

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of January 9, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

President Weitzel called to order the Agenda Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute led by Mr. Johnston. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Johnston, Mr. O’Brien, Ms. O’Connell, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Post, and Ms. Weitzel. (*Absent: Hayes, Stacy, Stewart*) Also present were Mayor Bloom, Manager Callen and Solicitor Daley.

RECOGNIZE THE RECREATION PLAN STUDY COMMITTEE

President Weitzel recognized and acknowledged the volunteer members of the Park and Recreation Development Study Committee, chaired by Ms. O’Connell, for their efforts over the past two years – Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the members present (Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Richardson, Ms. Witt).

Mrs. O’Connell thanked the Committee for all of their work, starting back in April 2011, which has resulted in a 70 page, detailed plan to assist the borough in going forward on a successful, comprehensive recreation program for the community.

APPROVAL – RATIFY LIST OF BILLS PAID

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/Phillips*), to ratify the paid bill lists of December 21, 2012 and December 31, 2012, as presented.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0), with noted exception (*O’Connell #456.54*).

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/Post*), to approve the January 9, 2013 List of Bills.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0) with noted exception (*O’Connell #456.54*).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Phillips*), to approve the December 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes. **COMMENTS:** A correction was made at the request of Ms. O’Connell.

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

CITIZENS PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (November 2012):

Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, Ordinance Officer's Report, REMS Report, ~~CVFD Report~~, ~~Animal Control Report~~ and Engineer's Report. MOTION (*O'Connell/Phillips*) carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0).

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Daley reported on the Breeden litigation; the appeal period has expired, and the FOP chose not to pursue an appeal – Mr. Breeden had the option to appeal on his own, which he has not done.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Weitzel reported that Manager Callen is preparing a draft report of the 2012 Accomplishments which will be presented at the next meeting; upon review of the draft, Council should advise the Manager of any items that may have been missed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Administration – Ms. O'Connell thanked the Holiday decorating committee for their work; received favorable comments on the decorations. The “undecorating” is planned for Saturday, at 10:30am. She also reported that the Civil Service Commission will be conducting a public meeting on Sat., Jan. 26th for the purpose of starting on a new eligibility list for (police) hiring, and any other matter properly brought before the Commission. Manager Callen reported that office space/staff accommodations needs to be addressed with the addition of the new Director; possibly considering use of the Mayor's Office. Mayor Bloom suggested that accommodations be at the Public Works garage since she will be the Public Works supervisor; he strongly objects to the taking of his office. Manager Callen will review all options and make arrangements to meet everyone's needs, and submit a formal proposal. He noted that since he only received one application for the part-time clerk position, he will be re-advertising the position for more candidates; although he has no hiring recommendation at this time, but she was qualified. It was decided that a welcome reception for the new Director will be held prior to the next Council meeting, at 6:30pm in the Community Center room. Mr. Johnson inquired on the status of the changes with the County Elections Dept., regarding Crafton abolishing the wards, etc. He advised that they needed a copy of the signed Ordinance, which he had Mrs. Tremblay send to them – but, they also need to know how to proceed with the proposed districting/polling places (number and locations). It was suggested to keep the existing polling places.
- Finance – Manager Callen reported that he has spoken with Annette Lherbier with regard to being Borough Treasurer; she is considering it and will get back to him with a decision; for the next Council meeting.

Lengthy discussion on determining the appropriate 2013 tax millage to avoid exceeding a 105% windfall (also, refer to Judge Wettick's order; provided at last Council meeting). After consideration of several options/calculations, it was suggested that two separate motions be adopted: First, at approx. 100% would be 5.4 General and 1.35 Road, and a Second Motion, at approx. 105%, at 5.67 General and 1.42 Road.

- Public Safety – Mr. Phillips advised that with the accumulation of snow along the curbs, it has worsened the parking problem on West Crafton Avenue; forcing the parked cars to pull

even further into the driving lanes. Mr. Johnston advised that this will be discussed and considered at the upcoming Ordinance meeting

- Ordinance/Planning – Mr. Johnston advised that the Ordinance Office is dealing with some private property issues and parking in Alley H. There continues to be issues in Franklin Alley; icing the alley and sidewalk, due to underground spring water. There may be some liability issues and/or private property owner issues, and needs to be addressed with the property owner.
- Parks/Recreation – The Park Study Committee met prior to the Council meeting and unanimously approved the final Draft of the Plan for Council’s consideration; afterwhich, it will be provided to the DCN for approval. A Forest Stewardship Plan is still pending approval.
- Public Works – The proposed 2013 Road paving program (\$240,000.) was discussed, considering the four locations submitted and detailed in the Paving plan; being Noble, Woodlawn, S. Linwood and Hawthorne for approx. \$190,000. It was confirmed that the Noble work is to include the apron area at the bridge. A motion to be added to the Agenda to authorize Gateway Engineers to proceed on preparing specs for bid.

It was noted that the salt pad has been completed and can be used for the storage of excess salt; however, it has not yet been needed.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Post*) to hire Barbara Berkhouse, retroactive to January 1, 2013, for the position of part-time Police Secretary in accordance with Resolution No. 2012-18.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Johnston*) to authorize membership renewal in PELRAS (Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service) at an annual membership fee of \$450.00

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

BUDGET AND FINANCE

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Phillips*) to Adopt Ordinance No.1614 of the Borough of Crafton fixing the Tax Rates on Real Property for the 2013 Fiscal Year at 5.4 mills for General Fund purposes and 1.35 mills for the Special Road Improvement Tax Levy. This shall set a millage rate for the 2013 fiscal year based upon 100% of tax revenues received for the 2012 fiscal year.

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

2. MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Johnston*) to amend Ordinance No. 1614 of the Borough of Crafton fixing the 2013 Tax Rates on Real Property for Real Property at 5.67 mills for General Fund purposes and 1.42 mills for the Special Road Improvement Tax Levy. This separate vote is to comply with the anti-windfall provision of the 2nd Class County Code,

whereby the tax millage rate for the fiscal year following a County-wide reassessment are set at a level where revenues are not to exceed 105% of the tax revenue received for 2012.

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

3. MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Post*) to amend Ordinance No. 1614 of the Borough of Crafton to establish an Escrow Account for the excess 2013 taxes levied over 100% of the 2012 Tax Revenues, with the understanding that any all amounts levied greater than 105% of 2012 tax revenues are to be refunded.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Phillips*) to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare specifications for bidding the Clearview Sewer Project - Phase II.

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

PLANNING/ZONING

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/O’Connell*) to re-appoint Douglas Clark to the Crafton Borough Building Appeals Board, for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Post*) to accept the recommendation of the Recreation and Park Study Committee for Council to accept the Parks and Recreation Development Plan for implementation.

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

PUBLIC WORKS (Added):

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O’Connell/Johnston*) to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare specifications for the 2013 Road Paving Program.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/Phillips*) that this meeting be adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary