

COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING
Minutes of September 10, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

President Christman called to order the Agenda Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute led by Mr. Cindric. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight members of Council present (8), as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Byers, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Christman – Also present were Mayor O’Connell, Manager Sample, Solicitor Ayoob, and Engineer Minsterman. (*Absent: Mrs. Luxbacher; but arrived late – 9:00pm*).

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the September 10, 2008 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Bloom (#410.23) Captain Clothing Invoice from Dec. 07; Mrs. Tremblay advised that this was a 2007 purchase, with a purchase order, but company failed to bill us until now. He also inquired on the Schindler Elevator charge; Mrs. Tremblay advised that per contract, this is a quarterly maintenance and inspection fee for Sept. thru Nov. 2008.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to approve the August 27, 2008 Meeting Minutes.

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

CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Rebecca Fisher Bright, 325 Clearview – Requested change of the proposed ordinance to the southerly side of Harris, rather than the northerly side, for various reasons.

Constance George, 31 Elmwood – Provided written comments to Council, speaking on behalf of all of the residents on Elmwood, requesting that no parking restrictions be placed on Elmwood.

Kacy Sherrod, 325 Clearview – Requested that no changes be made to the parking on Harris. She read a letter from the owner of 325 Clearview apartments, Joseph Onesta.

Greg Takac, 401 Clearview – Requested no changes be made on Harris. The residents in that area are accustomed to the wintry conditions and parking on that section of Harris, and do not mind the occasional barricading due to snowy, hazardous conditions.

Rev. Bowen, Crafton U.P. Church – Announced that a benefit spaghetti dinner was being held at the church on Sunday, September 21st, to assist the family of Alyssa Boff with expenses and a trust fund. Ms. Boff was a Carlynton student who was killed in a car accident on Labor Day. Dinner will be held from 1pm to 6pm, cost \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children.

Judy Kueshner, Barr Avenue – Reiterated similar comments concerning the sometimes hazardous conditions on Harris street due to bad weather; residents in that area learn to avoid traveling on it when it is icy or snow covered. It was one of her children’s first instructions when they began driving.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman reported bids were received for the boiler and HVAC replacement projects, and Gateway as provided their recommendation to Council to award the contract to the low bidder, Marc-Services, in the amount of \$37,800. Black's Bridge: So as not to delay reopening of the bridge for now, a temporary repair change order, per HDR's design and recommendation, was provided by Facchiano Contracting, in the amount of \$26,994.67; which does represent a contract shortfall, but may be acceptable to Facchiano. Permanent repairs can be considered and budgeted for the spring of 2009. Did not have a time schedule for this work, but he estimated it to be 3 to 6 weeks depending on the weather. Per Mr. Cindric's inquiry, he advised that the boiler replacement is a Peerless, but did not know, at this time, who the manufacturer was of the HVAC unit. He advised that the steel that was purchased for the bridge repair is the boroughs, and should be preserved and stored in a dry area, to be used in the spring for the permanent repairs, or for any other jobs Public Works jobs, if the need arises. Mr. Bloom inquired if the temporary repairs would last into 2010; and if so, there would be no immediate need to have funds in 2009, but funds put in reserve for the permanent repairs. HDR would be consulted for their opinion on this matter.

OLD BUSINESS and NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **CFVD Aerial/Pumper Replacement** – President Christman noted that several meetings, including a special meeting last week, have been held to discuss this matter, and asked if any one had any additional comments. Mr. Ogden commented that the CVFD has demonstrated a lot of initiative in obtaining grants, etc. to purchase many items that would have had to be purchased by the Borough, and have offset borough costs. Mr. Bloom commented that volunteers are at an all time low, and this equipment would be more efficient with the lack of manpower. The Borough is responsible to provide safe equipment and tools for their use, and to do otherwise would short change the residents and their safety. Mr. Ogden noted that it was determined that the annual cost would represent only 6/10 of a percent of the entire borough budget. Mr. Cindric noted that Council must act responsibly with tax dollars; that there are several costly items also needing Councils attention, such as repairs to Black's Bridge, sewer work per the DEP Consent Order, some of which the Borough has already created years of debt service. Also, declining revenue to the borough, loss in population, and the upcoming contract negotiations with both the Police Department and Public Works. Mr. Cindric proposed that Council consider a Fire Tax, of ¼ mil, which would generate approx. \$50,000. per year, and would be placed in a sinking fund for the purchase of a new aerial truck; and to also reapply for a Dept. of Homeland Security grant, and even obtain a professional grant writer to assist in the application process. Mr. Donovan commented that this equipment is needed now. It was also noted that by retaining the two older trucks, the average age of the fleet would then be a plus on a grant application. Mr. Ogden requested that Council proceed on a vote on this motion; that he doesn't believe raising taxes at this point is the answer and a Fire Tax should only be considered as a last resort. The CVFD was asked what the additional cost would be to change the specs to include additional items needed to meet January 2009 NFPA standards, and to perhaps change the motion to include that cost. Mr. Crown stated that he had looked into this, and has an estimate from Steiner-KME in the range of approx. \$14,400 to \$20,000, and if Council desires to amend the motion to included this increase, the CVFD would be willing to make up the difference over \$10,000. (*Out: and the CVFD would be willing to pay ½ of the increase over \$10,000*). Mr. Bloom thought a Fire Tax is a good idea, but disagrees with waiting a few years to build a sinking fund since over the next few years the truck cost will increase; and due to safety concerns, disagrees with considering the purchase of a used fire truck. Mrs. Viola reiterated Mr. Cindric's comments, concerning anticipated expenses, such as the possible \$1.1 million award to the Duncans for their property, road paving, and sewer Consent Order. That the Fire Tax would be a forced savings that would accumulate over three years and that sinking fund could be used toward the purchase of the new truck. Mr. Ogden and Mr. Bloom commented that they disagreed

with that reasoning; that the cost increase, from \$728,000. to almost \$950,000. over those 3 years would use up any accumulated Fire Tax sinking funds, so there would be no savings or benefit. Mayor O'Connell stated that Mr. Cindric's proposal is reasonable and encouraged Council to consider his plan. Mr. Cindric asked that Council consider tabling the motion and the purchase be reconsidered in the second quarter of next year.

- b. Parking Changes – Ordinance. Council would consider the comments of the citizens, to remove the parking restrictions on Elmwood and Harris Streets, and amend the motion. Mr. Bloom asked if this could be delayed so that resident permit parking could also be considered. Manager Sample advised that it would put these proposed changes on hold, and it would need to be re-advertised anyway, so there would be no reason or cost savings to hold up the adoption of this ordinance.
- c. 5 Year Budget Projection – Manager Sample provided a rough projection, that still needs tweaking, but is a starting point. Mr. Cindric noted that it indicates that the current debt service extends into 2012, not 2011 as discussed with regard to the commencement of the debt and borough payments for the new aerial.
- d. Budget Meeting Schedule – President Christman noted the dates being considered for upcoming budget meetings, being Wed. Oct. 1st, 15th, 29th and Nov. 5th, and if necessary, Nov. 19th, with the final budget being adopted by Dec. 10th, at 7:00 pm. Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, there will be no meetings on the 4th Wed. of November or December. Budget meeting schedule will be advertised.
- e. Crossing Guard List – No comment. List provided to Council for approval.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to approve the 2008 School Crossing Guard List, dated September 8, 2008, as presented to Council.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Ordinance No. 1592, amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, establishing additional parking restrictions and traffic flow on certain streets in the Borough of Crafton, with the removal of Elmwood and Harris Street.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION TO TABLE: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Byers to table the motion to approve the lease purchase of a KME Aerial Truck for the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department through the COSTARS program for an amount not to exceed \$728,820.00.

MOTION TO TABLE failed by a Roll Call Vote of Three Yes (*Byers, Cindric, Viola*), Six No (3-6).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the lease purchase of a KME Aerial Truck for the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department through the COSTARS program for an amount not to exceed \$748,820.00, to include 2009 NFPA standards. **COMMENTS:** Motion was amended to include approx. cost to include 2009 NFPA standards.

MOTION carried by a Seven Yes, Two No (*Cindric, Viola*) Roll Call Vote (7-2).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize the proper Borough Official to enter into an agreement with PNC Bank for the lease/purchase of a KME Aerial Truck subject to the review of the Borough's Solicitor.

MOTION carried by an Eight Yes, One No (*Viola*) Roll Call Vote (8-1).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize the proper Borough Official to advertise the sale of the 1982 Seagrave Ladder Truck.

MOTION carried by an Eight Yes, One No (*Viola*) Roll Call Vote (8-1).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize the proper Borough Official to advertise the sale of the 1962 Seagrave Engine Truck. **COMMENTS:** Various reasons were stated why the borough should retain this truck for now. It does not have the high NFPA standards like the aerial, and has already had several updates. Chief Hermes added that it is well maintained and manages very well accessing the alleys. Mr. Bloom added that perhaps the CVFD could buy the truck for \$1.00 and then take over the insurance and maintenance costs, and keep it for sentimental and historical value. Solicitor Ayoob noted that the sale would have to be in accordance with Section 1201 of the Borough Code; it would need to be appraised and a fair market value determined. If less than \$1,000, such a sale to the CVFD would be exempt from the advertising and bidding requirements.

MOTION failed by unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the low bidder, Marc-Service Inc., for Base Bid #3, in the amount of \$37,800.00, for the replacement of the borough building Boiler and the District Court/Rea Building HVAC unit per the recommendation of Gateway Engineers.

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

MOTION ADDED TO AGENDA

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to approve a change order in an amount not to exceed \$26,294.67 to Micahel Facchiano Contracting, Inc. for the Black's Bridge Project, subject to the approval and recommendation of the Gateway Engineers, Inc.

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

SET AGENDA BUSINESS FOR REGULAR MEETING (September 24, 2008)

1. Zoning Hearing Board – Further discussion; increase number of members.
2. Action: Appointment to Civil Service Commission, Appointments (3) to Shade Tree Commission
3. Prepare and review draft Fall/Winter Newsletter.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Byers – Commented that the borough should check our property titles, with regard to natural gas (Marcellus shale), which could possibly create a revenue for the borough. Solicitor Ayoob was familiar with this and would refer Manager Sample to someone that could provide more information.

Mr. Ogden – Reiterated Rev. Bowens announcement concerning the benefit spaghetti dinner scheduled for September 21st.

Mrs. Sappie – Reported that the next Senior Citizen dinner is scheduled for Sept. 27th.

Mrs. Luxbacher – Commented that we all need to realize the untapped potential of our borough; it is well placed with easy access to town, 79, etc. and many other assets.

Mr. Donovan – Reminder to all to remember the events and victims of Sept. 11, 2001

Mrs. Viola – Reiterated Mrs. Luxbacher's comments; noting it is a community of volunteerism, a great place to live, good people all working for the same good.

Mr. Christman – Crafton Celebrates is working on a joint fundraiser with the CVFD; a Monte Carlo and Night at the Races scheduled for Oct. 18th. The next Crafton Celebrates meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14th; gearing up for next years' plans.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary