

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of August 12, 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. Phillips. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded seven (7 + 1) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Hayes, Mr. Johnston, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. O'Connell, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Post and Ms. Weitzel; Mr. Stewart arrived at 7:50pm. (*Absent: Stacy*) Also present were Mayor Bloom, Manager Callen, Director Beechey, and Solicitor Daley.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Weitzel reported that an Executive Session of Council was held prior to the meeting to discuss litigation and personnel matters; no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Post*), to approve the August 12, 2013 List of Bills.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Post*), to approve the June 26, 2013, July 8, 2013 and July 22, 2013 Meeting Minutes.

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

CITIZENS PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ken Arbuckle, 59 Maplewood – Noted a Culvert issue at his property and a damaged guide rail issue Letter provided to Council describing these problems – matter was deferred to Public Works and Manager to review.

Steve Palchowski – Reported no Friday night Movies in the Park until August 30th; taking the next two weeks off.

David W. LaSota, John Street – Request that the Borough does not act on vacating the portion of John Street for various reasons, such as: Is a public access, stairs for public use and weeds, etc. cut back by Public Works, public safety reasons, it is a utility right-of-way, would create a non-conforming lot size for an R-1 District, permanent improvements have been installed into the paper street (asphalted area) and Borough plows snow into that right-of-way area during snow plowing/maintenance of John Street. He provided written statements from many persons that use this as a public access.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Daley reviewed his opinion on the John Street matter. History: April 15, 2013, letter from

Suchma's Attorney advising of intent to file a complaint with the Courts to enforce borough ordinances. June 13, 2013, Suchma's Attorney correspondence petitioning for a vacation of the paper street portion of John Street; requesting Borough hearing to vacate the street. July 9, 2013, Solicitor Daley correspondence to Suchma Attorney, advising that the paper street has never been accepted, maintained, etc. or used for public purpose. Borough's position that there are no Borough of Crafton or Public rights to vacate, and paper street is subject to the private rights of others owning lots where the paper street is laid out. Further, Borough's position that a hearing is not necessary in this matter; Borough asserts no right in and to the paper street. Suchma Attorney follow up to the July 9th letter, requesting the Borough adopt a resolution setting forth the language in the July 9th letter. Again, the Borough has taken the position that it has no right to the paper street, and therefore, cannot vacate same; and not act at all on the request to vacate the street.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weitzel reported that work will begin soon at the elementary school. Manager Callen is scheduling a meeting with the school Superintendent to review the tax lien matter on 37 White Avenue and discounted rates for permits being that they are a public entity.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Callen referred Council to his written report (copy attached) Mr. Phillips – Noble Avenue PAWC project needs Flagmen. Mayor Bloom – Reported that the speed hump sign is missing on Backbone at one location, and both speed humps need painted yellow. Mr. Johnston inquired on the fix of the sinkhole on Noble; Manager Callen reported that a temporary fix was done; filled it in with gravel and paved over it. Mr. Johnston expressed concerns that this needs further attention; cause and permanent fix. Mr. Johnston also inquired on the status of Verizon street repair/West Crafton Avenue cracked section; Director Beechey advised that Verizon is suppose to repair that area this week.

(Note: Councilman Stewart entered the meeting at this time; 7:50 pm)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Administration**
 - a. **Community Service Awards** – Ceremony set for October 23rd, Deadline for Nominations September 25th. Application will be placed on the borough website or stop by the Borough Office.
- **Recreation**
 - a. Ms. Post and Director Beechey noted that several plans are in the works, but need more discussion. They should have something for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Manager Callen reported that he had received correspondence from Gateway Engineers: Crafton is 99.7% compliant with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency relative to inspections and CCTV of our sewer lines, as required by the Consent Order, with the exception of one area – Emerson Street. The line goes through the backyard of a property and needs a manhole connection; property owner does not want a manhole in their yard. This needs to be resolved by the end of this year.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Phillips*) to purchase a printer for Council members use in the Council Conference Room, with such printer cost not to exceed \$225.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

~~**MOTION:** Motion to enter into a no cost Agreement with Turnkey to beta test software using Crafton Borough tax collection receipts and to measure proper collections and identify delinquencies for tax collector follow-up. ***TABLED; Agreement not available at this time.***~~

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Post*) to contract with V-Machines to conduct training for Council Members/Mayor on the recently acquired tablets at a cost of \$275. **COMMENT:** Manager Callen requested all Council Tablets be turned-in to him after the meeting for programming in preparation of the training session.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Johnston/Phillips*) to enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department to equally share in the paving, sealing and/or striping of the parking lot behind the Borough Building. **COMMENT:** This would be a 50/50 split on the cost.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Johnston*) to approve Payment #1 to A. Merante Contracting in the amount of \$90,357.70 for the Clearview Avenue Sewer/Road Construction Phase II project for the period June 24, 2013 through July 26, 2013, and as reviewed and certified by Gateway Engineers.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Post*) to approve Payment #5 and Final Payment to Roto Rooter in the amount of \$25,107.27 for the Sanitary Sewer Point Repair Project completed from March 26, 2013 to July 16, 2013 and a reviewed and certified by Gateway Engineers.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*O'Connell/Post*) to authorize the Borough Manager to reject all bids received and to rebid the Salt Storage Shed Project.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

David W. LaSota - Additional items: Inquired on the status of his Right to Know Request/response -- Manager will be complying within the required 30 day period; and should be provided within the next

10 days or so. July 11, 2011 complaint regarding Code Violations at property adjacent to his parents home on John Street; they were told they could not be addressed by Code Enforcement due to a pending lawsuit. Mr. Johnson confirmed that he has spoken with the Code Enforcement Officer and this is incorrect; that all violations will be enforced, no matter who is in violation. Lastly, on April 24, 2012 a Tree Permit application was submitted; no one has followed up on this permit. Manager Callen requested that a copy be provided to him and he will follow up with the Shade Tree Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (8-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary

Manager's Report-August 12, 2013

Clearview Phase 2: Clearview Avenue Storm/Road Improvements continues and scheduled to be completed by mid-late August. Recent rainy weather has delayed the end date on this project.

We have received over \$100,000 from the PaDEP Growing Greener grant to be applied toward the Clearview Avenue Storm Sewer/Road Phase II project.

Noble Ave. Improvements: PAWC is currently replacing its waterline on Noble, from Cross to East Steuben. It is expected that this PAWC work will continue through all of August. TA Robinson will move in thereafter to reconstruction this section of Noble. Area residents will be notified in advance when the road work will occur.

Demolition 1513 Barr Avenue.

- **1513 Barr Ave.** demolition remains 'on hold' until ACDD signs its agreement with HUD, from which the funds are made available to demolish this structure.

Demolition of 227 W. Steuben and 1656 Crafton Blvd.

- Demolition Bid Opening for **227 W. Steuben** and 1656 Crafton Boulevard was held on July 15. 227 W. Steuben will commence once we have the required insurance and bonds submitted by Continental Construction. Company is completing work in another community at present.

Salt Shed Project.

- Bid opening was 8/6; only 1 bid submitted and far exceeded estimate costs. We have an action item to reject this bid and re-advertise 8/14 and 8/21 with bid opening 9/3, and Council award 9/9.

2012 Audit

- Hosak, Specht, Muetzel & Wood completed our 2012 financial audit. Solicitor submitted his required statement to auditors. We anticipate a Draft Report within the next few weeks for review.

Catch Basin Inlet Reconstruction

- This project advertised 8/14 and 8/21 with a 9/3 bid opening for 9/9 council action to award.

(over)

Contract Review/Negotiate/Refine:

- Following contracts/documents are due to expire and/or undergoing review for re-negotiation/bidding or refined:
 - Refuse Hauling
 - Comcast Cable Franchise (expires in 2014)
 - District Magistrate Space Lease
 - Public Works Labor Agreement (expires 4/14/14)
 - Final Draft of Police Labor Agreement
 - Janitorial Services
 - Employee Handbook & Policies

Out of Office Scheduled Meetings/Initiatives:

- August 15: 11am – 1pm: LGA-Duq Light Act 129 Rebates-Northside
- August 16: 11:30am – ½ Personal Day
- August 20: 11:30am – 1:30pm South Hills Municipal Managers-Bethel
- August 26: 1:30pm – 4:30pm Blight Busters Mtg.-SVCOH Homestead