

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of October 24, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

President Amendola called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council to Order, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute led by Ms. Damits.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Damits, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry and Ms. Amendola. Absent was Ms. Glaser. Also present Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys, Engineer Strunk, Public Works Director Kaczorowski and Manager Scott.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to approve the Bill List dated October 24, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #1 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (6-0).

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated October 10, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #2 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

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

Ms. Amendola noted there were no residents that have signed up to address Council regarding matters on the Agenda.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (September 2016)

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted the use of Narcan by the Crafton Police Department continues to increase. He noted last week alone, it was utilized three (3) times successfully. It is in every Community across the County, the Heroin epidemic continues to increase. The Crafton Police and Northwest EMS have completed the training, and will continue to administer the Narcan when necessary.

The Mayor announced the DARE Program has been cancelled for the 2016/2017 School Year at Crafton Elementary and St. Philip School. He noted Pennsylvania no longer offers training to Police Departments, officers are forced to attend training in Ohio.

Ms. Perry noted while attending a workshop at Seven Springs training, they provided the following; the largest increase in drug addiction is from prescription pills, opiates and other pain relievers. She supports and values continued education in schools to every student.

The Mayor noted, it seems the biggest problem with the DARE program and the School District is fitting it into the schedules of these kids. When the Officer goes to the school to present DARE, the kids are taken from their regular classes to attend. Mayor Bloom plans on meeting with the Superintendent of the Schools to discuss bringing the program back for the 2017/2018 school year.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if Mayor Bloom could possibly enlist the assistance of the Mayor of Carnegie to get their support of the Program with the Schools. Mayor Bloom stated, he will have Chief Sumpter speak with the Chief of Carnegie to see where their staff is on DARE, if anyone is certified, and perhaps share the responsibility.

Ms. Amendola asked the Mayor if we could include the number of times Narcan is utilized by the Police on the monthly report. Mayor stated he will request this information to be included starting next month. Ms. Perry noted, according the monthly Report, the number of drug calls responded to by the Police Department, doesn't reflect an increase in drug use in the Community. She inquired as to how the number of drug calls or arrests are displayed in the monthly report. The Mayor noted there is more information on the Northwest Monthly Report. Ms. Perry noted, she would like to see the Police Report reflect each month, the number of drug related calls and incidents answered, it will allow for greater understanding of the existing drug problem in the Community.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if Crafton Borough is getting the support of the Allegheny County Drug Task Force. The Mayor responded that indeed the Police participate in the County Task Force and they fully support the Community.

Mr. O'Brien inquired how we can get information out to our residents on this critical matter. The Mayor noted, it's a problem that faces every Community, across the County. Local, State and Federal Governments and Schools all realize the importance of Drug Education and knowledge.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Strunk noted Gateway is preparing for the 2017 Budget including O&M Preventive Maintenance, Defect repair and CCTV. He noted regarding the 2016 O&M Plan, there is an estimate for CCTV Inspection Contract, Year 6, and Preventative Maintenance Contract, Estimate 1 and final on the Agenda for approval.

Regarding, CDBG funding for Handicap Ramps along Foster Avenue, bid opening is scheduled for November, more than likely work won't begin until 2017.

Mr. Strunk noted that the Duncan Avenue pipe bursting sewer repair project, the contractor provided notification, work will begin on November 6, 2016, beginning with the removal of the tree.

The last item on the Agenda is in reference to paving of Chartiers Avenue in cooperation with the City of Pittsburgh. Mr. Strunk noted that Council has discussed this matter and agreed to move forward with an agreement.

Ms. Amendola noted, she would like to move to the Public Works portion under the Business Agenda since the Engineer discussed the items for consideration.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to authorize payment for Preventative Maintenance CCTV Inspection, Estimate No. 2 and Final in the amount of \$3,8649.55 payable to SHACOG, as recommended by the Engineer.

MOTION #3 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Levasseur*) to authorize payment for O&M Maintenance, Estimate No. 1 and Final plus administrative costs in the amount of \$20,407.63 payable to SHACOG, as recommended by the Engineer.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if this was the final payment for Operations and Maintenance of the sewers. Mr. Strunk explained this is the final payment for 2016 for this contract, however, operations and maintenances of the sewers is an on-going project, as required by the Consent Order.

MOTION #4 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Levasseur*) to enter into an Agreement with the City of Pittsburgh for the paving of Chartiers Avenue (3,128 sy) for a cost not to exceed \$51,000 between Bell and Fountain Avenue in Crafton.

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (6-0).

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Gladys noted, regarding 25-27 Sycamore Street, a Settlement Agreement has been signed and motion filed for a Lien, for damages, costs and attorney fees. In other words, the matter is settled, Council needs to decide if they have the funding available to remove the structure. He explained, the Borough doesn't own the property, just the right to demolish the existing unsafe structure.

Solicitor Gladys noted 78 Fountain, the Borough has been attempting to remove the hazardous structure on the property; a pre-trial conference was held last week, the owner demonstrated no intention of removing the hazardous structure. A trial date has been scheduled for December 2, 2016, his office plans on attending.

The last item on the Agenda are the proposed ordinances that were presented for review at the last Council Meeting, some from Carnegie, and others from Pottsville, PA. He is still reviewing, however, the executive summaries of the ordinances, he has found the following; These ordinances will involve much more record keeping to be completed by the Borough; Portions of the ordinances are vague in areas while others sections may be unconstitutional or subject to a constitutional challenge, which could increase litigations for the Borough; and in his opinion an overlap of duties between the Code Enforcement, Building Inspector and Police Department. Solicitor Gladys will prepare draft Ordinances to streamline communication and simplify. He requested Council to begin thinking of their priorities and as we get into these ordinances closer, we can address these priorities. There are four sections to the Ordinance; Vacant Housing, Disorderly Homes, Housing and Property Maintenance.

Ms. Perry inquired if it would be easier to identify these priorities and incorporate the sections of the ordinance relative, thereby, eliminating any sections that do not pertain. Solicitor Gladys noted, if Council had the time required to review and discuss priorities, it could be prudent to prepare such an outline and then the ordinances. However, he notes these ordinances may be modified, and believes it would be in the best interest to prepare a draft ordinance and discuss with Council, incorporating their priorities.

Mr. Amendola inquired if we could possibly break the ordinance into sections or adopting separate ordinances? Currently, the Mayor has brought his concerns before Council regarding disorderly homes in the Community. He noted that the Comprehensive Plan Committee is addressing Blight, Council may wish to complete this section of the Ordinance after the Plan is adopted.

Mr. Levasseur noted that he spoke with Elaine Kramer of Pashek and Associates, the firm working on the Comprehensive Plan, regarding these types of Ordinances that are pertinent to the Plan and the two Communities. He believes we need to provide the Ordinance Officer and Police Department the tools to implement these and similar ordinances, including GIS based system.

Ms. Perry suggested that since it seems that everyone is in agreement at this time, that the highest priority is to address disorderly houses in the Borough, that perhaps we concentrate our efforts on this portion of the ordinance now.

Mr. Levasseur noted he would like to make sure the Police and Code Enforcement Officer have means to track these types of homes and information. It is important to the Community, Council, Planning Commission, each and every Department, a source of sharing and tracking information.

BUSINESS AGENDA

FINANCE

Ms. Amendola noted the next Budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm. If needed the next meeting will Wednesday, November 9 and November 16, 2016.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Ms. Amendola noted there are two Steering Committee Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Crafton Borough to discuss Commercial Development and Connectivity and on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Ingram Borough to discuss Blight.

Mr. Levasseur wanted to mention that the newest member of the Planning Commission Ashley McCullough is in the audience and wanted to introduce her to Council. He commended her on her interest in the Community. He also acknowledged Lydia Karlheim, who is the Commission Secretary. He noted, they both are doing an excellent job serving their Community. Lydia is also a member of the Steering Committee on the Comprehensive Plan, and noted she is committed to the Plan and doing a wonderful job.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Kaczorowki, noted the steps at E. Crafton Boulevard are completed. He acknowledged the Public Works Crew and the work they did to get these and a number of the Community steps safely repaired.

He noted that Leaf Collection has started and will continue through December 1, 2016. A second leaf vac will be picked up in the next few days, noting the Borough received grant monies for the purchase of this equipment.

Ms. Perry inquired as to the posted speed limit signs on Crafton Boulevard, noting the posted speed limit is 30 mph, however, going around the bend, the speed limit is posted 20 mph. She asked if the 30 mph sign could be moved further down the roadway, so as not to confuse drivers and to reduce their speed around the bend. She noted currently the Borough has their electronic Speed Enforcement sign prior to the 30 mph sign which makes a driver more aware of their speed.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that when the Public Works Crew was working on the steps at Harris, he was surprised how fast vehicles travel down that area, and was concerned for the safety of the crew. Since they were working on the steps on Crafton Boulevard, for safety reasons, he posted the electronic sign there, it tends to lower speed limits and drivers are more alert. He noted the 20 mph sign was posted by the State, he does not have authorization to move a State sign.

Mr. Amendola noted the 20 mph sign is yellow, it is not enforceable, it is a mere suggestion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Scott noted the following announcements;

- GRIM'S MINI GOLF – Through October 30, 2016; Weekdays 6 pm to 9 pm; Saturday & Sunday – 3pm to 9 pm
- HALLOWEEN – Monday, October 31; Trick or Treating - 6 to 8 pm
- ELECTION DAY – Tuesday, November 8, 2016
- VETERANS DAY – Friday, November 11, 2016 – Borough Office Closed
- TOYS FOR TOTS – Crafton Police are collecting unwrapped toys through November 30, 2016, Drop Box located in the atrium during regular business hours. There is also a drop box in the Library.

- CHRISTIMAS IN CRAFTON – Sunday, December 11, 2016
1 pm to 6 pm – Advanced Ticket Price - \$15.00; Tickets available Borough Offices or Library

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Charlene Krenke 800 Clearview Ave

She inquired as the status of the Utility Service letter that went out, why Crafton Borough is partnering with this firm and why is still on the website.

Solicitor Gladys noted the Borough will receive revenue from Service Line Utilities, based upon the Agreement signed by the Borough and the Utility Company and the number of residents who participate. He noted the Borough had a full presentation on the matter, a few months back and took a vote to partner with the company at a public meeting.

Ms. Amendola noted resident are not obligated to purchase this service line warranty program, she wants to be sure residents have the option to consider. Ms. Scott noted the program was recommended by the National League of Cities.

Ms. Perry noted she received comments and complaints from residents as well. She believes the issue is their marketing strategy, her thoughts are the letter should be placed on their letterhead. Mr. Levasseur agreed, that was the problem. Should the Borough wish to continue, he suggested it not be on Borough letterhead in the future and no signature.

Solicitor Gladys noted under the Agreement signed, the Borough must approve every letter that goes out to the residents. Perhaps in the Spring when the next scheduled letter is prepared and ready for mailing, we discuss the matter with the Company representative. He suggested that we keep a tighter rein on the letter before it goes out.

Ms. Amendola thanked Ms. Krenke for bringing this to the attention of Council, and prior to the next mailing this matter will be discussed further with Council and Service Line Utilities.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/F. Amendola*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm.

MOTION #8 was carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager