

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of November 14, 2016
Discussion Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Ms. Amendola called to order the Discussion Meeting in the Borough of Crafton, on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 7:18 pm, 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 Five (5) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Perry, and Mr. Levasseur. Also present Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys and Manager Scott. *Note* - Mr. Amendola arrived after the Solicitor's Report.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated November 14, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #1 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Levasseur*) to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #2 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

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

Ms. Amendola noted that no Citizens signed up to speak before Council on Agenda Items only.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Gladys noted the 78 Fountain property, is still on the Trial List in Allegheny County for December 2016. He stated that most recently his office went to court on November 7, 2016 to compel a list of Discovery Responses from Mr. Sanchez; he was given 11/14/16 as the deadline. If Mr. Sanchez does not provide Discovery Responses he will face sanctions in eliminating evidence and what he can present to the Court.

Solicitor Gladys noted that he passed out a Draft Ordinance for Disorderly Houses for the Council to review. The Draft includes the following subjects: Nuisance Properties, Noise Control and Disorderly Houses. He stated that this Draft Ordinance can be refined according to what the Council chooses. He feels that the original version provided was a bit vague and that the Borough would be faced with a host of Constitutional Issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Bloom noted that on October 3, 2016, two of the Crafton Borough Police Officers, Sergeant Timothy Harvison and Sergeant Frank Scatena, received the Honorable Mention Award, submitted by the Chief of Police, for their Exceptional Work in the Line of Duty at the 16th Annual Amen Corner Senator John Heinz Law Enforcement Awards Luncheon. He noted, on July 2, 2016, during the annual Crafton Celebrates an 11 year old female was found on the playground, unresponsive with no pulse. The two Sergeants performed CPR on the young girl, First Lieutenant of the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department, Eric Gartley arrived shortly thereafter, with the proper AED and shocked the patient back in a proper heart rhythm. The Amend Corner Awards were originally setup for Police Officers only, however, has since been extended to the Fire Departments and Ambulance Services who put themselves in the Line of Duty to save lives.

Mayor Bloom noted as previously stated, the D.A.R.E. Program will no longer be offered to students at Crafton Elementary and Saint Philip School due to the cost and required training. The updated D.A.R.E. Program does not address the drug problems faced by many Communities across the County. The concentration of the program is more of Bullying, Alcohol, Tobacco Use and Decision Making.

Mayor Bloom noted that on December 5, 2016 at 6pm, State Representative Dan Deasy and Senator Wayne Fontana will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at Crafton Elementary School to address the opiate problem that is a concern for the Community and across the Country. There will be flyers available to the Community when more information has been provided on the event.

BUSINESS AGENDA***PUBLIC WORKS***

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to Award the Bid for ADA Ramps on S. Linden and Foster to Joe Palmieri Construction in the amount of \$21,160 as recommended by the Engineer.

MOTION #3 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to authorize to Adopt Resolution No. 2016-11, CDBG Year 43 2017 Handicap Ramp Project, Total Project Cost \$30,100.

MOTION #4 carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O'Brien*) to authorize payment #3 and Final Payment to Mele and Mele, in the amount of \$28,106.90 as recommended by the Engineer.

MOTION #5 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1640 Designating Rodgers Avenue as Public Easement.

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Mr. O'Brien discussed the Comprehensive Planning Meeting that was held on November 2, 2016 with four main topics: Commercial Properties, Connectivity and Walkability, Deteriorating Properties and Communications. Commercial Properties include the Crafton Ingram Shopping Center and other businesses that meet the needs of our neighborhoods. As far as Connectivity and Walkability, the Committee plans to highlight different areas throughout the Boroughs that people can travel/walk to provide walkability, such as hiking trails. They are looking for an investment not only in the people but outside sources to promote the Communities and work together on the outcome. The next Comprehensive Planning Meeting is November 17, 2016 in Ingram.

Mr. Levasseur stated that at the last meeting was attended by two guest speakers, Economic Development South and DCED. Economic Development South, a non-profit organization that is willing to assist our Plan and Communities to make available more grant monies to assist with the implementation. He noted, DCED believes our Communities are in good shape, however, both Crafton and Ingram need to promote the great resources that are offered within both Boroughs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

DISCUSSION

Ms. Scott discussed the current Thornburg Police Agreement, which is three years Agreement with an optional year; the Agreement expires at the end of 2016. Currently Thornburg has asked for an 8% overall increase over 4 years instead of 3% each year proposed. The reduction is due to some financial hardship, Council will need to decide how they would prefer to handle the request. Mr. Levasseur suggested, NO increase the first year but continuing with a 3% increase in the subsequent years; he noted it was being a good neighbor. After discussion, Council agreed zero increase in 2017 is a show of good faith.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to enter in to an Agreement with Thornburg for Police Protection Services for the years 2017-2020. Zero increase in 2017 with a 3% increase for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/ Damits*) to Approve Real Estate Tax Refunds for 2015 & 2016 as requested by Jordan Tax Services in the amount of \$8,778.61.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O'Brien*) to authorize to Advertise the Proposed 2017 Budget; General Fund, Sewer Fund and Road Fund as presented and make available for Public Inspection.

MOTION #9 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/F. Amendola*) to Authorize to Advertise the 2017 Tax Ordinance- Maintain Current Level 5.67- General Purpose and 1.92- Road Tax = Total 7.59 mills.

MOTION #10 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

ZONING & PLANNING

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to Reappoint James Schriver to the Zoning Hearing Board for a Three Year Term expiring December 31, 2019.

MOTION #11 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to appoint Evergreen Facility Services as the Cleaning Company for the Municipal Properties as per the Council discussion.

MOTION #12 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Scott noted the following upcoming Meetings/Events for Members of Council:

- Source Reduction Meeting 11/30/16-Double Tree in Green Tree at 7PM
- Allegheny County Boroughs Association Annual Dinner 12/8/16-Edgewood Country Club at 6PM
- CharWest COG Dinner 12/15/16-Crafton Community Center at 7:30 PM

- **LEAF COLLECTION-** October 15- December 1, 2016
- **SENIOR DINNER-** November 19, 2016-Community Center- 5:00PM
- **LIGHT UP NIGHT-** December 3, 2016 at Crafton Park-4:00 PM
- **GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING-** December 3, 2016
- **GOLFING WITH SANTA-** December 3, 2016
- **CRAFTON HOUSE TOUR-** December 11, 2016- 1PM to 6PM
- **TOYS FOR TOTS-** Unwrapped Toys can be dropped off in the Police Lobby Now through November 30, 2016

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BLIGHT PREVENTION PROGRAM

Council will continue to review several Ordinances regarding Disorderly Conduct and Vacant Housing. Solicitor Gladys explained the information included in the proposed Ordinance for the Borough regarding Disorderly Houses will need to have a balance of specific information so that it will be easier for Code Enforcement and Police to follow through. Mr. O'Brien inquired as to whether or not there could be a list of standards for Homeowners to abide by. Solicitor Gladys noted that standards depend on the Community, Population and Socioeconomics Factors.

LIBRARY STAFF PARKING

Since the parking lot adjacent to the Library is no longer available, a solution is needed to provide parking for the Staff of the Library. Mr. Amendola suggested designating a few parking spots on Station Street as 4 hour parking. Ms. Perry noted that the lack of parking for the Library may deter patrons from returning to the Library due to the fact that they cannot find a parking space. Mr. Levasseur stated the parking lot across street, is currently operating as a Waste Transfer Facility which is a hazard with overfilling containers. Ms. Glaser suggested that the Borough reach out to the owner of the lot and ask if he would consider providing two spots that would be designated to Library Personnel. The Mayor explained that the Fire Department is in an Agreement with the Port Authority until 2030 regarding the parking lot behind the Borough Building. Mr. Amendola suggested that Solicitor Gladys review the Agreement to see if Station Street can be posted with 4 hour parking and have the Borough Manager write a letter to the owner of the parking lot adjacent to the Library to see if some sort of agreement can be arranged.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that a discussion take place with Port Authority and Crafton Volunteer Fire Department about the parking spots prohibiting the Community from expanding, due to the lack of spaces available for local businesses. Mr. O'Brien noted that the Comprehensive Plan involves Crafton and Ingram finding ways to improve Borough services to the Residents. The plan includes highlighting the busway to emphasis the short commute to downtown Pittsburgh and the short drive to Robinson and to encourage people to move in to the Borough. Ms. Glaser stated, if we regulate parking on the roadway, it could potentially push more cars parking for the busway, to the local streets nearby.

The Borough will contact the owner of the property requesting their consideration to utilize three spaces for Library use.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

MOTION #13 it was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager