

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2009**

Vice President Cindric called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute was led by Mr. Bloom. Roll call by Mrs. Tremblay recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Crown, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Sappie, and Mrs. Viola. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, Engineer Minsterman and Solicitor Austin. (*Absent: Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mrs. Luxbacher*)

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Crown, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the June 24, 2009 List of Bills as presented for payment. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola - #410.23 – Officer Harvison \$258. vs. all other officers paid \$200. All officers received their annual \$200. Uniform Maintenance allowance and Officer Harvison received an additional \$58. for a uniform item purchase. Guiderail paint; asked if there was any left. Manager Sample not sure, but assumed so.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the June 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

**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, Ordinance Officers Report, CVFD Report, REMS Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report. **COMMENTS:** Chief Hermes noted that the Fire Dept. responded to nineteen calls during the recent storm (6/17/09), including a QRS call for a cardiac patient – top notch care from everyone (police, QRS, 2 REMS units and 1 NorthWest unit), use of an AED, and she had survived. He noted some radio communication difficulties due to the large number of emergency calls during the storm, and 911 reported that channels #1 and #2 were down with all calls to go through channel #3; they had to set up a command post at the fire department, receive calls via fax machine, and firefighter communication was via cell phones. He, again, noted difficulty finding specific addresses along Steuben Street due to the lack of visible house numbers. He hoped to have the new fire truck in time for the parade, but it won't be available until July 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Minsterman reported that the paving contractor still needs to perform some backfill work behind the curbs and along the guiderails, along Crafton Blvd. CCTV work is underway; a few punchlist locations remain. Elmwood sewer replacement and paving, and Haldane manhole, have been completed. There was only one bidder for the ADA Curb Ramp program, and therefore, Allegheny County may require a re-bid. Engineer suggests changing the scope of work to remove Steuben Street. This change may result in more interest, more bids, and a better price, and recommends that Council reject the bid. Steuben Street ramps would be more expensive; per PennDot specs, and would require a crossing signal. Manager Sample noted that Steuben Street ramps were added due to a resident's request, however, the property owner was advised to keep the current ramps clear of snow and ice. Otherwise, the Borough will do same, and backcharge the property owner. Marion Street storm damage was quite severe, and unique situation. The storm water went

beneath the brick, eroded the sand base and pushed the sand up and raised/mounded the brick. Damaged area is approx. one lane, 8' wide by 200' long. Several repair options were discussed: 1. Repair damaged area; one lane. Remove brick, place 6" gravel, 6" concrete base and 1" sand bed, and relay brick – approx. \$35,000. 2. Same work, but entire width, approx. \$95,000. 3. Repair the areas that are damaged only with concrete base and asphalt overlay, approx. \$8,000. 4. Similar to option 1, with less base repair. 5. Remove all brick, and overlay entire area with asphalt, approx. \$40,000. Manager Sample suggested using summer help, over a three week period to remove all of the brick where road is damaged, extend the concrete keyway at Woodlawn to offset lost/damaged brick, and Public Works crew can do the bed work and relay the brick. Or, put it out to bid for asphalt paving. The Paving Fund does have adequate funds for either option. To put out for bid, timeline is approx. 2 ½ months (prepare specs, advertise, bid opening and award contract; 8 weeks, then perform work). A resident expressed concern for the upper area of Marion, and Chief Hermes expressed concern that the open lane may have sustained damage or was weakened by this event, and may be in jeopardy of the same damage, and would be reluctant to travel that side of the street and support a 47,000 lb. or 75,000 lb. fire truck.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 265 calls during the month of May, and referred Council to the written report. She thanked the School Crossing Guards for their services during the school year. She reported that she and Manager Sample represented Crafton and attended the Connect meeting; made up of County, City of Pittsburgh and representatives from 35 area communities. Crafton is on both the Executive and Organizational Committees. Three main areas of concern were water and sewage issues, public transportation and improving communication among the municipalities. She noted that the deadline for nominees for the Mayor's Community Service award is July 13<sup>th</sup>, and the award ceremony is scheduled for September 2<sup>nd</sup>. She also reported that effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, all contractors are to be registered with the Commonwealth of Pa, Attorney General's Office – if having any work done, check that contractor is registered. Due to the severe storm, Allegheny County declared a State of Emergency, and likewise, the Mayor prepared a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency. PEMA and FEMA will be inspecting the damaged areas, and having this Declaration may help invoke some State monies. She advised that Council should make a motion to confirm this action, as the Mayor's Declaration is only valid for seven days, and can only be extended by Council. Mr. Cindric asked the Mayor to report on recent crime alert/ATM scams. She reported that devices can be placed on the face of the machine that can scan a pin number, or some devices that can withhold your card, and later removed. Be aware of anything unusual attached to the machines.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

None.

### **MANAGER/SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Manager Sample estimated and submitted approx. \$60,000 in damages due to the storm. Also basement flooding in the borough building and had the new boiler checked out, and it is fine. Not sure when PEMA/FEMA will be in Crafton. Eligible residents may qualify for assistance to replace hot water tanks and furnaces through Allegheny County. Received two proposals for the S. Emily traffic study. An agreement was executed with the low bidder, TransAssociates for the amount of \$1,250. This study will begin in the near future. July 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, a Public Hearing is scheduled for a Conditional Request, revisiting the front yard parking pad issue at 49 Coulter Street. An engineering study was done on the roof top units, with regard to the Harvest Grant, and we do meet most criteria to proceed on an application. He reported that Kurt Pittman, a Public Works employee for the past 8 years, has resigned and will be relocating in Florida; and thanked him for his service. Mr. Cindric re-iterated comments on the County's furnace program.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

- a. EMS Agreement – NorthWest Agreement provided to Council. Additionally, a proposal was received on Tuesday from REMS, based on comments made previously by the Mayor to allow both providers to submit an agreement for Council to consider. Mr. Bloom noted that it was only a comment made by the Mayor, but Council’s decision was to negotiate with and consider a contract only with NorthWest. Mayor O’Connell stated that this matter has not been resolved, there is a conflict with the powers of the office of the Mayor and Council, and she asked that Council consider REMS, as well. Mrs. Sappie added that during the interview process, REMS was asked if they would provide the 24 hr. ALS service, and they said no, and that was why Council went with NorthWest. She added that she had spoken to many residents who told her that REMS people told them that Crafton is getting rid of them because of a vendetta with a member of Council, and other negative comments, to influence their opinion on this matter. Mr. Crown noted that he had concerns due to REMS submitting a similar agreement the day after NorthWest had submitted one, and asked if any Councilperson had spoken to REMS about it or provided it to REMS. Mr. Cindric noted that he had attended the REMS board meeting, but he, nor anyone else on Council stated that they had provided any information to REMS. Solicitor Austin noted that this agreement reflects no contractual liability and no borough funds expended, and therefore, Council can appoint an EMS service, confirming that this is in accordance with the Borough Code, and it would not require an Ordinance. The 11pm – 7am service was discussed; NorthWest “ALS” team (Advanced Life Support) vs. REMS one “EMT”. Term would expire January, even numbered years, and be reappointed during the Organizational meeting of Council, as is done with other services. Questioned Section X. Termination; requested it be reworded with 120 days, rather than 90 days.
- b. CDBG Year 35 – ADA Curb Cut Project – No additional comments; proceed on the motion according to Engineers comments and recommendation to reject the bid.
- c. Marion Street Restoration – Mr. Bloom suggested removing all brick and asphalt the entire 200’ area, curb to curb (Option 5). Have Public Works remove the brick, and retain them for other street repairs. Mr. Crown requested that the Engineer prepare a “bare-bones” standard spec for this work, rather than some expensive preparation of plans and specs.
- d. Smoke Detectors – Mrs. Sappie inquired if smoke detectors were installed in the Borough Building. Manager Sample said not as of yet; they are looking into direct-wired system rather than battery-operated units, as recommended by the Fire Marshal.

**BUSINESS AGENDA****PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Crown, and seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to reject the low bidder, Joseph Palimeri Construction, for the base bid contract amount of \$12,500, as recommended by Gateway Engineers for the CDBG Year 35 ADA Curb Cut Project subject to approval by Allegheny County and further authorize the proper officials to rebid the project without Steuben Street.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0).

**ADDED MOTIONS:**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, and seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to authorize the Borough Manager to prepare and advertise specs for the curb-to-curb, full depth, asphalt paving of Marion Street.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0).

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, and seconded by Mr. Donovan, to confirm and extend the Mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency. (Declaration read in it's entirety.)

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mr. Crown** - Mr. Crown asked if there were sufficient Public Works employees, especially with the loss of Mr. Pittman. Manager Sample noted that he does have a few alternates that can be called up.

**Mrs. Sappie** – She thanked the residents and volunteers of DOXA Church for the restoration work done at the playscape in Crafton Park. She reported that the next Senior Citizen Dinner is June 25<sup>th</sup>, featured entertainment is Elvis impersonator.

**Mr. Donovan** – Reminded everyone to support their local Volunteer Fire Department.

**Mrs. Viola** – Reported that the Ordinance Review Committee is scheduled to meet on the third Wednesday, on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She reported that the bases on the benches at the pool are rusted and deteriorated, and need to be replaced. She suggested that possibly health fitness stations be considered for the mini golf course property. Mr. Crown noted that he and Mrs. Luxbacher have been discussing this and may have some different options to be considered for the property.

**Mr. Cindric** - Reported he attended the CharWest COG meeting; speaker discussed energy savings and emphasis on Economic Stimulus, LED street lighting and LED traffic signals. It was confirmed that a flat fee is paid on the traffic signals; lights to Duquesne Light and power to Direct Energy. A recent news article states that Duquesne Light has to come up with an energy savings program by the end of July, which may include LED lighting grants for municipalities.

**Mrs. Sappie** – Added, next meeting of the Rec Board is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street** - Ask that Council consider the resident comments with regard to the EMS matter, and reconsider keeping REMS as the service provider. She suggested that a survey, similar to the Recreation Survey in the Newsletter, be provided to residents for their input; or possibly consider another presentation/public meeting.

Per previous concerns on disclosure of NorthWest proposed agreement; Solicitor Austin noted that the proposed NorthWest EMS Agreement is not subject to the Open Records Act (pre-decisional), and should not be disclosed to anyone prior to Council's action/vote.

**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 (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay  
Borough Secretary

