

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2008**

President Christman called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council at 7:15 P.M., in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute was led by Mr. Ogden. Roll call by Mrs. Tremblay recorded nine (9) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Byers, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Luxbacher, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola, President Christman. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample and Solicitor Ayoob.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the October 22, 2008 List of Bills as presented for payment. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Bloom (#414.31) *Davies, McFarland* – Manager Sample advised that the Zoning Hearing Board is represented by their own legal counsel at hearings. Mrs. Viola (#433.45) *Traffic Systems* – Manager Sample advised that the traffic signal box was hit by a pickup truck; hit and run. Owner of vehicle was found and a claim being brought against him for the damages.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mr. Mrs. Sappie, to approve the October 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Byers requested that the Minutes be revised; the word ladder be removed; Pg. 6, (Mr. Crown's comments), so as not to give the impression that the CVFD has unsafe ladders.

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

**CITIZEN'S DESIROUS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Joan Kury, 30 Lincoln Avenue – Requested that the Mayor rescind her Veto for the purchase of a new fire truck. Does not believe Crafton should have to depend on neighboring fire company; it's not worth the risk.

Jim Crawford, 132 E. Crafton Avenue - Parking question, No parking at the corner of East Crafton right below Grace Street. Manager Sample noted that this parking restriction was established years ago, the signs were missing and just reposted. He would research the reasoning and get back to Mr. Crawford.

Nancy Koerbel, 613 Clearview Avenue – Spoke in support of purchasing the new fire truck. As proposed, it is an economical and fair way to purchase this new equipment. Parliamentary undercutting is a sad and unfortunate situation; this purchase would be good for the community. She asked that the elected officials show their support for the fire department and override the Mayor's Veto.

Coletta Perry, 10 Baldwick Road – A survivor of two fires in her lifetime; sister to fire fighter in Cleveland, and has reviewed the Mayor's reasons for vetoing the purchase with him, and is in support of the Mayor's Veto. Officials have a fiduciary responsibility and should find public funds to help with this purchase, rather than incur  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars in debt, and separate the emotions of this issue.

**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, Police Report, Ordinance Officers Report, CVFD Report, REMS Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report.

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Byers, to accept the written reports. MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0)

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample provided the report: Referred Council to the written report; sewer defect work has been completed and a final invoice will be submitted. The CCTV work will commence in late December, early January; contract was awarded by ShaCog to the low bidder, Roto Rooter. The contracts have been signed, a the boiler has been ordered; work should commence in November; depending on weather, it may be necessary to bring in portable heating units. The contractor has been on site at 192 Promenade and is preparing preliminary work for the structure demolition. Mrs. Viola inquired on the time period to complete the boiler work; Manager Sample noted that it is estimated at one week.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that she had attended the REMS meeting, and commended their work on their budget, with significant savings in liability and health insurance premiums and pager/communications. Reminded everyone that Halloween will be celebrated on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, from 6pm-8pm. She reported that the department responded to 213 complaints during the month of September, referring Council to the written report. She advised that she was returning Ordinance No. 1593 with her Veto, noting her objections, and requested that the Veto be attached to the Minutes and made a part of the record. She had circulated an e-mail and requested feedback on the fire truck purchase, and appreciated the responses, both pros and cons, reporting much support of her Veto.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Christman reported that a meeting has been setup with Ingram, but due to quorum and advertising issues, only he and Mr. Cindric, and Manager Sample would be attending, on October 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a consensus that full Council should be involved to share ideas and input. Mr. Christman suggested that at the Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, they arrange for another date, which can be timely advertised, to allow for all of Council to attend. It was suggested to schedule, and advertise, the additional meeting for the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Christman noted that a brief Executive Session will be held following the Council meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample noted that two conditional use applications were provided to Council for review; scheduled for a public hearing before Council on November 12<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 6:30pm, for 202 Mueller and 49 Coulter; to allow front yard parking. These applications have already been reviewed by the Planning Commission for recommendations. He also noted that the Engineers have planned a meeting with Council before the next Budget meeting, on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Permit Parking Ordinance – Manager Sample noted minor revisions were made for vehicle registration requirements, providing one visitor permit and exempting Holidays. He noted that residents would initiate a request and a study would be done to confirm necessity.
- b. 2 Hour Parking on East Crafton Avenue – Mayor O'Connell noted that she has received feedback from East Crafton Avenue businesses. Even with the 2 hr. parking restrictions in the Municipal lot area, the lower end of East Crafton is inconvenienced and still most affected by the Park n' Ride on-street vehicles. If, and when, resident permit parking is instituted, this will only worsen the situation on East Crafton, and she suggested that the 2 hr. limit be enforced along East Crafton Avenue. An ordinance currently exists, but requires new and better signage for police enforcement
- c. Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund Resolution – Manager Sample noted that the Concurrent Resolution on the Agenda is a requirement for the grant application with the County, for \$250,000 for a new public works salt/storage

facility. It will be 50' x 48' and hold 1,100 tons of salt. Currently, the bin holds only 100 tons, and an average use during a snow season is 750 tons, providing the ability to have enough salt on hand, and at a better price. Cost would include demo work, grading and pouring of a concrete pad. Mr. Byers inquired of Ingram's salt storage and suggested that perhaps including them in this grant would better our chances of being award this grant. Manager Sample noted that time is of the essence in submission and involving Ingram at this time may delay submission. He suggested that at some later date, perhaps something can be worked out by agreement with Ingram and the Borough could seek multi-municipal funds through the DCED.

d. Gas Rights – Manager Sample reported that he has been contact with Jacqueline White for a proposal, and will try to schedule a presentation, for questions and answers, before a Wed. Council meeting.

e. Traffic Study – Stop Sign at Bradford Ave. and Crafton Boulevard – Manager Sample reported that two bids were received; one for \$750. and, one for \$2,100. He is recommending that the low bid, \$750. of Trans Associates be considered; motion on the Agenda.

f. 2009 Budget Review – Manager Sample noted that the Committee were requested to provide a 5-year spending outlook for each department. Mr. Bloom, Public Works, noted that he had received input from the Public Works employees on what they believed were the most critical streets for improvement. Crafton Blvd. (Backbone Rd) was discussed, possibly doing this project in phases/sections. They also noted that certain borough steps, particularly at Belvidere and Walnut Streets, were very deteriorated in areas and need repaired. They would also like to own their own paint sprayer, rather than borrowing Ingrams'. Mayor O'Connell provided a 10 year projection, noting mostly major equipment needs, to maintain a replacement schedule. Mrs. Luxbacher noted that the pool has some wall deterioration, and there are also filter box needs and some valve replacement issues. Mrs. Sappie noted that a street list was provided, previously, for a Road Resurfacing Program, and recommended that this also be considered. Mr. Byers inquired on a proposed hockey rink. Manager Sample noted that there has been some discussion to provide a recreation facility across from the main park, in the paved parking lot area, with a donation being proposed by the Rotary. Mr. Byers suggested looking into additional donations, perhaps through Penguins Community Relations. Mr. Cindric noted that the Mayor's projections for Item #483.10, Pension funding, increases from \$113,000 to \$250,000. This may be a worst case scenario, but it is an obligation of the borough to insure adequate funding, considering recent investment activity and losses. Mr. Christman reminded everyone that the next Budget meeting is scheduled for Oct.29<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm, with a meeting beforehand, at 6pm, with the Engineers.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, revising the policy of Residential Permit Parking on certain streets in the Borough.

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

**FINANCE/GRANTS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-06 being the Concurrent Resolution formally requesting grant funds, in accordance with the Community Infrastructure and Tourism Grant of Allegheny County.

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Luxbacher, to authorize Trans Associates to perform a traffic study, in an amount not to exceed \$750.00, as required to consider stop sign placement at the intersection of Bradford Avenue and Crafton Boulevard.

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

**MOTION added. Consider Mayor's Veto/Objections, Reconsideration of Council's Adoption of Ordinance No. 1593:**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to adopt Ordinance No. 1593, as previously approved by this Council. **Comments:** Mr. Ogden read his comments into the record (copy attached); the cost of new fire truck to the borough is not ¾ million dollars, cost is only 540,000 after CVFD's contribution, purchase will not affect the 2008, 2009, or 2010 budgets, the first payment is in July 2011 for approx. 25,000 per year which represents less than 1% of the borough's annual budget, it is not likely that this purchase would be on Washington's high priority list for a federal grant, this new truck will be capable to fight fires in the high rise buildings and the many homes that sit on hillsides, etc. Mr. Cindric noted that the CVFD's contribution is from the Fire Relief Association fund, which is State funded. Mrs. Sappie added, and Mr. Crown concurred, that these funds could be used for other fire department needs, which they are foregoing in order to contribute to the truck purchase.

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mr. Byers** – Noted that planting of perennials is planned for the circle for Sat. Oct. 25, at 9am.

**Mrs. Sappie** – Noted the upcoming Senior Citizen dinner event is this Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> and is in need of some additional volunteers.

**Mrs. Luxbacher** – Noted that the Library will be closed for the remainder of the week, work is being completed and should reopen for business on October 28<sup>th</sup>, and thanked everyone for their patience.

**Mr. Cindric** – Attended CharWest COG meeting, Intermedia presentation; design and produce public education and governmental channels for municipalities to run on the cable system. Once Verizon reaches 30% of the market in Crafton, they will then be supplying us with a grant to help us, and Carlynton High School, with these public education and governmental channels, Verizon could supply a cable in and out of the municipal building for, example, to provide live telecast of Council meetings. The vactor charge is increasing from \$645 to \$845. per day; to save on this cost we can cutback on using the vactor and utilize the sewer equipment more on the street sweeper. Stowe Township, which has three volunteer fire companies has agreed to consolidate them into one building, which will be across from their new municipal building. He noted that McKees Rocks is obtaining a grant from the Authority for Improvement in Muncipalities, a County program, to rebuild their 38 yr. old ladder truck.

**Mr. Donovan** – Reminder to remember and support the local volunteer fire department.

**Mrs. Viola** – Question concerning the PNC Proposal, page two, under terms and conditions – noting the amount, \$703,862., in parenthesis, should be struck out. Manager Sample advised that it would be stricken.

**Mayor O'Connell** – Reminded residents to attend the Budget meeting (10/29). She noted that she has cleared out her office to make it available for REMS' use, and need a timeline on the availability of the garage for their use. It was noted that some library shelving, etc. still needs to be removed from the

garage, and Manager Sample reminded everyone that that Public Works lost ¾ of it's storage space in the Rea Building for the library expansion, and are in need of storage space for equipment (leaf boxes, etc.).  
Mr. Christman – Noted the next Crafton Celebrates meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. He, again, noted that a brief Executive Session of Council will be held after this meeting.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Rich Weaver, Willard Street – Addressing the Mayor, noted the need for more stop sign enforcement and police patrol at Willard and Barr.

Joan Kury – Inquired on the advertisement requirements for meetings, with regard to the meeting with Ingram Council; which was re-explained that time constraints prevented advertisement through the Suburban Gazette, and to advertise in the Post Gazette is triple the cost.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay  
Borough Secretary