

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2009**

President Christman called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Luxbacher. Roll call by Mrs. Tremblay recorded seven (7) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Crown, Mrs. Luxbacher, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Christman. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample, Engineer Minsterman, Mr. Sheariss-Jr. Council, and Solicitor Ayooob. (*Absent: Mr. Byers, Mr. Donovan*)

President Christman reported that an Executive Session of Council was held prior to the meeting to discuss a Property Assessment appeal, Labor contract, and three personnel matters. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Crown, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the October 28, 2009 List of Bills as presented for payment.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0), with exception noted by Mrs. Viola (#404.31).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Crown, to approve the October 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call vote (7-0).

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, NorthWest EMS Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report. Moved and Seconded, reports were unanimously accepted. Comments: Mrs. Luxbacher inquired on the renewal of the animal control contract; Manager Sample reported that they are the lowest cost for services in the area and their contract was automatically renewed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman reported that the ADA curb ramp project is underway, now through November. Marion paving is now completed; additional soft spots were found, over the amount estimated in the contract. Specifications for the 2010 sewer defect correction are nearly complete, and should be put out to bid in January, with work starting in the spring. A draft report for the Clearview Drainage project was provided to Council along with the Engineer's proposal/authorization to prepare the design and specifications for the construction of the first phase; for 2010, for Council to consider. Mr. Christman inquired on a bomb scare that was listed on the fire department's report; Mr. Crown reported that the fire department does not respond to bomb scares, but are to stand ready; it was his understanding that it was not at any school.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell invited Chief Rost to comment on recent programs and a donation to the department. Chief Rost reported that a new stuffed animal, Tommy the Moose, was provided by the Moose Club International to the police department to distribute to children, to comfort them, who are present at an accident/incident. Mrs. Luxbacher reported that her daughter received a teddy bear many years ago, and still has it. He reported that the South West Credit Union had a golf outing fund raiser, and donated the proceeds to area police departments. Crafton Police department received \$1,000. That donation and Crime Watch funds were used to purchase Halloween safety lights to be distributed to the Children on Halloween night. He reported that Officer Harvison attended two-day taser school, and completed his training and recertification at a cost of \$400. from the drug forfeiture monies. He is qualified to train and recertifying all of the officers in the department. Ready bags will be purchased for all officers; the bags will be equipped with various items and supplies when an officer is called to report to duty. Also planning to purchase a PDT intoxilizer, which is at a cost of over \$400. Saved the taxpayers over \$4,000. by using funds made available through the drug forfeiture fund. He warned of the dangers of leaving a vehicle running in the cold weather, unattended – this is illegal. Also, reminded everyone of the recent law that if it's raining your headlights must be on. Mrs. Sappie inquired if it is still law that children under 12 years old must wear helmets when riding their bikes? Chief Rost replied, yes, he believes so. A resident inquired about self-starters in vehicles, which are for the purpose of starting/warming up a vehicle, unattended. Chief Rost noted that a lot of illegal things are installed in/on cars. Mrs. Luxbacher inquired on the distribution of the safety lights, if it would be through the school. Chief Rost reported that they will be available on Halloween night from the police cars and through the Crime Watch area coordinators on patrol.

Mayor O'Connell reported that Trick-or-Treat is from 6pm-8pm on Halloween night. In addition to the button lights purchased (500), Duquesne Light donated light sticks (300); all of which will be distributed that night.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Christman reminded everyone to move the clocks back this weekend.

MANAGER/SECRETARY'S REPORT

Manager Sample invited additional questions for the Engineer before leaving the meeting. Mr. Crown asked if the specifications for the Clearview drainage project would last through the four phases. Engineer Minsterman said yes, for the most part with a possibility of minimal changes. Most changes could occur with the Green Technology, particularly with storm water retention. They are looking for Early Action funding to be awarded to Alcosan for Green Technology. Mrs. Luxbacher inquired on the possible Green Roof Technology for the community center building. Engineer Minsterman noted that this would be a pretty substantial undertaking, and would need to be looked at by a structural engineer. Modifications and structural reinforcement would be necessary due to the extra roof load (gravel, soil, water). Mr. Christman suggested maybe a few rooftop rain gardens.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Clearview Avenue Drainage Study** - Mrs. Viola inquired as to why the slope area was not addressed in Option One of Gateway's submission to Council. Engineer Minsterman noted that Option One would leave the slope alone and deal more with re-routing water, to stabilize and improve it.
- b. **Ordinance 1598 – Clearview and Sterrett Parking Restrictions** – Manager Sample noted that the proposed changes are necessary for driving safety. He noted

that he performed a car count on two garbage days, and with the number of parked cars observed, there are ample parking spaces with the restriction. The Sterrett Street parking restriction on one side of the street is observed for safety-vehicle passing reasons, but no ordinance exists, and would be necessary to be enforceable.

c. Finance Committee Update – Five Year projection was provided to Council; should be debt free of current loans at the end of the five years, with the exception of the sewer loans.

d. Ordinance Committee Update – Committee discussed the Utility right-of-ways; rocks placed by residents. Ordinance is being enforced, and Borough will make every effort to have variance hearings all on one night, in order to save money for advertising and court reporting costs.

e. Park & Shade Tree Commission Re-Appointment – Betsy Martin’s seat expired in March; she expressed interest in reappointment; very diligent in her duties.

f. Commission Vacancies – Various seats will be expiring – Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and Building Appeals Board. Borough is open for letters of interest for reappointment or from other interested residents. Vacancy notice will be posted to website. Building Appeals board does require credentials; knowledge of building code, such as architects, etc. Manager Sample noted that the Borough has never had a Building Appeals hearing.

g. Resolution No. 2009-17 – Act 32 Tax Collection Committee – Manager Sample noted that Council previously motioned to appoint Mark Schuster, but there was some ambiguity in the requirements, and a Resolution may be necessary.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Resolution No. 2009-17 appointing Mark Schuster to serve as Crafton Borough’s Voting Delegate to the Act 32 Tax Collection Committee.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

PARK AND SHADE TREE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Luxbacher, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to re-appoint Betsy Martin to the Crafton Park & Shade Tree Commission, for a five year term which shall expire on March 31, 2014. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Sappie noted that she has done a fabulous job, working on the gardens over the summer during the heat and rain.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

PUBLIC SAFETY:

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Crown , seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to adopt Ordinance 1598, which shall amend Section 214-35 of Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Vehicles and Traffic, Parking Prohibited at All Times in Certain Locations, to include Sterrett Street from Clearview Avenue to Hall Avenue on the Southerly side and Clearview Avenue from 601 Clearview to Willard Avenue on the Easterly side.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Luxbacher, to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Work Authorization Agreement with Gateway Engineers to begin the design specifications for the Clearview Avenue Drainage Study at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

MOTION carried by a Five Yes, Two No (*Cindric/Viola*) Roll Call Vote (5-2).

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Crown, to approve the Payment Application No. 1 to Michael Facchiano Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$12,135.60, for the Marion Street Repair, as recommended by the Engineer. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola inquired on the additional cost for soft spot repair. Manager Sample reported that the soft spot repair, being approx. three times as much as anticipated, and the additional paving at the lower end, added approximately \$10,000.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Crown – Noted that the Pa Fire Commissioner will be hosting a Grant Writing Workshop in McKees Rocks, sponsored by Rep. Dan Deasy and others, which will be attended by members of the CVFD, as well as fifteen other fire companies.

Mrs. Sappie – Thanked Shaw Distributing for their \$100 donation toward the cost of entertainment for the Senior Citizen dinner. She thanked the many volunteers who help with the Senior Dinners. She reported that the Rec Board is sponsoring a Craft/Vendor show on November 7th and the proceeds will go to extras for the Senior Citizen dinners as well as plans for other recreational/teen activities.

Jr. Councilperson, Sheariss – Thanked all those involved in the miniature golf course fund rasier; they received many positive comments. He reported that Carlynton Soccer won Section; but lost in the first round of playoffs.

Mrs. Luxbacher – Reminded everyone of the upcoming Book and Bake Sale at the Library; Nov. 6th and 7th, Book, CD and Video donations, as well as baked goods, are requested. She also reported that the bells have not been chiming at St. Philips, due to some structural damage to the tower, and they may be looking for donations to help defray costs for repairs.

Mrs. Viola – Reminded everyone of the upcoming Election Day, and encouraged residents to vote. Also, noted that Public Works is currently performing leaf pick-up throughout the borough.

Mr. Christman – Reported that Crafton Celebrates will be sponsoring a Turkey Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 19th.

Mrs. Tremblay – Reminded everyone, especially at this time of year, to remember our local food pantry at the Bradford Presbyterian Church.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, and seconded by Mr. Bloom, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay
Borough Secretary