

**BOROUGH OF CRAFTON
COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of September 25, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

President Amendola called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council of September 25, 2017, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Glaser.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Seven (7) Members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Perry, Mr. Levasseur and Ms. Amendola. Also present Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys, Engineer Strunk, Public Works Director Kaczorowski and Manager Scott.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated September 25, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #1 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O'Brien*) to approve the Minutes for the September 11, 2017 Meeting as presented.

MOTION #2 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items Only:

Charlene Krenke, 800 Clearview Avenue, spoke before Council regarding the Service Line Utility Insurance Program and their Fall Letter slated to be mailed out to residents. Ms. Krenke doesn't believe Council should be recommending or suggesting anyone business and is not in favor of this letter being sent out to residents.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (AUGUST 2017)

Council acknowledged receipt of the following Monthly Reports; Financial Report, Treasurer's Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection, Police Report, NW EMS Report, Ordinance Officer Report, Building Inspection Report, Engineer's Report, Public Works Report, Fire Department Report and the Library Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor had nothing new to report to Council.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Strunk noted the monthly Engineers Report has been submitted to Council for review.

Mr. Strunk noted the 2017 Road Paving Program is well underway, milling and paving work, about half of the roads have been completed. Doing our best not to inconvenience the residents, it can be a frustrating time during paving.

Mr. Strunk noted he has spoken with the Contractor regarding the intersection of Harris and Clearview, his recommendation is to leave as is. Due to the grade of Harris, he has concerns milling and repaving the area would result in the same problem, and he is not willing to take on the liability. He suggested residents need to slow down and make a wide turn when coming off of Harris.

Mr. Amendola noted a similar situation on Steuben Street, when traveling W. Crafton Avenue vehicles were scraping, and PENNDOT completed the paving on Steuben.

The Mayor noted, typically vehicles that scrap are ones with larger areas in the rear axle, such as school buses or garbage trucks. Vehicles obeying the speed limit and road conditions, making a wider turn, should not have any problems.

Ms. Glaser inquired will the contractor extend the paving out to where the new handicap ramps are located when paving Bradford even though they are brick streets. Noting, going from Creighton Avenue onto Noble, where the handicap ramps are located, she does not believe a handicap person could utilize those ramps safely, they didn't go into the intersection. Mr. Strunk noted that the contractor will be going into the intersection, past the ADA ramps, which will require the removal of some of the bricks.

The next three items on the Agenda, Crafton Park Improvements (Rain Garden), Demolition Project and Manhole Rehabilitation Project, we are waiting on the contracts to be signed. Once completed and distributed, a pre-construction meeting can be scheduled.

Mr. Strunk noted in regard to the sewer repair contracts, they are all wrapping up; Spot Lining is completed, Manhole to Manhole lining project is near completion, and Preventative Maintenance completed. The excavation contractor has a few repairs remaining.

Splash Pool Maintenance, Mr. Strunk noted the letter to the Bonding Company was sent on August 23, 2017, no response as of this date.

Mr. Strunk noted in regard to the Green Light Go Program, Mike Haberman from Gateway, Phil and Rob met to view each of the intersections and signals, Mike will come up with recommendations for repairs within the established budget for the grant application.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to authorize pay estimate No. 1 and Final, Joint Lining Project, Year 11 (Contract A) in the amount of \$29,179.25, payable to SHACOG, as recommended by the Engineer and included in the 2017 Sewer Fund budget.

MOTION #3 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to authorize pay estimate No. 1, CCTV Inspection and Cleaning Project, Year 7 in the amount of \$20,169.62, payable to SHACOG as recommended by the Engineer and included in the 2017 Sewer Fund budget.

MOTION #4 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to authorize pay estimate No. 1 to El Grande Industries in the amount of \$16,304.63 as recommended by the Engineer and included in the 2017 Road Fund budget.

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Gladys noted he has reviewed the draft revised letter received from Service Line Utility, along with the statistical information. There appears to be about 72 residents who have signed up for various levels of warranty protection, with 12 warranty claims submitted with no indication of any problems or issues once a claim has been filed.

Solicitor Gladys noted there appears to be a little confusion in Paragraph 3 and asked the Manager to contact Service Line Utility for clarification. Ms. Amendola noted it does not flow well with the rest of the letter. Ms. Perry stated we have come a long way from the first letter that went to the residents including the Borough NOT signing the letter this round. She also noted the Borough is under contract with Service Line Utilities. The Borough believes offering this service to our residents is important, especially when it comes to infrastructure. This does support the overall health of Borough capital investment.

Solicitor Gladys mentioned that his office will be contacting the Bonding Company regarding the Splash Pool this week and will report at the next meeting the status. He noted, the cost of litigation versus the cost of the actual claim, it is worth the Borough's patience trying to work this out with the bonding company.

Mr. O'Brien suggested the Borough obtain an estimate for the repairs to be completed, so we are aware of the costs involved and perhaps we could submit to the bonding company. Engineer Strunk agreed it may be a good idea to get an estimate.

Ms. Amendola recommended we wait until after the Solicitor has an opportunity to contact the bonding company for a status update on our claim. At the next meeting decide upon obtaining an estimate for repairs.

BUSINESS AGENDA***INSPECTION & ZONING***

Ms. Amendola noted, the item on the Agenda was discussion on Vacant and Abandoned Property Listing updated and provided to Council by the Code Officer.

Mr. Kaczorowski stated he has taken the Vacant and Abandoned Property listing of the prior Code Officer and merged it with the top ten listing he had previously provided to Council. Overall there are approximately 75 homes listed, the majority of the properties have been sold and renovated with no code violations. There are several properties that have code violations (high grass, debris) notifications have been sent out, and approximately 10 to 12 that are in poor condition. He continued to discuss his overall approach to code enforcement, sending out violations, follow up, etc.

Ms. Perry noted the List provided to Council is an updated older listing. We have not taken the opportunity to survey the Borough to locate new properties that may fall into this vacant and abandoned category. She continued, there are three homes on Baldwick, the street she lives on, that fall in this category, however, on the listing there are only two properties.

Mr. Levasseur suggested if the Borough pushes Jordan Tax Service to provide a listing of residential homes with no water consumption, we would be able to prepare a map, and locate the abandoned and vacant homes. Perhaps map a trend of homes. Council continued to discuss sources to obtain a listing of vacant or abandoned properties.

Mr. O'Brien stated he believes this is a good listing to get started to address the vacant and abandoned homes in Crafton. Whether there are 5 homes on the listing or 100, it's a good start in the identification process. Once these homes have been addressed, it will show the Community that Council is serious about eliminating blight in the Community. He suggested that we utilize the current listing, identify the top ten blighted properties, and move forward with legal acquisition, demolition, whatever is possible to remove the blight.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted, if Council or a resident are aware of any property in the Community that is blighted or beginning to become blighted, to contact the Borough offices. He will visit the property, send out the necessary violation notices and begin keeping record of the problems.

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to adopted Resolution No. 2017-10 regarding the 2018 MMO as required by Act 205, Police Pension - \$17,894; and Non-Uniform - \$43,930.

MOTION #6 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Ewing Road Repairs

Engineer Strunk stated, as requested by Council, Gateway Engineers went out and looked at the estimate for Ewing Road, trying to find alternatives to reduce the cost of repairs. He stated if the installation of the retaining wall was completed by the Public Works Department, only requiring the Borough to purchase the materials, it would save approximately \$52,000 from the total cost. Council could also consider phasing the work completed on the project over a three year period.

Ms. Perry suggested this matter should be discussed at one of the upcoming budget meetings. Some of the monies would need to come out of the paving program.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the work completed by PA American affected this area of Ewing Road. Mr. Kaczorowski responded, the waterline replacement was up to the closed portion of the roadway. Mr. Levasseur agreed this should be discussed at budget session. He believes Council needs to discuss other projects that need completed, and may consider long term financing, Ewing Road is a project that could be included.

2. Curbs, Gutters and Cart Ways – Continued Discussion from the meeting of September 11, 2017

Mr. Levasseur stated the Borough Code is ambiguous on who owns and maintains the curbs. He believes it can be conflicting to residents who are under the impression, they pay their road taxes, which they believed included the curbs.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted, he spoke with ten of the surrounding communities, only one community maintains the curbs. He noted, the Borough replaces and/or repairs curbs only when a total reconstruction of the roadway, example Walnut Street. With 32 miles of roadways, the cost to repair or replace all of the curbs would be significant. It would also require setting up priorities, which curbs would be repaired and which would be replaced.

The discussion continued on the matter. Ms. Amendola noted, no decision would be made tonight on the matter, the discussion will need to continue.

Mr. O'Brien attended the Char West COG Board Meeting this month. He noted that every Community is dealing with the same types of issues, how to do the most for the Community within the Budget. He reviewed some of the topics discussed at the meetings and noted printed materials were available. If anyone would like a copy please let him know.

Ms. Scott announced the Boroughs of Crafton and Ingram are moving forward with the Emergency Resident Notification System. The contract and other documentation has been submitted to Nixle, and we are ready to begin the first training session.

She had submitted a grant application through the Local Government Academy for \$10,000 to cover the cost of the system for two years, and printing and mailing a Community

Newsletter to residents of both Communities. Ms. Scott announced, Crafton and Ingram were awarded \$10,000 total for this project.

The newsletter will provide information to residents on how to register for the Emergency Notification System, email, voicemail or text messaging.

The Nixle System will allow notifications to be sent out for Public Safety matters to both Communities, if applicable; neighborhoods regarding Community matters (road paving or a water main break), or to just one Community, local special events. More information will be available on the Crafton and Ingram websites.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Scotta made the following announcements;

- i. *BOOKTOBERFEST* – Saturday, September 30, 2017
2:00 pm to 7:00 pm – Crafton Park
Tickets available at the Library or at www.craftonpubliclibrary.com
- ii. *RABIES CLINIC* – Sunday, October 1, 2017 Crafton Fire Department
10 am to 3 pm (Vaccinations, Micro Chip & More)!!! (Flyer in back)
- iii. *RECYCLE EVENT* – Hard to Recycle Collection Event
Saturday, October 7, 2017 – 9 am to 1 pm
Cell phones, computer towers, microwaves, DVD players (FREE)
Small Freon Appliances, Printers, Tires (FEE Charged) (Flyer in back)
- iv. *BLOOD DRIVE* – American Red Cross and Crafton/Ingram Rotary
Monday, October 9, 2017 – Noon to 5:00 pm – Community Room
Benefits victims of Hurricane Harvey and Irma
- v. *BUDGET MEETINGS* – 6:30 pm – Council Chambers
10/16, 10/30; 11/6, 11/8 & 11/15/2017

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Amendola noted that no one signed up to speak on any other matters before Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

MOTION #7 was carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott, Borough Manager