

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 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. Donovan. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded all nine (9) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Ms. Koerbel, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola, and Mr. Stewart. Also present were Mayor O’Connell, Solicitor Ayoob, Engineer Wagner, Manager Sample, and Jr. Council-Miss Wooster.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Byers, to approve the September 26, 2007 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Sept. 12, 2007 – Not Available)

CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Maria Murphy, Noble Avenue – Ms. Murphy reported that she received a citation for her placement of stones in the utility right-of-way (provided photographs). She noted that the stones were placed there to prevent cars and trucks from parking on her sidewalk, and damaging the sidewalk. She is requesting that Council consider an amendment to the Ordinance to allow stones, etc. in that area to protect the sidewalks. Mr. Stewart stated that Council will look into this matter.

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, CVFD reports (July/August) and Animal Control Report. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola requested that the actual Code Violations be included on the Ordinance Officer’s report. The Solicitor stated that the ICC Property Maintenance Code, used by the Ordinance Officers, is a uniform set of Standards, which were adopted by Council. Mr. Stewart asked if the issue regarding the stones was set by this code; Mr. Sample advised that this is by Borough Ordinance, not under the PMC. Mr. Stewart asked that this be visited by Council, as well as the sign issue.

Motion to approve the reports (Mr. Donovan/Mr. Byers) was unanimously approved.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor O’Connell reported that 227 complaints were responded to during the month of August, referred Council to the written report. She reported that on Monday, Oct. 1st, 7:00, a Crime Watch meeting focused mainly on Identity Theft, representatives from the Attorney General’s Office will be present to provide information. She thanked Sen. Fontana for his assistance in obtaining grant funds to install a voice recording system, which will record all phone calls in the police dept. She also thank Capt. Sumpster for obtaining a grant through the District Attorney’s Office to acquire a Taser, and training and line modules; policy will be in place before using them. Also thanked Capt. Tolkacevic for his informational presentation at the CharWest COG for the neighboring municipalities regarding the Child Is Missing program. Mrs. Sappie asked the Mayor if Chief Rost was on a 4 to 6 week vacation; to which Mayor O’Connell responded no, off Sept. 6th and will be back next week.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Stewart had no report

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Wagner reported on the status of the paving program and Middle Street paving. He noted that significant base repairs are needed on S. Grandview and on Afton, and some minimal base repairs on other

streets. This entails soil excavation and increase in price. Mr. Cindric inquired if both sides of Baldwick would be paved following the gas company repairs; Mr. Sample stated no, that only the City side, where the utility line was replaced, would be paved, and the same with Crafton Blvd.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported that the Flood Control Authority is doing a cleanup of the Creek, from the Bridge to approx. the ball fields. They will be dredging the creek and lining the banks next month; they will be accessing the utility road off of Backbone.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Blacks Bridge Bid Results** – Bid Opening/Swank was the low bidder. Bids were reviewed by HDR and they recommended to accept the bid; Mr. Jim Bintrim of HDR was present to answer any Council questions. Mr. Cindric inquired on the removal of the slurry which will result from the hydro-demolition/high vacuum jets. Mr. Bintrim stated that this was not included in the specs, but that it would be properly removed and disposed of. Mr. Bintrim also stated that arrangements can be made with the borough for clean water supply, or it will need to be trucked in by the Contractor to accommodate his needs for the hydro-demolition equipment. Mr. Cindric had concerns about pricing and being charged for a lot of extra work and materials, in lieu of the very low bid price. Mrs. Sappie stated that our inspector and contractor will review these charges and confirm, and agree on, the actual work, concrete used, etc., especially where they are being paid at unit prices. Mr. Cindric inquired on the concrete removal cost; and Mr. Bintrim stated that there were estimates provided for level 1, 2 and 3, and the cost will not increase if they have to remove all of the concrete, and if they need to remove more than estimated for level 3. Mr. Christman asked why such a big difference in one bid and another for Cleaning and Sounding. Mr. Bintrim could not say for sure; he, said that possibly, since that would be the first amount payable, it would provide upfront funds for the project.
- b) **CVS Development**
 - a. Re-approval of Lot Consolidation – Plan was originally approved in February, and was not filed with the County within so many days. So, it requires re-approval.
 - b. Traffic Signal Maintenance – Motion to approve a resolution that the Borough will maintain the traffic signal at Foster and West Steuben; the installation would be the developer's responsibility. It was believed that they would be led lights.
- c) **Conditional Use Application**
 - a. 1-7 Oregon Avenue – Application provided to Council. First Baptist church desires to use the parsonage for an educational use, which is not permitted in an R-1 district, except by Conditional Use. The Crafton Planning Commission has provided their recommendation, with conditions. The Public hearing will be held on October 24th. Solicitor Ayoob stated that is will be kind of like a family daycare; where services will be provided during the daytime hours, but no one is to reside there, or sleep over on the premises. He further stated that this use is offered in the ordinance, if they meet the conditions of the ordinances.
- d) **Sign Ordinance** – Mr. Stewart stated that this matter, along with the stones in the utility right-of-ways, and other issues, should be reviewed; that possibly a committee of 3, Ms. Koerbel, Mrs. Sappie and Mr. Cindric get together to review these. Ms. Koerbel asked that a status quo be established to not pursue these violations until they can be further reviewed. Mr. Ayoob added that it should be all or nothing; either you don't permit them or you do permit them, possibly with restrictions, such as size, location, removal at night, etc. Mr. Cindric stated that these ordinances were adopted approx. 4 years ago, and if this Council makes changes, what would prevent the next or another Council from changing them again. It was noted that it would be that Council's prerogative, to do so. Solicitor Ayoob stated that he provided two or three letters to Manager Sample, focusing on certain questions or

inconsistent items in the zoning ordinance, that should be looked at as well, if Council is considering modifying the zoning ordinance. Ms. Koerbel stated that the zoning ordinance that Council adopted, was modeled after, and includes most of the language, as provided by in the proposed ordinance by the Joint Planning Commission; that the zoning ordinance is such, that it will continue to be a work in progress. Mr. Stewart said Council should look at as many items as possible when amending the ordinance.

- e) Special Labor Counsel – Manager Sample stated that he had two individuals interested, and asked if they should be brought in for an interview before one of the budget meetings.
- f) Rock Salt Contract – Manager Sample stated that the new contract price is \$42.93, compared to last years’ price of \$34.50; this new price is consistent with market conditions; actually at the low end. It would include a price index for fuel fluctuations.
- g) Fall/Winter Newsletter – The first draft was provided to Council; still several blank pages. Asked Council to provide the office with any articles or ideas to complete the Newsletter.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Koerbel, to approve the 2007 Fall/Winter Borough Newsletter articles; as submitted, subject to any necessary formatting adjustments by the Newsletter Committee.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

PLANNING

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Ms. Koerbel, seconded by Mr. Donovan, re-approve the Lot Consolidation Plan submitted by Armstrong Development Properties, Inc. for the proposed CVS Pharmacy at 67-70 West Steuben Street, per the recommendations of the Crafton Planning Commission.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Koerbel to adopt Resolution 2007-06 requiring the Borough of Crafton to maintain the traffic signal located at the intersection of Steuben Street and Foster Avenue in accordance with the Vehicle Code and Regulations for Traffic signs, signals and markings of the Department of Transportation (*added language, per Solicitor*), *conditioned upon the final execution of the Developer’s Agreement by CVS*. **COMMENTS:** Manager Sample added that CVS needs this approval before they can proceed on approval by PennDot.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the rock salt contract with Cargill, Inc., in accordance with the COG Joint Purchasing bid award, at a price of \$42.93 per ton through July 31, 2008, with an option to renew the contract for a period of three (3) additional years, and authorize the proper borough official to execute the required documents.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Christman, to award the Blacks Bridge Deck Repair Contract to Swank Associates Co., Inc. for the amount of \$249,575.00, per the recommendation of HDR Engineering, Inc. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric re-iterated his concerns for the Contractor’s ability to add-on, and the Borough’s ability to control this aspect, so it does not get out of hand.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Koerbel – Thanked everyone involved in getting this far on the bridge repairs and is hoping for a good conclusion. Planning Commission meeting was held last week, and the Conditional Use request by the First Baptist Church was held, and a recommendation made to Council. She asked for volunteers from Council to review the ordinances for modification.

Miss Wooster - She reported on Carlyntons Thanksgiving break, being Nov. 22nd – Nov. 26th, and the Christmas break is Dec. 22nd through Jan. 1st.

Mr. Christman – Announced that the next meeting of Crafton Celebrates is Oct. 9th at 7:00 pm.

Mrs. Sappie – Announced that the next Sr. Citizen dinner is scheduled for October 27th, with an Octoberfest theme, featuring John Galon for entertainment. She reported that Pat Shaw has contributed funds to pay for the entertainment. She also reported that the District Court lease expires this year, and is working on negotiating a lease renewal with the County. Two items to be addressed are to provide assigned parking spaces in the parking lot for their use and a rent increase. Mrs. Sappie stated that the CVFD is working amicably with the Borough on the parking issue. She also reported that, in checking into the Borough's DANET activity, she learned that, this year, Crafton has been involved in one case, compared to other years where the Borough was involved in at least ten or fifteen.

Mrs. Viola – She requested a preliminary time-line for the bridge work. Manager Sample stated that first the contracts will need to be signed, then approx. 2-4 weeks for the Contractor to get mobilized, and complete the removal/repair work - completed by the end of October, then the concrete poured by the beginning of November, allowed to cure, and the bridge opened by December.

Mr. Cindric – He reported that the REMS new ambulance is in service. Their health insurance is increasing by 9%. They received a grant to purchase CPAP units (CPAP-Constant positive air pressure); this equipment is a safer method of providing oxygen into the lungs, rather than administering medication. He commended Capt. Tolkacevic on his presentation at the COG meeting. He noted that the salt price increase is approx. 25%, but they had originally anticipated 40%. Ms. Koerbel inquired on the date for the CVFDs Night at the Races; Mrs. Tremblay said it is scheduled for late October, possibly the 27th.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jim Bloom, N. Emily Street – He expressed concerns on the operation and timing of the lights on Steuben Street, as he recalled traffic problems and congestion in prior years when there was a traffic signal at that intersection. He was assured that this will be properly synchronized to avoid such problems.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary