

COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING
Minutes of January 14, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Cindric called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded seven members of Council present (7), as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Crown, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Luxbacher, Mrs. Sappie, and Mrs. Viola– Also present were Manager Sample and Solicitor Austin. (*Absent: Mr. Byers, President. Christman; Mayor and Engineer not present*)

RATIFY DECEMBER 31, 2008 BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to ratify approval of the December 31, 2008 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola - #410.37-Wolbert Auto expense-New Car – invoice from August for items installed on new police car; delayed billing. #413.32-Communication-Ordinance Officer – Computer/Internet use by Ordinance Officer researching properties/owners through County website/Borough Computer. Mr. Donovan - #413.14-Building Inspection invoices; Oct., Nov. – Confirmed amount; \$1,308.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Crown, to approve the January 14, 2009 List of Bills, as presented. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie - #410.21 – Officers Dues – questioned Chief association memberships for an officer/not the Chief; membership not provided to all officers, requires Chief’s recommendation – personnel issue/further discussed in Executive Session. Mrs. Viola - #400.34 PA Fireman – Advertisement selling fire truck; at \$30,000. #403.31 – Campbell, Durant – for Labor Counsel concerning possible employee furloughs and labor contracts. #413.47 DCED - \$4.00; \$2.00 fee collected on each building permit, required by and payable quarterly to the Stae/DCED. Sewer Fund, #437 – Equipment repairs; truck #108 – Mr. Sample noted that he believes this was for replacement of plugs, would check on this and advise. #491-Refunds – Mrs. Tremblay advised that these accounts have a special deduct meter installed that measures water usage for lawn watering which is credited against regular usage, and is a permitted credit by Alcosan.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0), with the exception of items listed under #410.421 (*Five (5) Exceptions, noted by Bloom, Crown, Donovan, Luxbacher, Sappie*) Further Council consideration and discussion pending on items listed under #410.21

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the December 10, 2008 meeting Minutes. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola asked for clarification that the unsafe water condition PAWC notice was due to low rainfall. Mr. Sample confirmed that it was a temporary condition and due to low rainfall. He also confirmed one year warranties on the new HVAC and boiler, and that there were no extended warranties; not recommended by Contractor or Engineer, determined not necessary and would be cost prohibitive.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Crystal Boehm, 57 Belvidere Street – Commented on the 2009 tax increase/millage and asked why. Manager Sample advised her to contact him or stop by the office any time and he would review the budget, at length, with her.

Larry Kerstetter, 55 Belvidere Street – Inquired on the posting of Minutes on the website; updates and also, inquired on the disclaimer indicating that the Minutes on the website are “Unofficial”. Mrs. Tremblay noted that Minutes need to first be approved by Council before they are considered official, and all Minutes posted to the website are approved, official Minutes. Mrs. Tremblay did not recall the

disclaimer, and would look into it. She and Manager Sample also explained that since only official, approved Minutes are posted, there were delays for October and November due to only having one Council Meeting each of those months, and December 10, 2008 Minutes are only being presented this evening to Council for approval; being the first meeting following the December meeting. She added, that some delays are due to the website management not being done in-house, but there are plans to soon change it to in-house, and maintained by borough administration staff.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

None

OLD BUSINESS and NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. REMS Contract – REMS request for a 3-year renewal of existing Contract. Existing contract doesn't expire until the end of the year; consider putting out an RFP and look, additionally, at other viable service providers before making a decision.
- b. Black's Bridge Engineering Proposal – Contact HDR to update specs and plans (rocker bearings) and any other work necessary. Manager Sample noted that in anticipation of the proposed Federal Government Infrastructure funding, this would be a prime project. Therefore, if the plans, work and specs are updated, it will be ready to go and available for inclusion if grants or funding becomes available. He would first seek a proposal from HDR to prepare the updated plans and specs (engineering funds were budgeted), and when available, present it to Council for approval to proceed.
- c. Clearview Storm Water Proposal – Gateway will prepare a proposal for remedies along Clearview, particularly at Harris and Willard, to control the storm water run-off problem and stop the road slide; for February meeting. Funds have also been budgeted for the Engineering fees for this proposal.
- d. 2009 Paving Program – Gateway would be putting specs together for this program and provide to Council. \$150,000. budgeted for the program; reclaimite/rejuvenator approx. \$20,000-\$25,000, and approx. \$100,000. available for paving Crafton Blvd., adding an alternate to the specs for the intersection of Duncan and Crafton Blvd.
- e. Planning Commission Vacancy – Manager Sample reported that Mark Halleman has resigned from the Commission and requested letters of interest; should be submitted, to the borough offices, by February 6th and appointment considered at the February 11th Council meeting. Two additional seats will expire in April, and may require new appointments; noting that two members of Borough Council can be appointed to the planning commission, and Mr. Cindric currently sits on the Commission.
- f. Treasurer's Report (November) – Mr. Cindric: Report not available at December meeting; no questions.
- g. Community E-mail: Mr. Crown asked that Council consider creating a resident e-mail program, similar to the Crime Watch e-mail program, to notify residents of events and provide various Borough information; especially since the Borough Newsletter has been cut from the 2009 Budget. Would be another means of communication with the residents; not necessarily daily, and would be managed by the administrative staff.
- h. Parks/Recreation Comprehensive Plan: Mr. Crown advised that during budget talks; pool repairs and park needs were discussed. He felt that the Manager and Rec Board should start to look into updating a Parks/Recreation Plan and possibly a consultant, which would be readily available in the event of any grant opportunities, for both passive and active recreation. The last one was completed over ten years ago; requiring public hearings, public and Council input. Mrs. Sappie asked that copies of all existing studies and plans be made available to the Rec Board for their next meeting. Mrs. Luxbacher/Question: Playscape Fund – These funds were turned over to the Borough, by the original Fundraiser Committee, to be used solely for the maintenance and repairs of the Playscape. Mr. Crown added that in addition to

parks/recreation, all departments should be reviewed, possibly with professionals, for a better understanding that would help Council with future budgets.

Chief Rost – Mayor asked that he provide report. He advised that the Crime Watch committee would be holding a 2009 planning meeting on January 19th, which would not be a public meeting; only for Area Coordinators and Crime Watch Officers. He commended new Officer Berry for his response and apprehension of a person, without incident, who was armed and robbed the Sunoco, and also the Crafton Pizzeria, and possibly involved in a Carnegie robbery.

Mr. Cindric – Questions regarding the changes in the Right To Know/Open Records guidelines pertaining to items provided to Council in their meeting packets; particularly information listed on the Borough Directory, such as phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Mrs. Tremblay noted that current guidelines provide for redaction of such personal information.

BUSINESS AGENDA

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the Borough Manager to solicit proposals to provide the Borough with emergency medical services.

AMENDMENT: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to amend the motion to include others services: Animal Control, Trash Collection, Fire Service and Building Inspection. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola felt that in addition to EMS, other contracts should be looked at and RFP's requested. It was noted that these other contracts would be looked at as they come due to expire; existing contracts were done at good pricing, perhaps better than available now. Mr. Cindric commented on Wilksburg contracting with the City of Pittsburgh for trash collection. Mrs. Luxbacher and Mrs. Sappie noted that the only reason for considering this Motion and a request for proposals (RFP) for EMS at this time was due to REM's request, now, for a three-year extension of their current contract. MOTION to Amend failed – Five No, Two Yes (*Viola, Cindric*).

MOTION carried by a Five Yes, Two No (*Viola, Cindric*).

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON MOTION:

Resident, 72 Belvidere – Inquired on possible shared or consolidated services programs through Councils of Government (COG) to save money. It was noted that Crafton is a member of the Charwest COG, and presently, through them, participate in a joint road salt purchasing program with SHACOG. It was also noted that the borough has been, and is, looking into garbage collection with the City of Pittsburgh, as well as shared building inspection and road paving program with neighboring communities.

(Note: Vice President Cindric stepped down as Chair to second this motion. Solicitor advised that the original motion should be voted on, as is, and the Amendment should be considered as a separate Motion. Mr. Cindric noted that it has been a past practice to allow for an amendment to an original Motion, and Council proceeded.)

SET AGENDA BUSINESS FOR REGULAR MEETING (January 28, 2009)

1. **Discussion:** RFP-Lawn Services and Parks/Recreation Outline
2. **Agenda:** RFP Lawn Services, Gateway Paving specs, HDR proposal/Black's Bridge, Advertise summer employment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Viola – She requested update on a Grant for the salt shed and ADA Ramps Grant through the COG. Manager Sample advised that he has update yet from the County on the salt shed grant. The

COG grants are still be processed by County and the Borough should be updated on this application soon by the CharWest COG, and Manager Sample would look into it with the COG for any update. She noted that a Mr. Bob Brown, who is wheelchair-bound, has complained about inadequate wheelchair access on W. Steuben in the vicinity of the pool and Walgreens. Manager Sample was also contacted by Mr. Brown, and some of his problems are due to lack of snow removal by the property owners in that area, and snow plowed to the side of the road against the curbs; he will look into this matter further.

Mr. Crown – Council should consider a policy that any purchases over \$1,500. first be reviewed by Council, even if budgeted for, for better financial control and be more fiscally responsible.

Mrs. Sappie – Thanked Shaw Distributing for his generous donation to the December Senior Citizen Dinner, and thanked the many volunteers who helped all year. Next dinner is March 28th, and reminded of cost increase to \$6.00 per person.

Mrs. Luxbacher – January 22nd is a BINGO fundraiser, sponsored by Crafton Celebrates and Crafton Library, to raise funds for fireworks, etc. She also noted a site, on-line, that may be of interest – www.explorethecycle.com, for a video on single stream recycling and the future in recycling.

Mr. Cindric – Noted that Council received notice from Carlynton about an upcoming event, Tied-to-the-Arts, and also a Technology grant update/review, at the high school on January 19th. He noted that State Rep. Dan Deasey has his office on Main Street in the West End (old Temperanceville location), stop by. Also, can visit his website through the PA House website.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizen – Inquired on the discontinuation of the Borough Newsletter. Mr. Cindric said a limited number may be printed and distributed to certain locations and to the Senior hi-rises, etc., but no mass printing or mailing to the residents is planned. Manager Sample noted that the Borough may still need to prepare at least one Newsletter to comply with the recycling and the Nine Minimum Controls (Sewers) requirements to educate residents; particularly a Summer Newsletter since there is a lot more resident information provided in that issue regarding Summer recreation programs, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary