

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2008**

Vice President Cindric 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 five (5) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Luxbacher and Mrs. Viola. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, and Solicitor Austin (*Absent: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Christman, Mr. Ogden and Mrs. Sappie*).

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Luxbacher, to approve the July 23, 2008 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (5-0), with exceptions noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mr. Byers, to approve the July 9, 2008 meeting Minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Jack Duncan, Jeffrey Duncan, Lincoln Street, 3rd Ward – The Duncans expressed concerns over the use of the private access road, by others, from the public works property to Mr. Duncan's property. He stated that it's use and his rights with regard to this road are covered under a 1987 agreement with the Borough, and that he is to be compensated when the road is used by others. That a contractor, doing work along the creek for the Army Corp of Engineers, has been using his road. The Duncans also complained about the locking of gates, which is an inconvenience to them to access their property. It was noted that the access gates are being locked to deter illegal dumping in that area, however, the Duncans have been provided with gate keys. The Solicitor would review the Agreement.

Bob Gentile, 51 Taylor St – Mr. Gentile requested that pot holes on Taylor Street, in the concrete area, be fixed. Manager Sample advised that this is on the public works list to do over the next two week period.

Micahel P. Suehr, Lincoln Street business – Mr. Suehr also commented on the locking of gates and placement of Jersey barriers, which prevents him from accessing his property at times when he cannot use DeSota Street. The condition of DeSota is deteriorating and is not travelable in the winter. He also inquired on the borough's intentions with regard to the recent Board of Viewers \$1.1 million award for the Duncan II property.

Betsy Martin, Noble Avenue, and member of Shade Tree Commission – Ms. Martin suggested that a thank you card be sent to Hougi Kodela for all of her flower planting efforts. She noted that with Ms. Kodela not being able to serve right now, due to a back injury, the Commission is very short-handed, and she requested that Council consider a 5-member board. She noted that Public Works summer help is understaffed and that the Commission is relying on volunteers to weed the flower beds; and doesn't understand why the Shade Tree Commission is responsible for flower beds. They need more volunteers as well. She asked that the flower beds and other planted areas be better maintained and mulched to keep down the weed growth. Mr. Cindric thanked members of the Kueshner family for their efforts in weeding the flower beds.

Marie Murphy, 246 Noble and Monica Murphy – Mrs. Murphy complained about the dangerous hedge situation at the corner of Noble and Steuben; inability to see oncoming pedestrians on the sidewalk and oncoming vehicles at that intersection. Ms. Monica Murphy reiterated those comments and also inquired on the status of handicapped ramps. Mr. Sample indicated that 14 ramps have been submitted for a CDBG grant.

Steve Palchowski – Mr. Palchowski reminded everyone of the Sunday night Movies in the Park. He reminded Council of the need for police presence and control during the movie; if the kids are roaming

the park and not watching the movie, the police should make them leave. He also noted that a Crafton Celebrates fundraiser is planned for August 12th at Crafton Pool; a pool party and movie – Shrek 3

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

The following written reports were provided in Council's Packet: Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Fee Reports, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, Ordinance Officers report, CVFD report, REMs Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report.

REMS – Mr. Neimic of REMS provided a report. Noted 46 calls so far for July. Have been working with guards at Crafton Pool; mock saves and lifesaving drills. He reported that REMS is available and a part of a disaster strike-response team, with 13 ambulances, 30-40 pieces of specialty equipment, and communication trailer, made possible through grant funding. Just received a grant to work on cross reference communication frequencies, for better communication with the various emergency personnel, including public works and police. He reported that REMS now has a motorcycle to respond to medical emergencies, as well, for quick response, packed with medical supplies, from a grant from the State Fire Commission. Mrs. Luxbacher asked if REMS could do a motorcycle safety program. A fund raising subscription drive is scheduled for the end of August. Mr. Cindric noted that the response from Crafton for the subscription drives are very good.

MOTION (Byers/Luxbacher) to accept the Written Reports was carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Manager Sample provided a report: The sewer defect corrections are almost done and final payment request from Mongiovi will be presented soon. HDR is currently working on specs for repair and replacement of the bridge expansion dams. Mrs. Luxbacher inquired on a timeline; Manager Sample noted that they are talking with the contractors to attempt to do the asphalt paving first, to keep the work moving, and not further delay the opening of the bridge. A ballpark figures for replacement is estimated at \$50-60,000. and PennDot type repair is estimated at \$20-25,000, and possibly some other lower cost options; which should be provided to Council in August. Specs are being prepared by the Engineer for the HVAC and Boiler replacement, and also specs for the demolition of 192 Promenade. They need to determine if any piping work is need for the HVAC and boiler replacement, or hopefully, they can just be removed and replaced without much additional work. A proposal from HDR to prepare specs to replace the rocker bearings has been provided for Council's consideration; perhaps defer this work until next year since there are no funds budgeted this year. The work could be done in early spring with little or no closing of the bridge. SHACOG CCTV-Year 5 Contract information has been provided; this should be the last significant year for televising our sewers. Roto-rooter was low bid at \$183,000; almost \$100,000. less than other bidders; this joint-municipal contract has saved the borough a significant amount of money over the years.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell reported that police responded to 215 calls during the month of June, and referred Council to the written report. She reminded everyone of the reception to meet and welcome the new police officers, on August 6th, in the Community Center at 7:30 pm, with light refreshments. She also reported that the Mayor's Community Service Award ceremony is scheduled for September 3rd, at 7:00. She referred Council to the written report provided with regard to Chief Rost and Captain Sumpter's attendance at the Chief's conference. A new regulation is in effect; 35 new vests for crossing guards and public works are needed, at a cost of \$45 - \$50 each; subtle change but necessary. The new police car #11-1 is in and having equipment changed over from the old #11-1. A change this year was the installation of a single, molded plastic rear seat, which prevents drugs or weapons from being hidden down inside the seat cushions. A certificate of appreciation was given to Chief Rost for cooperation with Federal investigators for the availability and use of an interview room. The Mayor is looking into delays in reporting crimes on the crime alert program. Resident suggested police use white gloves when directly traffic.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Cindric reported that an Executive Session of Council is scheduled for July 30th, at 6:00, to discuss litigation regarding the Duncan property matter. He noted that a former Council President, Dennis Stelzner, recently had open-heart surgery, which went well, and hopefully he will be home soon concentrating on his Boy Scout Troop work; and wish him the best.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported that Crafton will be up and running for Verizon's FIOS, on July 26th; the initial buildout is the entire borough. Next week, on July 30th, a special public meeting is scheduled to discuss parking issues; was advertised.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

- a. Swimming Pool Fees – after 5 PM rate: Manager Sample noted that the reduced rate, \$3.00, was established in 2006 for the convenience of adults going to the pool after work. Two options have been provided for consideration; eliminate reduced rate on the weekend only or eliminate entirely. The problems after 5pm are groups of rowdy youths who wait, daily, for the reduced rate and enter the pool and cause problems. Patrons and staff cannot control these individuals. Mrs. Luxbacher suggested that police presence, just a walk through, will remind everyone that they are being watched, and police may be called to handle problems. It was suggested that this become effective August 1st, to give about 10 days advance notice. A motion will be acted upon during the Business Agenda. Citizen input was requested: Mr. Palchowski feels patrons will swim at any rate if they really want to swim. Borough should consider photo id, to eliminate passing of tags and sneaking in to the pool. Mrs. Martin did not think rate should be changed midstream, and should consider it for next year.

BUSINESS AGENDA**PLANNING:**

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the Conditional Use Application to allow for the construction of a front yard parking pad located at 248 Noble Avenue (Lot & Block 40-E-96) conditioned on the applicant satisfying the requirements set forth by the Crafton Planning Commission and subject to the Zoning Hearing Board granting a variance to allow a front yard parking pad.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (5-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve Crafton Borough's participation in the multi-municipal CCTV, Year Five, Contract in favor of Roto-Rooter Services Company, in accordance with the bid process and recommendation of SHACOG.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (5-0).

PARKS AND RECREATION (*Motion Added to Agenda*)

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-05, amending Resolution No. 2007-12, Section 13 C, by removing the reduced daily admission fee for patrons entering the Crafton Swimming Pool facility after 5:00 pm.

MOTION carried by a Four Yes, One No (*Cindric*) Roll Call Vote (4-1).

COUNCIL COMMENTS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Luxbacher – Library expansion work is in progress; all permits secured, electrical work being completed. Anticipate completion in September with a Grand Opening in October.

Mrs. Viola – Ordinance review Committee Meeting cancelled for Wed., August 6th; meeting planned for Wed., August 20th, at 6:30pm.

Mr. Donovan – Reminded everyone to support the local volunteer fire companies.

Mr. Byers – In response to earlier comments; Valley is being routinely patrolled by our Police. Officer Harvison was attacked while patrolling at the ballfields and just recently, Officer Harvison did apprehend an individual illegally dumping from his truck (yard waste, hedges, etc.). Monday thru Friday, 7-3:30 access to Borough's compost site.

Manager Sample- Reminded everyone of the Rotary Rib/chicken Fest on August 7th in Crafton Park; advance tickets available in the borough offices.

Mr. Cindric – Reminder of July 30th public meeting/parking issues, next regular meeting, in three weeks, on August 13th. He asked that Council consider increasing the number of Zoning Hearing Board members to 5, similar to Planning Commission, etc. Currently, 3 members and 2 alternates; per MPC.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Monica Murphy – Refresh paint on Crosswalks. Manager Sample advised that this painting work has been scheduled and will occur within the week. It was suggested that crossing guards be available near the park intersections on Steuben Street during Crafton Celebrates.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mr. Donovan, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary