

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of June 23, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

President Cindric called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute lead by Mrs. Sappie. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight (8) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Donovan, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Sappie, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Cindric – Also present were Mayor Bloom, Manager Sample, Mr. Sheariss (Jr. Council), Engineer Minsterman, and Solicitor Ayoob. (*Absent: Mr. Grapes*)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Cindric reported that an Executive Session of Council was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters and a possible litigation matter.

President Cindric noted that a letter of resignation had been received by Councilwoman Deborah Sappie (*read the letter aloud*). Motion will be added to Agenda to accept her resignation; noting that Letters of Interest are requested so the Borough can fill the vacancy.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Sappie/Stewart*), to approve the June 23, 2010 List of Bills, as amended (*two additional items added; pg 8*). **QUESTIONS:** Mr. Stewart-#410.53 – Irwin Exams/Civil Service, \$59: Mrs. Tremblay reported the expense as a Physical Exam expense for the new Police Officer Irwin. Mr. Stewart-#430.23, \$2,228. – Mrs. Tremblay reported the expense for work tee-shirts and sweatshirts for Public Works; also, under #452.23 – Staff tee-shirts for pool employees.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Phillips*) to approve the June 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes. **COMMENTS:** Typo correction noted by Mr. Stewart (past tense).

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

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mike Rattay, 221 Maxwell Street (Ingram) - Reported a flooding/combined sewer system overflow. On a recent occasion, the sanitary sewer manhole in front of his house was within a foot of flooding. It is a shared problem between Crafton and Ingram, and he has also addressed Ingram Council and the Allegheny County Health Dept, on this matter. (He provided a copy of a letter from August 18, 2009 from the County to both Ingram and Crafton Boroughs). He, and several other residents in the area, installed backflow valves on the house laterals to prevent basement backups. Ingram had installed additional catch basins and inlets to relieve surface/stormwater flooding. Manager Sample added that this situation also involves a contributing, private, third party, being the shopping center. Engineer Minsterman noted that this problem has been a priority of Ingram Borough, even prior to August 2009, and the more they look at it, the more complex the problem becomes. Ingram has requested sewer mapping from the shopping center, including any changes made over time. They will continue to investigate and evaluate the systems in that area over the next couple months. He added that

even separate systems develop cracks, etc. that could result in significant infiltration of rainwater into the sanitary sewers. It was noted that another water runoff problem seems to have been created following Carlynton's re-grading of the baseball field; which he plans to address with the School Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Cindric questioned certain designations on the sewer map, which he believes may be incorrect; showing a sanitary sewer line with an overflow, instead of marking it as a combined sewer. Engineer Minsterman explained that it is a common problem where separate and combined flows mix; and they can only show a combined line where it has been permitted as combined.

Robert Jungling, 185-195 Steuben/30 Duncan Street – Questioned the status of cleaning out the mystery sewer in the back alley behind his property. Manager Sample advised that Public Works recently attempted to use the sewer jetter, but now have a call into Robinson Pipe to jet it out. Mr. Jungling further requested that the Borough or State install additional inlets/grates further up on Steuben Street to reduce and slow down the amount of rainwater that is flooding them at the Duncan/Steuben intersection.

Frank Cimino, 94-96 East Crafton Avenue – Questioned status of Franklin Alley. Manager Sample advised that the Engineers visited the site and proposed replacing two catch basins and adding two additional catch basins, and reconstruct/resurface the road; at a cost of approximately \$135,000. He believes Public Works can do some of this work in-house to relieve some of the problems for now; such as scrape high spots and fill/pave the low spots, until next year when they may have the paver equipment to resurface the alley. Mr. Cimino also expressed concerns for a hole that may be a hazard; Manager Sample noted that he would be in touch with Mr. Cimino.

Terri Diven, 20 Broadhead – Noted rainwater flooding from Broadhead and Highland; has spoken to Manager Sample on several occasions. Concerns about a black pipe coming out of the hillside from Highland extension. Driveway and garage flooding out during heavy rain events; plumbers have talked to her about installing backflow valves, but she believes the catchbasins/drains are ineffective along Broadhead Road, that the water just touches the corner of it. She also noted that stones washed there from the last storm and are still sitting on the road near the catch basin, and need cleaned up. Mr. Cindric asked that Public Works look at the catch basin to see if it can be readjusted to collect a maximum flow of water.

Tom Mucha, Clearview at Harris – Questioned status of maintenance and flooding problems from Alley D; the paper street beside his house. Manager Sample and Solicitor Ayoob advised that the paper street was never accepted by the borough, no responsibility or ownership, expressed or implied; the borough has performed no road maintenance, no snow removal, no paving, no liquid fuel moneys received for it – the property/paper street reverts to the adjoining property owners. Solicitor Ayoob noted that the Borough has no right or lawful authority to perform work or re-grade that property. Manager Sample noted that only some grass/weed cutting was done. Mr. Stewart inquired if it is a utility company right-of-way, and used by the utility company trucks, they should be responsible for restoration, re-grading and any problems caused by their use.

Ken Myers, 211 Maxwell Street (Ingram) – He reiterated similar overflow problems as mentioned by Mr. Rattay, including costly repairs to his buckled driveway and sidewalks. He feels the sewer problems have worsened since Walgreen's was built. He also noted that the school district crowned the ball field to encourage water run-off away from the field; re-routing it to the perimeter of the property which is adjacent to his backyard, and others on that side of Maxwell Street.

Robert Wolbert, 1 E. Steuben Street – Sewer backup problems at two of his properties at 47 E. Crafton Avenue and 115 W. Steuben Street. Basement and office flooded with sewage; feels catch basins must need cleaned out. Also, rainwater runoff is flooding his property on W. Steuben; inadequate drainage. He also noted that an asphalt patch was placed in front of his driveway at 1 E. Steuben, and the rainwater run-off has washed out the asphalt patch, and further up Steuben Street, has washed out the dirt between the curb and sidewalk.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, Ordinance Officer's report, ~~Fire Department's Report~~, REMS report, Animal Control Report and Engineer's Report. **Motion** made, seconded (*Viola/Donovan*), unanimously accepting the written reports. Mrs. Viola noted that the REMS report indicates an average response time of 2 min. 7 sec, which is under the County average of 5 or 6 minutes.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman reviewed the written report and status of 1. Sewer Defect Correction Contract/Mongiovi & Sons commencing the first week of July, 2. Recommending award of Contract B (Sewer Lining) to State Pipe Services, 3. COG preparing contracts for Bioni Drilling for the handicap ramps; phase 4 project, and 4. Contractor, Foresite Resources, has been sent notice of award and an agreement for the Station Street Retaining Wall project. Also, noted that a Work Authorization has been provided for Council's consideration and approval for the Fountain Avenue Steps/Slope remediation project.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom reported that the department responded 246 calls/44 arrests during the month of May. He noted that the new officers are starting; Officer Frank Scatena started yesterday (6/22) and Officer Stephanie Newcomer (formerly Irwin) will start Friday (6/25); noting she is Crafton's first female police officer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS and NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Administration – An agreement to hire an Interim Borough Management company needs to be added to the Business Agenda for Council's consideration; discussion at that time.
- b. Parks and Shade Tree – Mrs. Sappie reported on the upcoming Sr. Citizen Dinner, June 26th, and noted that the pool has scheduled several family swim nights; information posted to the Borough website. Also, noted that the Library will be operating the Mini Golf during Crafton Celebrates; and thanked Mary Luxbacher and other volunteers for their hard work getting it ready.
 1. Summer Help – Hiring of an additional life guard is on the Agenda; Ms. Durbin was a lifeguard previously at Crafton Pool.
 2. Tree Removal Bids – Several trees along the borough right-of-ways. Solicited three telephonic bids. Low bidder, Olander Tree Service, on the Agenda for consideration. Mrs. Viola inquired on extent of removal – Manager Sample noted that branches, trunks and debris removed, per proposal.
- c. Ordinance and Planning
 1. Planning Commission Vacancy – Noted that Letters of Interest are requested to fill the vacant seat on the Commission.

d. Public Safety

1. Civil Service Commission Vacancy- Noted that Letters of Interest are requested to fill the vacant seat on the Commission.

e. Public Works – It was noted that the brick replacement project on Noble should be completed by the end of the week.

1. Grace Street Retaining Wall Project – Met with residents on Grace Street; it was agreed that the wall would be removed, the Borough will re-grade the slope, and it would then become the responsibility of the property owners. Planned to start in July.
2. Full Time Position – On Agenda for Consideration.
3. Working Foreman Position – Job description was briefly described by Manager Sample. Copy provided to the Public Works employees, the position was included in the Labor Contract; requesting Letters of Interest be provided by July 9th for Council's consideration at the July 14th meeting. If no interest, then the Borough can publicly advertise to fill the position.
4. Sanitary Sewer Repair Contract B – Engineer Minsterman explained the process of sewer lining vs. Contract A (Repair/Replacement). Less disturbance to the surface, less restoration.
5. Fountain Street Slope Project – Manager Sample advised that it is a significant slide near the Fountain Street stairs; can't maintain it due to the slope, also, it is adjacent to an access to a house. Two possible remedies: 1. Construct a wall/gabing baskets retaining wall to maintain the slope or 2. Move sidewalk further up the slope with additional grading. Engineer Minsterman added that replacing the soil with stone; the stone would weigh more than the soil and would allow drainage to pass through rather build up and weakening the soil. The Engineers proposal is \$2,000 to design and work with Public Works. Project costs would be for materials and Public Works labor. Some street closure and partial closure would be expected, for possibly one day.

BUSINESS AGENDA**ADMINISTRATIVE**

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Sappie/Stewart*) to approve the hiring of Danielle Durbin as a lifeguard for 2010 Summer Employment.

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

PARKS AND SHADE TREES

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Viola/Sappie*) to award the tree removal project to Olander Tree and Landscape in a amount not to exceed \$4,500.00. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola suggested that we look into reducing the cost if we allow the contractor to offer the cuttings be sold as firewood. It was noted that this would change the specs for the bids that were sought for this project and have to consider the other contractors/bidders. Solicitor Ayoob advised to vote on the Motion as is.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Stewart*) to hire David Killen effective as soon as possible, 2010 as a full-time Public Works Laborer, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Labor Agreement.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Viola*) to open the position of working foreman and consider applicants, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Labor Agreement, with Letters of Interest submitted by July 9, 2010. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Johnston asked how qualifications were determined; questioning if any of the Public Works employees have any actual managerial skills. Mr. Cindric noted that as long as someone meets the qualifications of the job description, and it would be determined by the Public Works Committee to make a recommendation. Mr. Johnston requested that the Committee members be notified of any meetings of the Public Works Committee to review and make a recommendation.

MOTION carried by a Seven Yes, One No (*Donovan*) Voice Vote (7-1).

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Phillips*) to award the 2010 Sanitary Sewer Repair Contract B to State Pipe Services, with a base bid amount of \$273,850.00, per the recommendation of the Engineer. **COMMENTS:** Cost to be paid out of the Sewer Fund, not the General Fund.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Donvoan/Stewart*) to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Work Authorization Agreement with Gateway Engineers to develop a remediation scheme to stabilize the slope located near the Fountain Street steps, at a cost not to exceed \$2,000. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Minsterman noted that two remedial options will be provided.

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

ADDED MOTIONS:

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Johnson*) to accept the resignation of Councilwoman Deborah Sappie effective immediately. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie thanked the 2nd Ward Voters, the Administrative, Public Works and Police Staff and all of the Volunteers she has worked with over the years. Mrs. Sappie added that her workload has increased at work and additional upcoming events with her sons will take more of her time.

MOTION carried by a Five Yes, Three No Voice Vote (5-3).

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnson/Sappie*) to enter into the Interim Borough Manager Agreement with Resource Development and Management, Inc. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric noted that Borough Manager Sample is leaving and this action would provide an interim, experienced, manager on site through the transition period of hiring a new manager.

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

REMS REPORT

Mr. Cindric asked if REMS had anything additional to report. Mr. Nemecek noted that they performed two training sessions with the lifeguards, which went very well.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

None. Mr. Cindric reminded everyone of the upcoming Crafton Celebrates parade (6/30) – rain or shine, the start of the five-day park festival and close with Fireworks on the 4th of July.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Viola*), that this meeting be adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary