

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 27, 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. Crown. Roll call by Mrs. Tremblay recorded all (9) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Bloom, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Crown, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Luxbacher, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Christman. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample and Solicitor Austin.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to approve the May 27, 2009 List of Bills as presented for payment. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Christman inquired on the \$510. vehicle repair charges (NAPA); Manager Sample noted that he would need to pull the invoices.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(May 13, 2009 – Not available)

CITIZEN'S DESIROUS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

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 (as corrected), Ordinance Officers Report, ~~CVEF Report~~, REMS Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report. MOTION to accept the written reports carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

ENGINEER'S REPORT

(Engineer not Present) Manager Sample reported that Crafton Boulevard/Back Bone Road paving is complete, with the exception of some restoration and punchlist items. There remain a few contractor issues for the CCTV work; raising manholes. The work is being reviewed with the contractors for the street restoration of Elmwood and Haldane Streets; will be paved curb to curb. The NPDES permit has been renewed; no new tasks or control changes to report. The borough's ADA curb ramp installation project is subject to PennDot's H.O.P. permit on Steuben Street; requiring a push button light at the pool intersection.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 202 calls during the month of April, and referred Council to the written report. She reported that the Crafton Police Dept. and Capt. Mark Sumpter are participating in the MDA lockup, sponsored by PaPa J's in Carnegie, and he will be behind bars on June 24th, and needs \$1,600 contributions to bail him out. She also reported that the news carried a report this evening of the arrest of Hardy Lloyd; that the Crafton Police Department cooperated with the agencies involved in the arrest. In response to Council's inquiry, Mr. Byers reported that Lloyd is characterized as a domestic terrorist.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None

MANAGER/SECRETARY'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported that, on Council's desks, an estimated cost summary was provided by him and Mrs. Sappie, for the various Grant applications. The construction costs noted for the Community Center roof and windows is only a rough estimate and still needs better numbers from the Engineers. Renovations would need to cut energy costs by 25%.

Mrs. Viola asked the status of the Salt storage shed grant. Manager Sample reported that it is still on hold and has not been placed on the DCED/Allegheny County Agenda yet for consideration and approval.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Sprout Fund – Proposed Murals** – Mrs. Luxbacher provided sketches of three proposed murals by three different artists. First, historic in nature, Second, mosaic child aspect and, third, one with a fantasy/storybook/library theme. Artists sessions are scheduled for June 1st and June 6th, and noted that residents can vote for their favorite mural at the library by June 6th.
- b. **South Emily Street – One Way in Southerly Direction** – Manager Sample and Solicitor Austin recommended that a traffic study be performed; noting that it could be performed by a professional company or a Public Official, Road Master, Maintenance Supervisor or Traffic Technician. It was suggested that it be done by the Police Dept./Chief of Police, but it was the consensus that they may not know how to perform one correctly or be qualified, and that a professional company be considered. It was noted that the change could impact increased traffic, northbound, on S. Linwood and Emerson Streets, that 15 mph is not an option, that before any changes would be considered or adopted by Council, open, public meetings/hearings would be held for resident input. Manager Sample noted that, based on preliminary inquiries, the cost for a traffic study may only be approx. \$1,500 - \$2,000., and the motion on the Agenda is worded “not to exceed \$3,500” to provide some wiggle room.
- c. **Salt Contract** – Manager Sample reported that Cargill has declined road salt contract renewals this year, and a new salt supplier is being rebid by SHACOG. The present borough supply has been topped-off at the current price. Mr. Cindric noted that the COG anticipates a cost increase of 2 to 3 times as much as this year's price per ton.
- d. **Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT)** – Information was provided to Council; the University of Pittsburgh planning committee, “Connect” has invited the planning participation of the 36 municipalities that comprise the regions urban core (City of Pittsburgh and 35 bordering municipalities). Asking that each municipality designate three members to represent them; two elected officials and one appointed municipal employee. A congress will be held during the day on June 19th which the three delegates are to attend and consider the “organizational, policy, and operational” resolutions developed by the planning committee. Mayor O'Connell and Mr. Donovan volunteered, so they along with Manager Sample will be representing Crafton Borough at the June 19th meeting.
- e. **Rezoning of Steuben Street** – A letter was received, representing four property owners on W. Steuben Street, requesting possible rezoning from residential to Steuben Street Overlay be considered. Concerns were expressed that to rezone the area would encroach on the residential areas, that this may be considered spot-zoning which is not permitted, that the Thomas Street residents are now voicing their displeasure with the Family Dollar/ Overlay district zoning. A W. Steuben Street resident, Mr. Butler, spoke on the request to consider rezoning of properties on W. Steuben, across from the Tastee Freeze and CVS. With the newly installed traffic signal, there is increased vehicle noise while sitting at the red lights, whereas before, the traffic just kept moving. Properties are no longer desirable

as residential homes, have been on the market for a long time and are not selling. Manager Sample advised that he will contact the author of the letter and advise him of the process, to first bring this request to the Planning Commission for review and recommendations for Council's consideration.

- f. **Pool Passes** – Manager Sample reported a few problems with the on-line purchasing of pool passes, whereas names of persons who are not members of the household are being added to family pass applications. If passes are then disallowed, and refunds necessary, the matter of the handling charges incurred needs to be addressed. Consensus: Additional language is to be added to the on-line information to make it clear that in the event of refunds due to purchaser's actions, the handling charges and costs will not be refunded. Mrs. Tremblay added that this is an annual problem, even when purchases are made in-person at the office. Babysitters, grandmothers, grandchildren, other family members, etc. are fraudulently being listed on the applications as members of the household to get a free pool pass, even though the application states that all persons must reside at the address and be of the same household. It is hard to detect this sometimes, but under certain circumstances when discovered, they are given the opportunity to purchase a separate pass at the higher, non-resident rate, rather than be listed as a member of the household in order to receive a free family pass.
- g. **Fire Department Regionalization** – Mr. Crown spoke on the CVFD taking the initiative and looking into consolidation possibilities rather than a merge, by talking to the DCED, Allegheny County and Fire Commissioner's Office, on various ways to approach this; to build bonds, share equipment and training. The CVFD desires to get involved now on the ground floor, and be at the forefront of what's to come. Mayor O'Connell commended them for taking this initiative, and referenced an article in the recent ALOM newsletter on this subject.
- h. **KME Aerial Truck Update** – Mr. Crown reported that there was a site visit on May 18th; the equipment is in pre-paint stage and it is going well, with a possible late June delivery. A few necessary change-orders have been made but this is no price change or added costs. Manager Sample reported that the Fire Commission Loan is slated for their June 25th Agenda. Once the Commission's acceptance letter is provided, the Borough can proceed on the various paperwork and DCED documents.
- i. **Ordinance Committee Update**
 - 1. **Proposed Changes** – Mrs. Viola reported that at the last Committee meeting, on May 20th, the committee reviewed and addressed many of the blatant reoccurring violations, various sections and some grammatical errors. The Committee will review the remaining 4 or 5 sections at the Committee meeting on June 17th and provide recommendations to Council thereafter for consideration and discussion.
 - 2. **Lock Boxes for Apartments and Commercial Units** – Mr. Crown expressed a need for access to key lock boxes and keyholders when responding to business locations during off hours. A lot of time is wasted waiting for keyholders and property/doors are unnecessarily damaged when attempting to gain access. He noted that last year, the UCC passed an amendment requiring sprinkler systems in new residential construction, and he asked that the borough support an amendment on existing structures when alterations and/or additions are made to require sprinklers.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Byers, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to approve the hiring of Bill Wiser as an alternate summer public works laborer.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the Borough Manager to contract with a firm to perform a traffic study to analyze the impact of making South Emily Street one way in a southerly direction at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Donovan – Reminded everyone to support Volunteer Fire Departments.

Mr. Byers – Asked if an amicable solution can be reached with regard to a citation issued to a property owner to repair his sidewalk/handicapped ramp at 79 S. Linwood and Cowher Way. If repaired, the garbage trucks will only damage them again. Mr. Bloom suggested a more sturdy construction be considered that could withstand the weight of the garbage trucks that cut over the corners, lawns and sidewalks. Manager Sample noted that the borough is obligated to cite the property owners, that there are liability issues involved. Mrs. Viola inquired on the specs/depth for the proposed CDBG handicapped ramps; Manager Sample noted that he would need to review this with the Engineer. This is a problem at several alleys, damages to private property, possibly smaller trucks in the alleys, needs to be considered for the next garbage contract proposal.

Mrs. Viola – Reminded everyone of the next Ordinance Review Committee meeting to be held June 17th at 6:00 pm. She also commended the good job on both the paving and guide-rail installation on Backbone Road.

Mayor O'Connell – She noted that the purchase of a new police car is being deferred, hopefully until next year. Low mileage and other factors on the current cars have been considered, and, for now, she and the Chief have decided to hold off on the purchase of a new car.

Mr. Bloom – Also, commended the great job done on Crafton Blvd./Backbone Road

Mr. Crown – Has heard many positive comments at the CIT ballfields, from persons coming into the borough from other areas, on the paving work on Crafton Blvd.

Mrs. Sappie – Reported that the next Sr. Citizen dinner will be held on May 30th. The Rec Board is scheduled to meet on June 1st, at 6:30pm, and noted that a resident couple has volunteered to cleanup the playscape area of the park, graffiti and maintenance, and are scheduling a work party with the Rec Board for a weekend in June. She reported that Finance Committee had met with Manager Sample to review various grant applications and opportunities. She noted that 2009 revenues are up from 2008, at the end of the 4 month period/April 30th, as well as expenses are reporting less for 2009 vs. 2008 for the same time period. Increase in revenue is more than likely due to the tax millage increase, and collection-wise the percentage is up. She reported the next Finance Committee meeting will be held Wed., June 17th at 5pm.

Mrs. Luxbacher – Reminded everyone of the “Meet the Artists” being held at the Crafton Library on Sat., June 6th, at 10:00 am, regarding the Mural for the side of the building (Stotz Avenue side), light refreshments will be available, and reminder to cast a vote for your favorite mural by June 6th.

Mr. Cindric – Attended the Charwest COG meeting last week and noted that the speaker was a Crafton resident, Andy Baechle, who is the Director of Allegheny County Parks. He spoke of their plans for the nine county parks, especially Settler’s Cabin park with plans for an aquatic park and expanded wave pool and a botanical garden. He also spoke about the possibility for a recreational park at the end of the Montour Trail.

Mr. Christman – Reminded everyone of the upcoming Crafton Celebrates festival, and the Committee’s final meeting on June 9th, before the festival kick-off on June 30th.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Roy Hermes – Spoke in support of making S. Emily a one-way street southbound; comparing it to S. Linwood, where he lives, which is one-way northbound. He’s lived there for 50 years, and people adjust to the traffic pattern, and S. Linwood could handle the extra northbound traffic if S. Emily is changed to a southbound one-way street.

Larry Kerstetter, Belvidere Street - With regard to fire department regionalization, he noted that the location of the fire department in proximity to homes is also a financial/insurance concern to residents, and to keep this in mind. He also expressed concerns on the request to rezone an area of W. Steuben Street, and how it would affect the residential properties along Belvidere, as that area would be right below their backyards.

Doug Johnston, S. Emily Street – Thanked Council for proceeding on the request of the S. Emily residents.

Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street – Thanked the volunteers for the planting of the borough flower beds this past weekend.

Mr. Butler, W. Steuben Street – Suggested that a lane line be painted on Noble at Crafton Blvd. to discourage drivers from creating two turning lanes at that stop sign near Black's Bridge.

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 (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay
Borough Secretary