

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 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 Mrs. Viola. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight (8) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Viola, and Mr. Stewart. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Solicitor Ayoob, Engineer Ministerman, Manager Sample, and Jr. Council-Miss Wooster. (*Absent: Mrs. Sappie*)

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the August 22, 2007 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0), with exceptions noted (*Mr. Donovan #404.32, Mrs. Viola #454.26*).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2007.

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

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**Sandy Burns, 20 Lawson** – Ms. Burns commented on the recent notification to borough residents of a missing child; via “A Child is Missing” program. She asked if there is anyway to inform the residents, afterwards, that the child has been located. She advised that a recent storm caused tree damage at the abandoned property next to her home and asked if the borough could look remove the tree, as it poses a hazard. Manager Sample advised that he would look into it, and also contact the Shade Tree Commission. She inquired on the status of any action being taken by the Borough concerning the abandoned property. Manager Sample stated that it is currently being processed for Sheriff Sale by Jordan Tax Service.

**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 Report. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric spoke on the first item on the Ordinance Officers Report – Front Yard parking violation. Mr. Cindric asked why the property owner was told to apply for a variance; the resident said the pad previously existed and he only expanded it. Manager Sample explained that there is information to the contrary, and the property owner was advised of his right to request a zoning variance before the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Koerbel advised that she had spoken to the property owner; explaining the proper procedures, and he was very understanding and cooperative. Ms. Koerbel added that enforcement has to be consistent and in accordance with the zoning requirements and procedures as set forth in the zoning ordinance. Solicitor Ayoob added that, if the parking pad pre-existed, the property owner may only need to apply for an “Expansion of a Non-Conforming Use”, as provided by the MPC. It would still require a hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board, presenting testimony and proof of the prior existence of the parking pad. Mr. Cindric asserted that the ordinances aren't being consistently enforced; that they are being selectively enforced.

Mrs. Viola questioned the charges on the Triangle Pet report relating to a dead deer; Mrs. Tremblay advised that one charge, \$40, was for coming to the borough (on a Saturday), and the other charge, \$45, was for the deer removal.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that a child was missing, but found, and notification, throughout the borough via telephone calls, was made through the “A Child is Missing” alert program. Some residents were unaware of the program and were concerned that the notification was hoax. She will try to get more information out to the residents about this program. She reported that a meeting was held with the school crossing guards.

There is a full compliment of guards; even though two of the guards will not be returning this year. She acknowledged and thanked John Mikels and Dorothy Kelly for their years of service. She reported that school will be starting soon. She also reported that the Red Hat Society, of which she will be made a new member, will be sponsoring an event on September 8<sup>th</sup> in Crafton Park. This event has provided the Library and other organizations a fundraiser opportunity. She stated that the Mayor's Community Service Award presentation will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. Lastly, she referred Council to the Police report; reporting that 249 complaints were responded to during the month of July.

Mrs. Breeden asked who was receiving the Community Service Awards, and if a list of names was available. Mayor O'Connell indicated that there were approx. 13-14 persons, that she did not have the list with her, but it would be made available soon.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Stewart reminded drivers of the hazards of using cell phones while driving, and that more and more vehicle accidents are resulting due to cell phone use. He also reported that a former Public Works employee, Ed Hartmann, had recently passed away (*moment of silence*).

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Minsterman reported that the sewer defect corrections are nearing completion. He reported that a preconstruction meeting was scheduled, regarding the 2007 paving project, for the week of Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

None.

He noted that an Executive Session will be held after the Council meeting to discuss 1) Condemnation proceedings-Duncan property, 2) Appeal to the DEP regarding Madigan Manor, 3) Enforcement proceedings regarding 192 Promenade, and 4) Employment matters.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Parking Meters/Permits: Manager Sample reported that he had met with Central Parking, and had visited the various areas being considering for parking meters, restrictions, permits, etc. He needs Councils input; revenue source from the Park 'n Ride patron overflow or making parking more readily available to patrons of the business district, or a combination of the two. Ms. Koerbel asked if there is a standard charge; 25 cents per hour? Mr. Christman stated that we should be consistent with charges in other communities. Mr. Sample reported that he should have a report from Central Parking by the next meeting; Mr. Stewart requested that a special meeting be held prior to the next meeting, commencing at 6:30, for the purpose of discussing this matter.

Emergency Access/Parking Restriction Ordinance: Manager Sample advised that he had looked into the request to relocate the fire hydrant in Alley A. It has been strategically placed to be able to service both ends of the alley. Mr. Cindric inquired on relocating the hydrant on Noble, at the A-Plus. Manager Sample reported that PAWC will be installing concrete poles to protect the hydrant from motorists leaving the A-Plus.

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

None

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to adopt Ordinance No. 1584 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.

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

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Viola, Mr. Cindric, Mayor O'Connell, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Byers, Mr. Ogden, Mr. Stewart – No Report

Ms. Koerbel – Ms. Koerbel noted that there was no business to come before the Planning Commission this month, so the August meeting was cancelled. She also noted the Historical Society’s upcoming fundraiser and Gala, on December 1<sup>st</sup> in the West End (Old St. James Church).

Ms. Wooster – Ms. Wooster also reported that school starts on August 27<sup>th</sup>. She also reported on upcoming Carlynton Football games. And, she thanked Council for the opportunity to sit as a Junior Councilperson.

Mr. Christman reported that Crafton Celebrates will be meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm, in the Community Center.

Mr. Cindric, on behalf of Mrs. Sappie, reported that the August Senior Citizen dinner is scheduled for Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>; doors open at 5pm.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Sandy Burns – Commented on the parking pad issue; stating that this will become more and more of a problem since each household has so many cars now, compared to years ago when the homes were built, and there is just not enough on-street parking. She did agree that it should be approached through the proper procedures.

**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