

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 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 Ayob. (*Absent: Mr. Byers, Mr. Donovan*)

President Christman reported that an Executive Session of Council was held prior to the meeting to for legal advice concerning the sewer ordinance and sidewalk ordinance as it relates to two private properties. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to approve the November 18, 2009 List of Bills as presented for payment. **QUESTIONS:** **Mrs. Viola - #404.31;** inquired if some of these charges should be under #404.32, litigation. Manager Sample said that these charges were appropriately recorded as just general legal/solicitor expense. She noted that an amount being paid by the borough for Newly Elected Officials training, under **#406.46**, and was concerned that adequate funds were available in the budget. She also asked if any other newly elected official could take advantage of this training. Manager Sample reported that information was sent directly to the officials, that the training starts this weekend, and training is available to all the newly elected officials and paid for by the Borough. **#430.23** – Public Works Uniforms – Manager Sample confirmed that this is under the Uniform rental contract for the Public Works employees. **Mrs. Luxbacher - #400.34** – Advertising/Shade Tree Meeting. Manager Sample confirmed that it is required to advertise all public meetings, and all committees and commissions must have meetings that are open to the public.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0), with exception noted by Mrs. Viola (#404.31, #411.23).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Crown, to approve the October 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes.

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

CITIZEN'S DESIROUS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Dan Gulasy, NorthWest EMS – Reported 244 emergency responses for the year, thus far. During October, there were 17 calls during the overnight shift, with an average response time of 3.9 minutes, and one mutual aid response from Ingram. On Dec. 17th, they are providing CPR & First Aid Training – held at the Fire Dept., at a cost of \$10 per person. Mrs. Luxbacher inquired if the scouts could attend this training; Mr. Gulasy asked that they set up a separate session.

Regis Patton, 21 Maplewood – Announced that the tree and marker have been placed in the park, in memory of Fred Peelor, and a small dedication ceremony will be held in front of the stage on Nov. 28th at 1:00 pm.

Glady Carlen, 10 Afton – Thanked the firefighters for their efforts at the house fire on Afton, and thanked Janet Finlay/Auxiliary for providing water for her dogs and Big Daddy's for providing donuts to everyone.

Mary Kannenberg, 21 Richmond – Reported that they lost their new garage to the fire. She, too, thanked all of the firefighters from the many companies (8) for a tremendous job and preventing the fire from spreading to adjacent structures. All of the neighbors were most appreciative.

Crystal Boehm, 57 Belevidere – She noted that she was at the park at the time of the fire, and she, too, commended the job done by the firefighters. Questioned the motion for adopting the proposed budget for this evening; did not see it on the Agenda posted to the website. Mrs. Tremblay reported that tonight's agenda did not get posted to the website, and to refer to the written Agenda. Mr. Christman noted that this incident should remind everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors.

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. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Luxbacher – Police Dept. Report, commented on the number of burglaries of late, and it was her understanding that some juveniles were only charged with disorderly conduct rather than breaking/entering or burglary. Moved and Seconded, and unanimously accepted.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman reported that the ADA curb ramp project is now complete, with some minor cleanup and restoration work remaining – should be presented to Council for approval at the next meeting. Finishing the specifications for the 2010 sewer defect correction should be put out to bid in January. Marion Avenue reconstruction project is complete and provided a recommendation to pay the final estimate to the contractor. He noted that the total cost was \$66,300 but was estimated to be only \$54,000. This increase resulted from an additional area getting paved, additional tonnage of binder, more soft spot repairs than anticipated especially on the left side where the flooding storm water seriously degraded and deteriorated the subsurface. Also, a concrete apron area was removed and approx. 30 lf of stone curbs needed to be reset. Mrs. Sappie asked if there is a more accurate way to determine soft spot repairs for estimates. Engineer Minsterman said no, not until you actually get into the job; they could over-estimate but that would not be accurate either. It was noted that the Backbone (Crafton Blvd.) paving project was actually under budget for soft spot repairs.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Connell – Reported that the Police Dept. responded to 252 complaints for the month of October, and referred Council to the written report. Halloween was successful. She thanked the police and others for their Halloween night patrol, and SouthWest Communities Credit Union and Duquesne Light for the safety lights and glo sticks. She read an e-mail to Council, from Mr. Bloom, concerning his upcoming term as Mayor, requesting a review of the existing space occupied by the Police Dept., and inventory of furniture, equipment, etc., and to document same with photographs. Also, advising of his intention to have the Mayor's office relocated back to the first floor. She deferred his request to the incoming Council for their consideration. Mr. Christman inquired if there have been many reports or incidents with regard to the deer population problem in the borough; the Mayor had no information, and Manager Sample noted that this could be looked into further with the Game Commission.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None

MANAGER/SECRETARY'S REPORT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2010 Budget Review – Manager Sample reported that Council has received a copy of the Proposed Budget, as prepared with Council's input from Sept. 30th to date. Highlights: There is no tax millage increase; will remain at 7 mills, no increase in trash fees; will remain at \$145.00 annually, no employee pay increases, and no need to borrow in the form of a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note this year. Road fund; no increase in the millage, will remain at 1.75 mills, and a budget of \$370,000 has been set for the paving program which is mostly for the bridge repairs. The Sewer Budget is scheduled for a usage increase of .50, and Alcosan will also have a 7% increase. \$1.1 million sewer defect correction is anticipated with no borrowing. Mr. Cindric asked if the sewer increase/expense is mostly a result of the Clearview Drainage project. Manager Sample noted that it is only a portion of the expenditures. He is looking into a grant for the sewer defect repairs, but if not obtained, the Clearview project may need to be deferred to 2011, and the available funds would only be used for the sewer defect corrections, as required by the Consent Order. Mr. Cindric asked if only the road repair phase was done on Clearview, what increase would incur in the Road Tax Fund. Manager Sample estimated a 1 mill increase
- b. 2009 Audit; Appointment of Auditor; Resolution No.2009-18 – Auditors need to be appointed prior to the end of the year; they are holding the line on the cost to \$7,250.
- c. Residential Trash and Recycling Collection Contract – Two bids received; Waste Management was the low bidder; and meeting the criteria – Contract is for a three year term with two option years, with no increase during the three year term. Mr. Cindric inquired on a lame duck Council voting on this contract at this time; Solicitor Ayoob noted that this is normal governmental function, it was put out to bid; and is a proprietary function rather than a legislative. Also, the current contract expires at the end of the year, so it must be acted upon prior to the end of the year.
- d. Ordinance Committee Update – Committee met earlier in the evening; review process is continuing.
- e. Commission Vacancies – Members were contacted regarding their upcoming vacancies, information will be provided to Council for action at the next meeting.
- f. Borough Banking Accounts – Request by the Recreation Board to open a separate account for fundraising revenue and for special recreational activities. In addition to this account, two other accounts need to be brought under borough management, being the police department forfeiture account and the DARE account. Manager also noted that he will be establishing two Capital Reserve Funds for 2009, as budgeted.

BUSINESS AGENDA**ADMINISTRATION**

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Cindric, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to adopt Resolution No. 2009-18, appointing the C.P.A. firm of Case Sabatini to perform the Borough's annual Financial Audit for the year 2009.

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

FINANCE

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to adopt the Proposed 2010 General Fund, Road Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets and make same available for Public Inspection. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric re-iterated his prior comment, that he believes the Clearview project should be reflected under the Road Fund budget as a tax increase, rather than an increase in the Sewer rates. Mrs. Luxbacher noted that it was her understanding that sewer repairs are a part of the Clearview project; Manager Sample and President Christman concurred and said the project is split, a portion for sewer/drainage work and a portion for road work.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mr. Bloom, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to approve the Final Payment to Michael Facchiano Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$54,511.40, for the Marion Street Repair, as recommended by the Engineer.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved by Mrs. Viola, seconded by Mr. Cindric, to accept the low bid of Waste Management for the residential collection of trash and recycling, and authorize the proper borough official to execute the five (5) year contract, under the terms and conditions of said contract, which shall commence on January 1, 2010.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Viola – Commented that she can relate to the recent fire on Afton; that recently there was a fire across the street from her home. She noted that it was quite a traumatic experience, and devastating to the family. She commended the quick response of the CVFD and other companies and an excellent job.

Mr. Bloom – Commented, in response to the Mayor's earlier comments concerning his e-mail/requests. He noted that it is his intention to be hands-on in the Police Dept, with daily access to reports, to oversee the activity, and will need a secure area within the department. This was provided previously to past Mayors (Stewart/Hull), and he feels it is necessary to properly conduct his oversight of the department. He further noted that there was no tone and no threat intended; that he wanted inventories, etc. to insure that there is no changes or trashing incidents prior to his taking office. The Mayor reiterated her comments, that she does not believe this issue is under her purview and should be referred to Council; she noted that he should contact her and set up a mutually convenient time to see the area, and she, along with either the Council President or Vice President, would be present to meet with him.

Mrs. Sappie – Mrs. Sappie reported that the Rec. Board had a Craft/Vendor show on Nov. 7th, with a pretty good turnout; hopefully planning this as an annual event. Next Sr. Citizen Dinner is November 21st – Turkey dinner is planned. Lastly, she reported that, since the Election, she has been hearing comments such as ... "good thing Mr. Crown wasn't elected, because he is receiving kickbacks from North West EMS" -- She noted that North West was appointed by a majority of Council, and that she has only heard compliments on their response time and care – and was upset over such rumors. Mr. Crown noted that he has heard that Mr. Phillips has made these comments, and asked him of his involvement in such rumors at the hi-rise. Mr. Phillips denied any such involvement.

Mrs. Luxbacher – Library had a successful Book & Bake Sale; have some Chinese Auction baskets available. Thanked the Interact Club for their involvement in these activities and letter campaign. Turkey Bingo upcoming, November 19th, joint fundraiser with Crafton Celebrates. On December 4th a live concert is planned with several groups, in the Community Center, for all ages – teens and adults; free event. Also, the annual gingerbread housemaking event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5th; needing advance sign-up at the library.

Mr. Cindric – Reported that he was a good customer at the Craft/Vendor event and at the Library's Book & Bake sale. He noted that the Crafton Historical Society is having it's holiday Gala on Sunday, Dec. 13th at Cefalo's in Carnegie, to benefit both the Crafton and Ingram Historical Societies; with plans to finish the street sign projects. A few of the old signs are still available for sale. He noted that, in response to Mr. Bloom's request, the incoming Council will give the utmost consideration to his request to provide adequate space for his needs.

Mr. Christman – Additionally commented on the upcoming Turkey Bingo fundraiser. Crafton Celebrates is always looking for more volunteers, and may be considering a Spring golf outing fundraiser.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mrs. Kannenburg noted that homeowners should take current photos of their belongings, etc. in the event of a fire. Recalling all that is lost in a fire is a very difficult task.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay
Borough Secretary