

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 27 2008**

President Christman 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. Bloom, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Luxbacher, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and President Christman. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, and Solicitor Ayoob (*Absent: Mr. Byers*).

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to approve the August 27, 2008 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Bloom inquired on the Davies, McFarland legal invoices; advised him that the Zoning Hearing board has their own separate legal counsel.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mrs. Luxbacher, to approve the August 13, 2008 meeting Minutes. **COMMENT:** Mr. Bloom requested a correction; noting his abstention vote on approval of the July 23rd Minutes.

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

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

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. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Luxbacher inquired about the Crime Reward Fund; Mrs. Tremblay noted that it was created several years ago and it maintains \$250. available funds at all times. Mr. Bloom noted that fees paid to Jordan for TCF (Trash Collection Fee) was already over budget; Mrs. Tremblay noted that Jordan is paid a percentage of the gross collection; which should mean that the corresponding budget revenues for TCF must also be more than budgeted. Mr. Sample noted that budgeted amounts are only a best estimate. **MOTION** (Bloom/Donovan) to accept the Written Reports was carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT (*Engineer not Present*)

Manager Sample provided a report: Facchiano Contracting bid needs to be revisited and possibly resubmitted; cost estimate too high. Mr. Sample will be working with HDR to, otherwise, attempt to get the bridge open for now, and will have more information at the next meeting. Solicitor Ayoob noted that due to the scope of work and cost, this work may merit a new bid rather than a change order. Manager Sample also reported that only one bid was received for the demolition of 192 Promenade, in the amount of \$9,964, and a motion to approve the contract is on the business agenda. He noted that the specs for the boiler and HVAC unit were available in the office for review; bids to be opened and a motion to approve contracts at the next Council meeting. Mrs. Viola noted that the specs called for a Peerless Boiler, and felt the language "or equal" should be added, so as not to limit comparable equipment/manufacturers, which could affect the cost; and would provide more competitive bids. It was the consensus of Council to amend the specs to add the language "or equal".

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell reported that police responded to 249 calls during the month of July, and referred Council to the written report. Reminder School is in session, be aware of stopped school buses. High visibility vests are ordered for police, crossing guards, and public works; cost was estimated at approx.

\$60. each, but actual cost is approx. \$22. each; seams are Velcro tear-away and more reflective surface . The Pa Clean Indoor Air Act takes effect on Sept. 11th; no smoking in any borough facility or police cars. Reminder, a witness, complainant, or victim must appear at hearings; police officers cannot testify on their behalf; it is a waste of the police officers time and wages since he does have to appear in court. Also, reminded everyone of the Mayor's Community Service Awards ceremony, scheduled for Sept. 3rd at 7pm in the community center. She also noted that Capt. Sumpter received a note of thanks for his assistance and good work.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Christman noted that residents should watch out for the children going to and from school, and report anything suspicious to the Police department. Mrs. Luxbacher expressed concerns for a incident involving a chase and search in the neighborhood, and police from other areas were on foot; what is the protocol to clear the streets or notify residents. Mayor O'Connell noted that it had involved a chase starting in the City of Pittsburgh, and protocol, at that moment, was probably to use all manpower to take care of the situation, find and apprehend the person, rather than inform residents of what was going on. President Christman also commented on Borough finances; it's getting harder every day to buy new things and take care of things and services, and Council has to be very responsible in it's spending. He would like to do a budget review of the 2008 finances to date. Mrs. Sappie advised that she had planned a Finance Committee meeting for Sept. 3rd. Mr. Christman noted that he could not attend that day, so other dates were discussed for consideration (*Sept. 10th, prior to the meeting, or Wed. Sept. 17th; would be a special meeting, need to be advertised*).

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported that Public Works is currently working on Taylor Street; replacing a concrete section between Home and N. Grandview; replacing two pads and should be completed by the end of September.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

- a. CFVD Aerial Replacement – Mgr. Sample reported that PNC provided a financing proposal at a savings of approx. \$2,600 yr.; with annual payment of \$39,500, less the equipment sinking fund, with a net payment amount of \$25,000 per year. He noted that PNC proposals expires on 9/5, but can be extended. A letter from Seagrave was provided regarding refurbishing the existing ladder truck. Mr. Cindric asked for review of the funds for the down payment; it was stated that the Fire Relief Association would provide \$35,000., in accordance with Auditor Generals guideline for use of funds. A VLAP loan would require 20% of the cost of the apparatus (20% of \$728,000 = \$140,000+/-). The 20% could be met with the \$35,000., reserve accounts, equipment sinking funds. Mr. Ogden noted the 9/14 deadline with KME to avoid anticipated cost increases, and also reminded of the January 2009 changes in the NFPA requirements. Mr. Crown suggested that the CVFD meet with Council to answer any questions, comments, suggestions; and to let them know ahead so they would be able to have this information and answers available. Mr. Cindric questioned any affect with regard to Act 8 of 2008; Mr. Crown advised that Act 8 would require the CVFD to detail any expenditures made from funds directly given to the fire department, which currently is the \$15,000 for building/utilities and that information is made available to the Borough. Ladder length, 75' vs. 100', the number of available first line apparatus, and reserve apparatus, and mutual aid, was discussed as it pertains to a Federal Grant and ISO ratings. Mr. Ogden noted that the motion to vote on this matter was removed from the Agenda to allow Council more time to review the information and asked that it be placed on the Sept. 10th meeting Agenda for action. Mr. Bloom noted that this equipment would provide a pumper and ladder which would require less 1st responder equipment/personnel, and would compensate for lack of available manpower. Mayor O'Connell asked if one of the other engines could be sold or eliminated at a savings to the Borough, and still meet ISO requirements. It was also noted that Mutual Aid companies have different 100' ladder apparatus, either with basket or platform. A public meeting to further discuss this matter was scheduled for Sept. 4th at 7pm.

- b. Proposed Parking Ordinance – Mgr. Sample re-iterated the proposed changes; traffic signal and permitted left turn at Foster, additional no parking areas to accommodate both fire equipment and public works trucks for salting and plowing, and 2 hr. parking zones. Also, a proposed resolution has been provided to Council for action; whereas the Borough’s fee/rate resolution conflicts with the actual fees established by BIU with regard to fence and sign permits, and this amendment is necessary.
- c. Civil Service Vacancy-Mgr. Sample noted that Mr. Doherty term has expired, and anyone interested in serving should provide a letter of interest to the borough office by Sept. 19th, with appointment by the Sept. 24th meeting.
- d. Increasing the Membership of the Zoning Hearing Board – Mr. Cindric asked that Council consider increasing the board from 3 members to 5 for more diversity of opinion throughout the community and greater input into the decision made by the Board, noting that the Planning Commission is 5 members and Council is 9 members. Mrs. Sappie asked if there has ever been a problem only having a 3 member board with 2 alternates; and if not, she could not understand the need to change it; and she also noted that, at one time, it was mentioned to even consider reducing the number of seats on Council. Mrs. Luxbacher expressed concern that with more members it becomes more difficult to schedule a hearing dates and meetings. Mrs. Sappie noted that at times it is difficult to fill commission and board vacancies, and by adding more members, it may become even more difficult to fill additional vacancies. Solicitor Ayoob noted that any change would require a public hearing since it would involve a change to the Zoning ordinance.
- e. Increasing the Membership of the Shade Tree Commission – It was confirmed that the Borough Code and our ordinance does provide for a 5 member commission, so additional appointments to the Shade Tree Commission could be made accordingly.

Solicitor Ayoob commented on the Executive Session held prior to the meeting. He advised that Council met to discuss the possibility of potential litigation with regard to an allegation that Council may have either breached or improperly interfered with a contract between the Borough and REMS. On behalf of Council, he announced that Borough has a contract with REMS, that the Borough has not issued any formal notice, as required by Contract, the 120 days notice to terminate the contract, and the Borough has no intention of doing so. Also, such notice would be in writing and not done verbally.

BUSINESS AGENDA

CODE ENFORCEMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance, amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, establishing additional parking restrictions and traffic flow on certain streets in the Borough.

COMMENTS: Mrs. Viola asked if the change to a one way street (E. Crafton) was being considered; Mr. Christman advised that this was only being considered if changed to angle parking, which is no longer being considered since the street is not wide enough.

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

FINANCE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-06 amending Resolution 2007-12 establishing a general schedule of fees. (*Numbering discrepancy corrected; should be 06, not 07*).

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

PLANNING:

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Viola, 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 obtaining all necessary permits.

COMMENTS: Solicitor Ayoob advised that, at the last meeting, language was added to the Conditional Use that was granted, stating that the applicant would need to seek a zoning variance. It did not state what variances would be needed, and it was his opinion that no variance was needed. This motion approves the Conditional Use without requiring any additional zoning variances. He also noted that there is a discrepancy in the zoning ordinance that needs to be amended with regard to the width of a driveway; that there are two different sections pertaining to the width.

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

PUBLIC WORKS:

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the low bidder, Gary Mancini Construction, for the contract amount of \$9,964.00, as recommended by the Gateway Engineers, for the Demolition Project for 192 Promenade Street.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Ogden – Thanked the members of the CVFD for attending and making themselves available to answer Councils questions, and appreciates their effort and hard work.

Mrs. Sappie – Reported that the Senior Citizen trip to the Meadows was a lot fun and enjoyed by all, and had request to do this trip again. The next Senior dinner is scheduled for Sept. 27th, 5:30 dinner. A Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Sept. 3rd.

Mrs. Luxbacher – Announced that the pool will be open Labor Day weekend, and will be closed after Labor Day. They had a pretty good season and, for the most part, had pretty good weather. The library renovations are almost completed; now need to finalize paint colors, carpeting and decorating, so a grand opening may not be held until the first of the year.

Mr. Cindric – Thanked President Christman for his earlier comments on borough finances. He re-iterated that Council has a responsibility to make sure that all of the financial demands today and in the future can be accomplished without undue burden on the residents, especially in the form of an increase in property taxes. Council is now considering a large expenditure for new fire apparatus, and but must consider other needs, in the future, as well.

Mr. Donovan – Also, thanked the CVFD.

Mrs. Viola – Announced that the stage concerts were over; that they were well attended, and had nice weather for most of them. She welcomed home Reed Grapes from the Middle East. She also noted that the sign at the CVFD is advertising for volunteers, 16 years and older. She wished everyone a safe and happy Labor Day weekend.

Mr. Bloom – Thanked the REMS members for attending and appreciates the great job they do in Crafton. He hoped that all misunderstandings have been resolved.

President Christman – Announced that the next meeting of Crafton Celebrates is Sept. 9th, and are still looking for volunteers.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Fire Chief Roy Hermes introduced a Junior Firefighter to Council.

It was noted that with the Community Service Awards ceremony being on 9/3, that all Committee meetings would be cancelled that night, and held on the 3rd Wednesday of this month (9/17).

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary