of an ordinance amending the Chapter 214 Vehicles and Traffic of the Borough Code of Ordinance, Section 214-35 prohibiting parking at certain locations to allow for emergency vehicle access. **Tabled**~~

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve Crafton Borough’s participation in the multi-municipal CCTV, Year Four, Contract in favor of Advanced Pipe Technologies, in accordance with the bid process and recommendation of SHACOG.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to award the 2007 Road Resurfacing Base Contract and Alternates A, B and C to Peter Caruso & Sons, Inc. for the amount of \$300,924.65, per the Engineer’s recommendation. **COMMENTS:** It was agreed that the entire contract would be awarded provided that Caruso will be willing to delete Noble Avenue paving by change order; reducing the cost by approximately \$34,961.40.

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

~~**MOTION:** I move to approve the agreement with L. Robert Kimball & Associates to provide professional services for Bridge Deck Evaluation and Recommendations for Black’s Bridge per the Kimball proposal of May 23, 2007 for an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00. **Tabled**~~

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Koerbel - Reported that a public hearing was held before the Council meeting on the Conditional Use request for front yard parking at 55 Warren Street; that the Planning Commission heard the request, previously, and did approve the request as presented.

Mr. Ogden – Suggested that Fire Chief Hermes attend the next meeting to offer input on the proposed Ordinance regarding parking restrictions allowing for fire equipment access.

Ms. McNamara – Reported that the movies in the park will commence on Sunday, featuring *The Pacifier*.

Mr. Christman – Congratulated Ms. McNamara for being named Class Valedictorian. He reported that Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> is the last meeting of Crafton Celebrates before the actual event, and is still encouraging volunteers to help at the festival; and hope for a good turnout and good weather; and he thanked Mrs. Tremblay and Mrs. Viola, and all of the volunteers for their effort and hard work.

Mrs. Sappie – Announced the date of the next Sr. Citizen dinner, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. She also reported that the Recreation Board has been cleaning up the old miniature golf course property in anticipation of Crafton

Celebrates, and have a few ideas for the property. Mr. Byers and Mr. Donovan added that previous suggestions were made that include deck hockey, tennis courts, skateboard park, etc. Mrs. Sappie also expressed an idea for a community garden area.

Mrs. Viola – Thanked Jim Christman for organizing and chairing the Crafton Celebrates committee; that he was the only one that stepped forward to get this event going, and his efforts are much appreciated.

Mr. Cindric – Reported that he attended the S.W. PA Commission meeting, earlier in the evening.

Mayor O’Connell – Reported that Officer Harvison has returned to work and is doing fine. She is accepting applications for the Mayor’s Community Service Award. The new Police Car is in service. All officers’ portable radios have been replaced as part of a regular maintenance schedule. The street report, as recommended by the CVFD, is being reviewed and will be distributed to Council shortly She reminded residents that it is illegal to post signs on the telephone poles, and that police officers will be removing signs, if noticed while doing foot patrol. She read from a letter from Superintendent Panza thanking Council and Police Dept. for the work with the DARE program which helps create a feeling of student trust with the police. Lastly, she noted the donation of a new flag by Mr. Bill Morford, in memory of the war veterans.

Mrs. Tremblay – Reported that Carlynton School District has a recommended a new candidate for Junior Council

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Regis Sunny – Reiterated previous comments regarding the bridge and asked that Council seriously consider the bonding/laminating application, and felt that there is a lot of misinformation being stated which should be retracted.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary