

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of August 25, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

President Hayes called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute led by Ms. Amendola. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Amendola, Mr. O’Brien, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Weitzel and Mr. Hayes. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Engineer Minsterman, Director Kaczorowski and Solicitor Ayoob. (*Absent: Ms. Post*)

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*F.Amendola/Phillips*) to approve the Bill List dated August 25, 2014.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0), with exception noted by Mr. O’Brien (#400.11).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 11, 2014 – Not Available

CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

John Richnavsky, 92 Noble Avenue business – Inquired on the status of 96 Noble Avenue-Calabrese Printing building (condemned structure); adding that this property is an eyesore, is several years delinquent in payment of real estate taxes, liened, and has two junk vehicles, with expired registrations, parked in front of the building-*provided photographs*. Mr. Hayes advised that the Building Inspector has been involved; Council will look into this matter. Also, noted that surface repairs are needed to the rear alley of 190 Noble (Prince Alley).

John Lauritz, 75 W. Steuben Street – Reported of excessive noise and clanking coming from a manhole cover on W. Steuben; that it’s been worked on several times with some relief, but then the same problem occurs. Mr. Kaczorowski advised that the casting is cracked and unstable, and it will need to be replaced. It was noted that even though this is a State highway (Truck Route), the Borough is still responsible for the sewer system (manholes, inlets, etc.).

Andrea Marquis, 38 Marion Street – Inquired if there had been any decisions made with regard to creating a community garden and a location. President Hayes advised that with the many recent changes in borough management, and the many pending issues and projects, the community garden hasn’t had Council’s immediate attention. He would ask that the Interim Manager review this item and follow-up with her.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (July 2014):

~~Treasurer’s Reports~~, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, ~~Ordinance Officer’s Report~~, REMS Report, ~~CVFD Report~~ and Engineer’s Report. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Amendola asked if the Building Inspector provides a written report. Mrs. Tremblay stated no, but BIU’s monthly invoice lists all of their permit and inspection activity; which could be provided to Council. MOTION moved and seconded (*F.Amendola/Phillips*) carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (6-0).

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Bloom advised that the department would like to purchase three new cameras for the police cars, under Budget line #410.74-Capital Outlay. There are available funds under that line item, as well as #410.26 and #410.76. The current equipment is outdated, and one camera isn’t working at

all. Through the State Co-Stars contract, he has a price, with the extended warranty, of \$25,850. It was noted that although there are funds in the budget for this purchase, it should still come before Council for their information and prior approval.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman reported that the Clearview Avenue project essentially complete; with punchlist items, and evaluating some drainage issues on Harris. 2014 Road Program is complete; will walk the site with Public Works director for any punchlist items. Mayor Bloom inquired on the curbing issue on Harris; Engineer stated that this is part of the issues being reviewed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

A written report was provided. Ms. Grass commented the budget process; Dates/Times discussed. Approved Dates: Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, and if necessary, Dec. 1, at 6:30pm; adopt the proposed budget on Nov. 17th, available for public inspection and adopt the final budget on Dec. 8th. Ms. Grass noted that the department heads will be given worksheets for their input, but only approx. 20% of the budget is discretionary. She also addressed the garbage contract item. The RFP is being prepared, with options to exclude some allies. It should be ready to advertise by Sept. 18th, with bid opening on October 20th and award a contract by Nov. 10th.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE/DISCUSSION

- **Budget Review/Meetings** – Discussed under Manager's report.
- **Stop Sign(s) Request** – Discussion on three locations; qualifying requirements and if certified by Engineer, Police Dept, or professional Traffic Study. Site issues exist at all three locations, but the Engineer agrees with all but one location. It was decided that the third location, Crafton Blvd. at McCormick, will need to be addressed with the property owner; possibly tree or plant growth removal is necessary – which is by ordinance.
- **Pick-up Truck Purchase-2014** - Mr. Kaczorowski advised that he would not be purchasing the leaf vac this year, as originally budgeted (#430.742 Capital Outlay-Equipment) \$38,000., as he would like to look into this for 2015 and possibly obtain a DEP grant. He would prefer to purchase a pick-up truck this year, for several reasons: Ease to load some equipment into the pickup truck rather than the dump truck, can be used safely on allies, short trips to pickup materials and supplies, and can be fitted for plowing and salting. Also, possibly look at a natural gas truck.

Ms. Amendola inquired on the process in responding to e-mails received from residents. It was noted that their concerns should be forwarded to the Manager, Mayor or appropriate person for review and handling. Council should limit any response to the resident that their e-mail have been forwarded on to the appropriate person to handle and follow-up on.

BUSINESS AGENDA: **ADMINISTRATION**

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Weitzel/O'Brien*) to authorize the Borough Manager to submit a pre-application for the CDBG Yr. 41 Grant Program, for the demolition of three blighted/abandoned properties, being 78 Fountain Street, 25 Sycamore Street and 27 Lincoln Street. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Amendola inquired on the three locations; Mrs. Tremblay noted that the Ordinance Enforcement Officer has been investigating these properties, and has

determined that they are abandoned, no owner mailing addresses, tax delinquent, and structurally uninhabitable. Solicitor Ayoob explained that legal courses of action necessary, and lastly, that a court order is needed to demolish any structure.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Weitzel/N.Amendola*) to prepare RFP for a curbside garbage and recycle collection contract. **COMMENTS:** Curbside is referred to whether front curb or alley; it’s all curbside pickup.

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

FINANCE

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Weitzel/N.Amendola*) to approve the 2015 Budget Meeting schedule, public inspection and adoption dates. (See Manager Report)

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

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/F.Amendola*) to approve the rock salt contract with Cargil, Inc. in accordance with the SHACOG Joint Purchasing bid award, at a price of \$79.29 per ton through the initial term ending on June 30, 2015, with an option to extend the contract for a period of up to three (3) additional option years (until June 30, 2018), and authorize the proper borough official to execute the required documents.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Weitzel/Phillips*) to approve the Gateway Engineers Work Authorization request, for the 13 Union Avenue Demolition project, for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*F.Amendola/O’Brien*) to approve payment to SHACOG for the Joint O & M Point Repair-Yr. 3 project, in the amount of \$5,610.12, as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

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

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Weitzel*) to approve Payment No. 1, in the amount of \$240,706.32, to T.A. Robinson Asphalt Paving, Inc. for the 2014 Road Paving Project. **COMMENTS:** This was for the paving of Woodlawn and Crafton Blvd, and some inlet work; the balance due on this contract is 5% retainage pending final inspection.

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

PARKS & RECREATION

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Weitzel/N.Amendola*) to approve the Doggie Paddle fundraiser event to be held at Crafton Pool on Saturday, September 6, 2014; sponsored by the Pool Together Committee. **COMMENTS:** Cost \$10., starts at 11:30am.

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

MOTION (Added)

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/F.Amendola*) to authorize the purchase of three new high definition mobile digital recorders from Watch Guard, through the State Co-Stars program, and as set forth in the 2014 Budget, for an amount not to exceed \$25,850. **COMMENTS:** It was noted that if the two cameras have any resale value, they will attempt to sell them. Ms. Weitzel asked that Council be provided additional information on the purchase of the in-car cameras.

MOTION carried by a Five Yes, One No (*Weitzel*) Roll Call Vote.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marie Burcham, McCormick Street – Ms. Burcham asked that the stop sign on Crafton Blvd. at McCormick be reconsidered or a temporary sign posted.

Phil Lavasseur, 401 Clearview Avenue – Mr. Lavasseur noted that he had a video of drainage issues on Harris and Clearview during a rain event; grading issues and inlets not being very effectively installed. The Engineer noted that Harris was not a high priority street in the pavement management program.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*N.Amendola/Weitzel*) to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary