

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

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. Donovan. Roll call by Mrs. Tremblay recorded (8) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Crown, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Luxbacher, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola, and President Christman. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample and Solicitor Austin. (*Absent: Mr. Byers*)

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to approve the February 25, 2009 List of Bills as presented for payment. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie inquired on the Lane Construction invoice; Mgr. Sample advised that it was for cold patch/pothole repairs. Mr. Donovan questioned the small charge of only \$12.84 for BP Oil. Mrs. Viola inquired on the purchases under #411.231, Three Rivers Fire Equipment – various equipment purchased: Axes, pry bars, fire extinguishing chemicals, containers. Mr. Crown advised that if old equipment is unusable, it is discarded, otherwise, kept on hand.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0), with exception noted (*Donovan, #410.24*).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mrs. Luxbacher, to approve the February 11, 2009 Meeting Minutes. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola – Pg. 4 – reference to mass e-mail program; asked what line item this would fall under. Mrs. Tremblay advised that it would be Communications, #400.32, similar to the website expense.

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

**CITIZEN'S DESIROUS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Robert Brown, West Steuben – Spoke of ADA issues at the area of Steuben and Linden; improper curb cuts, ice accumulation, difficult to maneuver his wheel chair. Manager Sample said that snow and ice accumulation problem was discussed with the property owner to take care of, and he will contact them again. He also spoke about the improper ADA curb cuts at West Crafton and Steuben. A meeting has been scheduled with Mgr. Sample, PennDot and CVS developer to correct these ramp issues, and other issues.

**RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS** The following written reports were provided in Council's Packet: Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511, Property Tax and Trash Collection Fee Reports, Police Report, Ordinance Officers Report, CVFD Report, REMS Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie / 2008 Annual Police Report - Commented on the lack of productivity of one particular police officer, going back to 2004 (annual reports), with regard to citations, violations and court cases. Mayor O'Connell remarked that this is a personnel matter and should be discussed in Executive Session. Council convened to an Executive Session. Mrs. Viola / Financial Statement – Inquired of the charges under #414.46 for General Code; budgeted \$550. but General Code expense was \$850. – reported this to be the annual fee for ongoing ordinance codification and availability of E-Code online. Mr. Cindric / Engineers Report – Questions concerning the Aldi's recent plan review. Manager Sample noted that certain points were addressed at the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> Planning Commission meeting, and plan revisions are necessary; to be presented and reviewed by the Commission at their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. **MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to accept the written reports.

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

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample provided information. Paving specs being prepared and advertised, bids to be opened in March and provided to Council to award contract. Paving work could begin in May or June. Roto Rooter/CCTV work – they are still in Carnegie; was suppose to start in Crafton two weeks ago. Scope of work prepared by Gateway for the Clearview Avenue drainage improvements; outline and cost proposal will be provided to Council for review for the next meeting. Mr. Crown inquired on prior suggestions to move parking to the other side of the street on Clearview; it was determined that there were problems with curbing and access in and out of vehicles on the opposite side of the street. Manager Sample to review feasibility further and report back to Council.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 178 calls during the month of January, and referred Council to the written report. She acknowledged the assistance of the City of Pittsburgh with regard to an abandoned vehicle on the City side of the street. She acknowledged a resident's letter of appreciation; noting the efficiency and helpfulness of the police department and public works regarding a tree down on his car during the recent incident of high winds; particularly Public Work's Bill Finlay, and on duty officers Breeden and Chedwick. Also, a citizen thank you letter received, acknowledging the quick response by REMS to a medical emergency. She reported receipt of a \$1,500 contribution to the Police Department from Wal-Mart to be used for minor equipment. She thanked Rich Crown for his efforts in notifying the police that a tractor trailer took out one of the pedestrian crossing road signs with his truck; signs are valued at approx. \$300. She also reported that the Crafton Historical Society will be presenting a Restoration and Renovation event at the Community Center on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 1 -4 pm; cost \$2.00 per person.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

None

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample reported that a project outline was provided to Council, with regard to a Sustainability Needs Assessment, as prepared by three CMU students; once complete, an overview will be provided to Council. He provided additional comments with regard to the upcoming meeting with PennDot and the CVS developer regarding the ADA ramps, signage, site restoration and other items at the intersections of Foster, West Crafton and Steuben Streets. Mr. Crown noted that the new sidewalks poured by the developer are already starting to deteriorate and peel. Mrs. Sappie requested pothole repairs/cold patch work in the alley behind the elementary school. Manager Sample noted her request and said it would be done at the same time they patch the approaches to the bridge in that area.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Animal Control Services Contract – Mgr. Sample noted that the City of Pittsburgh has no plans to provide multi-municipal animal control services, and Mt. Lebanon's service, which is also used by Greentree Borough, would cost Crafton twice as much as Triangle Pet's service. He recommends to renew the Contract with Triangle Pet for either the five year, or amend to a two year. There is an out clause requiring 30 days written notice. Consensus was to renew at five years to secure low rate. Comments: Newsletter or Website should provide pet-related ordinances and contact information in the event of lost dogs.
- b. PELRAS/ALOM Conference – Mgr. Sample advised that his attendance at this conference would be very beneficial, held at Penn State on March 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, and cost is under \$500 (reduced rate for members). The ALOM conference was mentioned, noting that no one on Council planned to attend at their own cost.

- c. Resolution 2009-03 – Municipal Records Disposition. Mgr. Sample noted that a list of old records and documents was provided as part of the resolution, to be destroyed. It was questioned if the Historical Society would have any interest in any of the items; but it was noted that the Historical Society had already gone through these basement items on two occasions, and found little or no items of interest.
- d. Shade Tree Commission Vacancy – Mgr. Sample reported that there is one vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission since establishing the five-member board, and one letter of interest was received from James Peterson. Motion on the business agenda to consider his appointment.
- e. Planning Commission Vacancy – Mgr. Sample reported that only one Letter of Interest was received to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission; it was received from Councilman Michael Crown. Two members of Council may sit on the Commission, and Mr. Cindric presently is on the Commission, so there would be no conflict to appoint Mr. Crown. Motion on the business agenda to consider his appointment.
- f. 1962 Seagrave Engine – Discussed various options to sell the truck, give it to the fire department or retain possession. Manager Sample added that usual procedure would be a nominal fee of \$1.00 to transfer the vehicle to the fire department. Mr. Crown indicated that it would be retained as a reserve pumper and for parade use. Insurance costs for the borough and also CVFD insurance (umbrella policy) would be reviewed.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Crown, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to designate the Borough Manager to represent Crafton Borough and attend the 2009 PELRAS Conference.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Crown, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to adopt Resolution 2009-03 declaring the Borough's intent to dispose of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008. **COMMENTS:** List of records to be destroyed recorded on Resolution.

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

### **PARK AND SHADE TREE**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to appoint James Peterson to the Crafton Shade Tree Commission, for a term which shall expire on March 31, 2012. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric commented on the lack of resident interest to serve on commissions and other appointments; encourages residents to volunteer for various positions.

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

### **PLANNING:**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to appoint Michael Crown to the Crafton Planning Commission, for an unexpired term which shall expire on April 13, 2011.

MOTION carried by Seven Yes, One Abstention (*Crown*) Roll Call Vote (7-0-1).

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a ~~two~~ Five year contract with Triangle Pet Control Service Co., to provide the Borough with animal control services.

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mr. Bloom** – Inquired to the Manager on the status of the road deterioration, possible street collapse and broken sewer line on Walnut Street. Manager Sample advised that he has been in touch with homeowner and plans are being discussed. Mr. Bloom requested that, until the street sweeper is in service, to have Public Works perform some hand sweeping of areas, particularly the gravel and asphalt debris on the bridge, Noble Avenue and Harrison Street intersection.

**Mrs. Sappie** – Reported that she will be attending the Rec Board meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and they will review and approve a resident survey as a part of the comprehensive plan. She reported that the Finance Committee will be holding public meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 5pm. She requested that the various departments and committees review their budget activity; particularly any unanticipated expenses. She also reported that the Senior Citizen Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – and reminded of the need for volunteers and donations. Mayor O’Connell expressed concern that a 5pm meeting may be a difficult time for her and some residents to attend.

**Mrs. Luxbacher** – Reported on the return of resident Phillip Langford from Iraq. She reported on undesirable youth activity and poor behavior in and about the Library, and the librarian’s concerns. Mayor O’Connell noted that the librarians should call 911. It was noted by other Councilmembers that the same youths were seen loitering in front of the library and borough building. She reported that Rep. Deasy will be providing some financial help for pool repairs. Manager Sample attended the DCNR Grant conference and was given some guidance on the direction we need to go for assistance in obtaining a park and recreation study. The Library is looking into the Sprout Public Art Fund; considering a mural for the wall on the Stotz side of the Rea building/Library – more information will be provided to Council for consideration and a Motion for the next meeting agenda.

**Mr. Cindric** – Further commented on the Historic Society’s Restoration/Renovation fair; a great opportunity for homeowners to meet with local contractors, bank personnel, architects, plumbers, plasterers, etc. COG meeting, speaker Congressman Tim Murphy – looking for shovel-ready projects for stimulus plan money; funding is quite limited, especially for local municipality projects. Road Salt problems in some of the other Charwest COG communities - Mgr. Sample reported that only 50 tons were ordered over the past two weeks, so right now, we are fine and within our estimated quota.

**Mr. Donovan** – Reminder to support local volunteer fire companies.

**Mrs. Viola** – Reported that she had done some volunteer work at the Library, reshelving books, and the library could always use more help and volunteers. While there, she did witness some disruptive youths in the children’s area, and encouraged the presence of some adult volunteers, which would deter them. She reported that the Ordinance Committee will also be holding meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 6pm, starting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. She noted the much updating has been done to the Borough website but there are still a few areas that need some updating.

**Mr. Christman** – Reminder for volunteers and their attendance at the Crafton Celebrates meeting on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival planning.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street** – Suggested that the meeting Agenda be posted on the Website in advance of the Council meeting.

**Roy Hermes, Fire Chief** – Noted that resident and firefighter Ray Murrman is also in Iraq, and he hears from him on occasion via cell phone. It was noted that several other young adults from the area are in Iraq (Katie Aston, Matt Norris, Buddy Kastle, Matt Megesy).

Larry Kerstetter, Belvidere Street – Commented on the Website Calendar of Events. Also, he and Ms. Boehm suggested that the website address, [www.crafton.org](http://www.crafton.org), be promoted and posted in various places/common areas – suggested: On signs, side of Public Works trucks, etc.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (8-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay  
Borough Secretary