

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of February 24, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

President Cindric called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center, at 7:30pm. Flag Salute lead by Mr. Pellegrino. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded seven (7) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Donovan, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Mr. Cindric – Also present were Mayor Bloom, Manager Sample, Engineer Minsterman, and Solicitor Ayooob. (*Absen Councilt: Mr. Grapes, Mr. Stewart.*)

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the February 24, 2010 List of Bills. **QUESTIONS:** Mrs. Viola - #409.35, County Taxes, 201 Ewing Road. Mrs. Tremblay advised that this property is not totally exempt due to Mrs. Hickling occupying the house under a life estate agreement with the Borough; only the land is exempt right now, so County taxes are due/payable for the building only.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2010 and February 10, 2010.

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

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street – Commented on the recent School Board meeting/Feasibility Study. She encouraged residents to be aware of this activity, attend meetings, visit the school website for updated information and meetings, and voice concerns. Various comments were made by Council; it was suggested that Manager Sample write to the school board and arrange a meeting, possibly including Carnegie Council and the project engineer.

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~~, NorthWest EMS report, Animal Control Report and Engineer's Report. **Motion** (*Donovan/Pellegrino*) to accept the Reports carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman: 1. Sewer Defect Corrections – Project specifications, based on results of televising, will be submitted to Council for review and advertisement for bids. 2. Specifications for the Emergency Contractor are done and ready for bidding. This contractor would be used, as needed, over a three year period, for emergency repair work (sewers, roads, unit pricing, etc.). 3. Requesting work authorization A. to prepare and advertise general specs for Black's Bridge repairs (HDR) and supplemental specs (Gateway) for milling/paving bridge approaches and adjacent intersections, preparing the contract documents combining both specs; will work closely with HDR on this project. B. Station Street Wall – prepare specs and bid docs to replace the damaged wall; a base bid for replacement of the damaged wall and an alternate bid to include replacement of the remainder of the wall, which Council may want to consider if at a

good price, which will extend the life of the wall. Manager Sample noted that there is an insurance claim pending on this wall through the car owner who hit and damaged the wall. Engineer Minsterman noted that there is a motion on the Agenda to pay Creative Enterprises for the emergency sewer work on Elmwood, and payment is recommended by the Engineers.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom referred Council to the Police Department written report for January; responding to 178 calls. He noted that the robbery at Mugshots is still an open case, that the forced entry burglary is still an open case, there were three drug arrests, the hit and run on Broadhead is also an ongoing investigation. There was an arrest at Giant Eagle, where a suspect fired a gun at employees, but the gun misfired and the suspect was apprehended. He noted that he had issued a Declaration of Local Disaster due to the snow storm, noting that the snow removal and plowing was a tremendous task; that Public Works was unable and unequipped for a snowfall of this magnitude. The Declaration covers a seven day period only, and can only be extended by Borough Council. In addition to Public Works, the Fire Department answered 100 calls in a 48 hour period, for downed wires and trees, and assisted by cutting and removing those trees. He reminded everyone that Port Authority has cancelled the 24A bus route due to low ridership; which will take place on March 14th. He is speaking to PAT looking for viable alternatives, possibly through Access. He reminded everyone of the upcoming EMS provider presentations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cindric noted that he was in contact with the Mayor and Emergency Management Coordinator during the storm. He noted that the Community Center could have been made available as a warming center, if necessary, however, due to the local water warning, any one in need was referred to the Moon Run warming station. There were a few calls for assistance due to some power outages, but many families in need were helped out by family and neighbors. He noted that the borough hosted a CharWest COG meeting/dinner on the same night as the School Board meeting; he thanked those who attended the COG meeting and those who attended the School Board meeting. He also thanked Mrs. Tremblay and Mrs. Keeley for their help with the COG dinner. Congressman Tim Murphy spoke at the COG meeting and will be working to get FEMA to change their declaration to expand beyond the consecutive 48 hr. period for reimbursing municipalities.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sample reported that he submitted cost estimates to the County, for the highest 2-day period to be in-line with the 48 hr. period requirement, which totaled \$25,000. Actual costs were for two week period totalled more than \$59,000 for excavating contractors and equipment, Public Works 230 overtime hours, plus 140 hours for other part-time workers. He reported that we have reached 125% of our road salt quota; cost is estimated to increase from \$53. per ton to \$58. per ton. He is looking into bids for removal of tree branches and debris, and removal of any damaged trees. The tree-removal costs would not be included in any FEMA/PEMA reimbursement since it would be well beyond the 48 hr. window. This will also be referred to the Shade Tree Commission for recommendations on replacement of any trees removed. He noted that the borough has been planting Service Berry Trees, rather than the Bradford Pear, since they are similar but do not grow to be as large and interfere with wires, and do have the white flowers in the spring. Lastly, he noted that a recycling grant was awarded to the borough by the DEP, in the amount of \$36,000 for an industrial-sized chipper, needing a borough match of only \$5,000. Mr. Cindric and Manager Sample commented on a recent CONNECT meeting (36 communities and the City of Pittsburgh); discussing similar

problems, grant opportunities, personnel support, transportation and sewer issues, and possible joint purchasing of LED lighting. Next meeting will be held in June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS and NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Administration

- 1. PSAB Conference** – Three Day program being held at the William Penn; either the three day program, or daily rates available (4/25-4/28/10). Funds are available in the budget.

b. Environmental

- 1. Green Roof Update** - Mr. Cindric noted that he had spoken with the attorney for the 1204 Corporation, owners of the Crafton Shopping Center – he said they may be interested in discussing a Rain Garden, over a storm drain, in the shopping center. He also noted that if Ingram is interested, possibly a multi-municipal grant may be available to assist with the costs.

- c. Finance and Grants** – Mrs. Viola noted that at the Finance Committee meeting, last Wednesday, there was only one month to review. She reminded everyone of the next meeting scheduled for March 17th – the third Wednesday of each month.

- d. Insurance** – Mr. Johnston noted that he had met with the insurance agent a few weeks ago, and requested pricing on a few items. The borough's insurance renews in May.

- e. Parks and Recreation** – Mrs. Sappie noted that the Rec Board will be meeting on March 1st and the Parks & Recreation Committee will meet on March 3rd – the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. Also, noted a DCNR Workshop and grant reapplication.

- f. Public Safety** – Mr. Pellegrino noted that the CVFD budget may go over \$2,000 to \$3,000 for turnout gear. They have ordered hotsticks at a cost of \$850., used to test for live wires; they can piggyback with Public Works and Police, training would be involved. Also purchasing power ports for the '92 Seagrave at a cost \$325. Mr. Pellegrino noted an update provided by Chief Crown on the CVFD's emergency plan during the snow storm; five firefighters also operated Public Works equipment, and their 4x4 SUV was used by the Police Dept. In addition to Crafton calls, they responded to calls in Rosslyn and Thornburg and a fire in Robinson, for a total of 400 man hours.

- 1. NIMS Testing/Requirements** – Council members should complete the courses on line and be certified. Three or four courses: #100, #300, #700 & #800.

- 2. EMS Proposals/Presentation** – Reminded everyone of the presentations scheduled for February 25th commencing at 6:30pm; two proposals: NorthWest EMS and Robinson EMS.

- 3. Ordinance - Killed in Service Benefit** – Mandatory change in Act 600 benefits; Killed-In-Service benefit will still be provided, but no longer at the expense of the borough or pension fund. Benefit will be provided by the Commonwealth per Act 51 of 2009. This represents a change to the Pension Plan, which must be done by Ordinance, so an ordinance will need to be prepared, advertised and adopted by Council to affect the change.

- 4. Resolution 2010-02 – Local Disaster Emergency/Extension** – As explained, due to the effects of the snow disaster exceeding the seven day period of the Mayor's Declaration, only Borough Council can extend the Disaster Emergency period.

g. Public Works

- 1. Blacks Bridge Repairs** – No additional comments.

- 2. **Station Street Retaining Wall** – Mr. Phillips asked why the Borough could not just seek out contractors for this work, rather than pay the Engineer \$9,100 to do it. It was explained by the Solicitor and Engineer that due to the size, cost and other issues, it would have to be put out to Bid in accordance with the Borough Code. Exact specifications would need to be prepared, surveys, drawings, design, and establish quantities and materials, engineering and geo-tech costs, meetings, and bid review. Cost for document preparation - Specs, Contracts and Advertisement. All bids must be considered under the same criteria which would need to be determined by an engineer. Mrs. Viola inquired of any anticipated street closure. Engineer Minsterman anticipated very little need to close the street; maybe just briefly at times.
- 3. **Sale of Truck #109** – Manager Sample noted that there is a Motion on the Agenda to advertise the sale of truck #109, and bids would be available for the last meeting in March. Advertisement in the Suburban Gazette and by word of mouth. It was also noted at this time, the wear and tear on the plowing blades, and the need to remove the rubber blades to be more effective. Also, noting a lot of potholes; which will be taken care of with temporary, cold patch, weather-permitting.
- 4. **Hiring of Part Time Employees** – Manager Sample noted the need to bring in additional part-time public works laborers/drivers to supplement the current staff, in order to keep up with the storm situation. A motion is on the Agenda to ratify his hiring of four part-time employees.

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC SAFETY:

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/Pellegrino*) to adopt Resolution 2010-02 confirming and extending the Mayor’s Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Pellegrino/Donovan*) to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance for adoption, amending the Crafton Police Pension Plan to eliminate the killed-in service benefit in accordance with Act 51 of 2009.

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

PUBLIC WORKS:

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Donovan/Johnston*) to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare contract documents for the repairs of the deck and all other authorized work for Blacks Bridge at a price not to exceed \$5,000.00. **COMMENTS:** It was noted that this does not include overseeing the project.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/Viola*) to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare specifications for the repair of the retaining wall located along Station Street at a price not to exceed \$9,100.00.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Johnston*) to offer for sale Dump Truck #109, including the Spreader and Plow, by advertised public bid, with \$2,000.00 as the minimum bid price.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Pellegrino/Sappie*) to ratify the hiring of Eric Gartley, Todd Westerhoff, Dave Morgan and Cliff Hughes as a part-time Public Works Skilled Laborer at a rate of \$10.00/hr. **COMMENTS:** It was noted that these part-timers were needed to replace the four full-time employees, so they could have a break; that crews were working 24 hrs. a day.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Donovan/Pellegrino*) to approve payment to Creative Enterprises Corporation, in the amount of \$26,040.00, for the Elmwood Street Emergency Sewer Repair per the recommendation of the Engineer. **COMMENTS:** It was noted that the repair consisted of replacing 37 lf of 15” diameter pipe.

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

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Sappie requested that Council authorize Manager Sample to contact the School Board to arrange a meeting regarding the Feasibility Study; approved by a consensus of Council.
Mrs. Viola noted that she had received a postcard notifying the public of a Town Hall Meeting being held by Rep. Dan Deasey, in Ingram on March 11th, at 7pm.
Mr. Cindric noted that the CharWest COG annual dinner is scheduled for April 15th and can be attended by Council; he also requested a \$25. door prize donation be included on the next bill list for approval.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steven Palchowski, Bradford Avenue – Has Verizon cable service, but the Council meetings are only aired on Comcast. Mr. Cindric noted that there are equipment differences, but will have Manager Sample look into it for possible conversion of the tape.
Crystal Boehm, Belvidere St. – Noted that Ingram’s meetings are televised and are of much better viewing quality. She also noted that she will be unable to attend the EMS presentation, but wanted to note that she had an opportunity to call upon NorthWest EMS, and was very pleased with their service, and thanked them. Mr. Cindric noted that action on approving an EMS contract should be on the next meeting Agenda, on March 10th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary