

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING
Minutes of January 4, 2010

OATH OF OFFICE –SWEARING IN OF MAYOR

The Honorable Dennis Joyce performed the swearing in of James Bloom.

OATH OF OFFICE –SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Honorable Dennis Joyce performed the swearing in of Jack Donovan, Taylor Grapes, Douglas Johnston, Thomas Pellegrino, Thomas Phillips, and Deborah Sappie.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bloom called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded all nine (9) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Donovan, Mr. Grapes, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Sappie, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Cindric– Also present were Mayor Bloom, Manager Sample, and Solicitor Ayoob.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION:

Motion made and seconded to open the floor for nominations for Council President. Nominations: Susan Viola and Daniel Cindric. Mrs. Viola declined the nomination.

MOTION: Motion made, and seconded, to elect Daniel Cindric as President of Council.

MOTION carried by Seven (7) Yes, Two (2) No (*Donovan, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT – Nomination: Susan Viola

MOTION: Motion made, and seconded, to elect Susan Viola as Vice President of Council.

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

At this time, President Cindric presided over the meeting.

President Cindric announced that Council will conduct the meeting under the previously established Rules.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

April Weitzel, 60 Grace Street, Chase Merscher, 54 Grace Street – Inquired on the status of the repairs to the Grace Street curbing/railroad tie wall. Mr. Merscher noted that the property owner at the south end of Grace is rebuilding the portion at his property. They noted that Public Works did remove some of the hazards that existed. Manager Sample noted that the residents were informed of the upcoming review of this matter, scheduled for January 13, 2010 Executive Session of Council to review ownership issues, etc. and bring the new Councilmembers up-to-date on this matter.

Mary Luxbacher, 71 Dinsmore (former Councilperson) – She questioned the Motion to re-open the 2010 Budget; this was a 3-month process, and no issues/changes were brought up then, so why now. Mr. Cindric noted that the Borough Code provides this option every two years to allow an opportunity to new Councilmembers to review the budget and offer input. This does not necessarily mean there will be any changes made to the 2010 Budget as adopted.

APPOINTMENT TO FILL THIRD WARD COUNCIL VACANCY:

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded, to acknowledge the resignation of James Bloom from Crafton Borough Council effective January 1, 2010.

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

President Cindric reported that Council has received five letters of interest to fill the vacant Third Ward Council seat: James Christman, Edward Stewart, Wayne Nock, Angelo Rullo and Marsha Damits

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, to adopt Resolution #2010-01 to appoint Edward Stewart to fill the unexpired term of James Bloom, third ward Council seat.

MOTION carried by Seven (7) Yes, Two (2) No (*Donovan, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote.

(Edward Stewart takes the Oath of Office, performed by Mayor Bloom)

APPOINTMENTS (*All Motions/Appointments were moved and seconded*)

1. **MOTION** (*Sappie/Viola*) to appoint Thomas Ayoob, III & Associates as Borough Solicitor.

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

2. **MOTION** (*Donovan/Viola*) to appoint Gateway Engineers as Borough Engineer.

MOTION carried by a Eight Yes, One No (*Mr. Stewart*) Roll Call Vote (8-1).

3. **MOTION** (*Sappie/Johnston*) to appoint the Suburban Gazette and Pittsburgh Post Gazette as Official Paper.

MOTION carried by an Eight Yes, One Abstention (*Cindric*) Roll Call Vote (8-0-1) (*Mr. Cindric abstained; has a relative employed by Post Gazette.*).

4. **MOTION** (*Sappie/Donovan*) to appoint the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department as Borough Fire Department. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric advised that the CVFD is the official fire department for Crafton Borough, as set by ordinance, and this appointment is not really necessary. Mayor Bloom requested that this appointment, over the years, has always shown Council's support for the CVFD.

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

5. **MOTION** (*Sappie/Donovan*) to approve Michael Crown as Fire Chief for the Borough Fire Department contingent upon receipt of evidence of required qualifications, per Borough Ordinance. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric noted that although the Fire Chief is elected by the Fire Department, the Borough must approve the installation in accordance with the Ordinance which states that the Chief must meet certain requirements/qualifications. So, rather than an appointment, this motion was changed to approval, and evidence should be provided to the Borough that Mr. Crown does meet the required qualifications.

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

6. **MOTION** (*Donovan/Grapes*) to appoint Mark Sumpter as Emergency Management Coordinator.

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

7. **MOTION** (*Donovan/Stewart*) to appoint Gary Ciampanelli as Borough Fire Marshal. **COMMENTS:** Solicitor Ayoob stated that there is nothing in the Borough Code that requires the appointment of a fire marshal, and there is nothing in place describing the duties, requirements, etc. for this position. He recommended that an ordinance be adopted that clarifies a description, duties, etc. for this position.

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

8. **MOTION** (*Donovan/Stewart*) to appoint Nevin B. Perkey as Borough Treasurer.

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

9. **MOTION** (*Stewart/Pellegrino*) to appoint Dennis Stelzner to serve as Chair of the Vacancy Board. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric noted that Mr. Stelzner is a former Council President and would be a good candidate to serve as Chair.

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

10. **MOTION** (*Viola/Stewart*) to appoint Councilperson Thomas Pellegrino to serve as Chair in the absence of the Council President and Vice President.

MOTION carried by a Seven Yes, One No (*Donovan*), One Abstention (*Pellegrino*) Roll Call Vote (7-1-1).

11. **MOTION** (*Pellegrino/Stewart*) to terminate the agreement with Embrook, Inc, dba NorthWest, by providing the required ninety (90) day written notice of termination. **COMMENTS:** Solicitor Ayoob stated that this motion should be to either re-appoint NorthWest or terminate the agreement, and within the 90 day period appoint an EMS provider, whether it be NorthWest or another provider. Mrs. Sappie noted that NorthWest has provided the Borough with 24/7 coverage, with paramedics, and has exhibited very good response time; lowest in the County at 3-4 minutes. Mr. Johnston noted that the majority of Council was either on Council or attended meetings during the previous EMS discussions. NorthWest came in at a reduced cost, since they would not be paid for fuel which was being paid to REMS, and the NorthWest response times justify better service in comparison to the other service – by approx. 2 minutes during peak times and 4-5 minutes during the 11pm-7am time. Mayor Bloom inquired as to why Council would even consider a change to another service considering the excellent service and response times of NorthWest; only giving NorthWest four months to provide and exhibit their service, while REMS had the opportunity to provide service for nine years. Mr. Cindric noted that the NorthWest contract was written with an expiration date of January 4, 2010, and therefore, Council, especially the new members of Council, will have the opportunity to reconsider the service provider. Solicitor Ayoob reiterated the procedures stated in the contract; provide ninety day notice and also setup a meeting with Northwest within ten days.

MOTION carried by Six Yes, Three No (*Donovan, Johnston, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote (6-3).

MEETING DATE SCHEDULE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Phillips, that the year 2010 Meetings of Crafton Borough Council be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month commencing at 7:15pm.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Grapes, to adopt Robert's Rules as the parliamentary procedure for all Crafton Borough Council meetings, except where they conflict with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pa., Laws of the Commonwealth, PA Borough Code, Crafton Ordinances and Crafton Council's Rules of Order.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to award a contract to Jordan Tax Service, on behalf of, and with the approval of, the current Property Tax Collector, for the collection and reporting of all current and delinquent property taxes.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, to re-open the 2010 Budget. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie reiterated Mrs. Luxbacher's comments, noting that this is a workable budget, that it was a three month process and does not agree with reopening the 2010 Budget. Mr. Phillips noted that he would like an opportunity to review it again, just in case there is something that was missed and can be amended. Mr. Donovan, also not in favor of reopening the budget, noted that the Borough now has a substantial fund balance. Mr. Johnston also noted that he attended the budget meetings, and the previous Council did put a lot of work into it over the three months with Citizen comments/input, and it is a very workable budget. He also noted that the Borough does not have to borrow in 2010, as it has always done in the past, through a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN).

MOTION carried by a Six Yes, Three No (*Donovan, Johnston, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote (6-3).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Grapes, to authorize the advertisement of special Budget meetings of Council and adoption of a proposed 2010 Budget. **COMMENTS:** Manager Sample provided a time line for advertising, budget meetings and adoption of the proposed and final budgets

MOTION carried by Seven Yes, Two No (*Donovan, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote (9-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Stewart, to ratify the Amendment No. 5 to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, Section 3.5, as approved by the Civil Service Commission at their meeting on January 2, 2010.

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

PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Mr. Cindric reported that he has made Committee appointments, and distributed the list to Council. Being the current secretary for the CharWest COG, he appointed himself as the COG representative, and will still need to appoint an alternate. He appointed Mr. Phillips as the Library Board representative and Mrs. Sappie as the Chartiers Valley Flood Control Authority representative. Also, two Councilmembers still need to be appointed to the Pension Advisory Committee.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street – Indicated that she had previously requested to review the proposals of both REMS and NorthWest EMS and was denied. Manager Sample clarified that the request was made prior to Council's action and was still considered under negotiation, and was not available for public review. Once Council approved the Contract with NorthWest, all proposal were available for public inspection/review. She reported that she was aware of a serious response time incident – Mr. Dan Galasy, of NorthWest, reported that he was aware of that particular incident, however, the issue was with how it was processed through the callout system at the Hi-Rise; additional procedures that slowed down the actual callout to NorthWest and, thus, the response time. Mrs. Boehm agreed that the new Council should have the opportunity to review and offer input to the 2010 Budget.

Linda Grapes, Creighton Avenue - Mrs. Grapes noted that she is a nurse, and she knows how very important emergency medical response time is, and this should be seriously considered in Council's decision.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

New Councilmembers were welcomed, and all Councilmembers noted that they are looking forward to working hard, working together, with open-mindedness, and to the challenges ahead. Additionally:

Mrs. Sappie – Noted that there are no Senior Citizen Dinners scheduled for January or February. She also reported that NorthWest has scheduled a Health & Safety Day, which will be held at the CVFD. Mr. Johnston reported that the date of the event is February 6th.

Mayor Bloom – Inquired as to why Committee Assignment were typed/prepared in advance of the meeting by Mr. Cindric which included assignments for Mr. Ed Stewart, prior to his being appointed to the vacant Council seat. Mr. Cindric stated that he had prepared several options including the various alternative candidates.

Mr. Pellegrino – Encouraged public attendance at meetings and advised that citizens may feel free to contact him with any questions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary