

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of November 28, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

President Amendola called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute led by Mr. O'Brien.

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

Ms. Amendola noted that an executive session was held prior to the meeting, no action was taken.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated November 28, 2016 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 accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated November 14, 2016 as presented.

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

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 (October 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 a Community Awareness, Town Hall meeting to discuss the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic, hosted by State Representative Dan Deasy and Senator Wayne Fontana has been scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2016 at Crafton Elementary School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

He noted the scheduled speakers including Attorney General's Office, Sherriff's Office, District Attorney Office, Local Magistrate, Allegheny Health and Human Services and representative from Gateway Rehabilitation. He noted if anyone is interested is disposing of unwanted or unused prescriptions, you will be able to drop them off at the meeting.

The Mayor noted just over the weekend, a young man passed away from an overdose in Crafton, left behind a wife and young children. He noted this is not just a Crafton problem, this matter is being faced by Police Departments and Communities across the Country. Mayor Bloom stated, if more people are aware of the problems and the solutions, perhaps we may be able to curb this epidemic. Again he encouraged everyone to attend.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Strunk noted the Operations and Maintenance Repairs have been completed for 2016. Preventive Maintenance Repairs Contracts; Joint Pipe Lining Project, Year 10, Estimate 1 & Final for \$41,057.90 is presented for consideration as well as Point Repair Project, Year 5, Estimate 3 & Final in the amount for \$12,136.34.

Regarding, CDBG funding for the Handicap Ramp Project along Foster Avenue, the bid opening was held in November, bids came in under budget. Mr. Strunk noted, he has spoken with CharWest COG and the Contractor, confirmed that work will begin sometime in Spring 2017.

Mr. Strunk noted that the Duncan Avenue pipe bursting sewer repair project has been completed. There were a few minor issues, all matters have been worked out, and restoration has been completed. Gateway will work on a pay estimate for next month, retaining 5% until Spring.

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. Damits inquired the reason there is a painted green line and blue line on Linwood. Mr. Kaczorowski noted it is more than likely PA American One Call, green represents sewer line and blue is for water line. These markings could be painted for any reason, he will look at the One Calls received by the Borough and inform Ms. Damits of reason tomorrow.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Gladys noted a trial date has been set for 78 Fountain for Friday, December 2, 2016. His office has been discussing the matter with the Building Inspector and with Mr. Kaczorowski. He will report back to Council at the next meeting.

Solicitor Gladys noted that he has prepared and provided copies of a rough draft Vacant House Ordinance for review and discussion at a future meeting of Council.

The last item is in reference to the parking issues at the Borough Building. He has examined the Parking Agreement between the Fire Department and the Port Authority, which refers to an easement granted by the Borough to the Port Authority along Station Street. He has not been able to locate the easement agreement, however, his office will continue to research and report back to Council.

Ms. Damits inquired if there is any updated information on 96 Noble Avenue. Solicitor Gladys noted there is no pending litigation in reference to the property at 96 Noble. He noted there are no current violations at this time.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the Borough could do anything about the delinquent taxes due on the property. Solicitor Gladys noted, typically this is a task completed by the School District, the largest taxing body. Should Council wish to pursue, however, he had concerns the amount expended on the process may be larger than the monies collected.

Ms. Perry inquired if this might be a subject the School Board and Council should meet to discuss. The Solicitor mentioned that the School Board oversees a larger taxing area, and may have other areas they are concentrated on, however, Council could certainly discuss the matter with the Board. The Solicitor noted the cost associated with a Sherriff Sale is typically between \$2,500 and \$5,000 per property. Ms. Perry noted that once the Comprehensive Plan is completed and adopted, resolution of blighted properties will need to be an item addressed in future budgets.

Ms. Amendola noted included in the 2017 Budget is \$15,000 for the demolition of blighted properties.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the solicitor could prepare a fee schedule or estimated cost for future reference for the preparation of the legal documentation required to demolish a blighted property. The Solicitor noted he will prepare something and submit for Council's review.

BUSINESS AGENDA

FINANCE

Ms. Amendola noted the proposed 2017 Budget for the General Fund, Sewer and Road Tax will be on display in the Borough Building through December 12, 2016 during regular business hours. The draft budget is also available for review on the website. Council will consider adopting the 2017 Budget at the December meeting along with 2017 Tax Rate Ordinance (noting no increase) and the 2017 Fee Schedule Resolution.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Ms. Amendola noted there were two Steering Committee Meetings held on November 2 and November 17, and asked Mr. O'Brien to provide an update.

Mr. O'Brien stated the meeting on November 17 was the final Steering Committee Meeting held at Ingram. The items discussed were Communication and Blight. In reference to communication, the Committee acknowledge the goal is to provide residents the information needed on how they may assist and/or volunteer to make the Community better. Also to provide residents information on the resources available to them. A comprehensive way to reach as many residents as possible.

The next item discussed was blight. The Boroughs need to identify a unified and consistent approach to tackle blight in the Community. Overall, Crafton and Ingram are in decent shape as far as blighted properties. Mr. O'Brien thanked the Residents and Community Leaders for their participation in the Plan, without their assistance, the Plan could not have been updated or completed. Mr. O'Brien stated the completed Plan will need to be approved by Allegheny County first, and then the Planning Commissions, before a Public Hearing can take place and Council may consider adopting.

Ms. Perry stated, her understanding Pashek would provide an overview of the Plan to Council, prior to the Plan being submitted to the County for consideration. Ms. Scott noted that she has been in contact with Jim Pashek and will more than likely be in January 2017.

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Amendola noted a copy of the Draft New Resident Welcome Bulletin was provided to Council. The Bulletin will be sent out to new residents at the time of purchase or rental of property. She inquired if any Member had any comments or suggestions.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Levasseur*) to authorize payment for Joint Lining Project – Year 10, Estimate No. 1 and Final - \$41,057.90 as recommended by the Engineer and included in the adopted budget, payable to SHACOG.

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

MOTION: – It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to authorize payment for O&M Point Repair Project – Year 5, Estimate 3 and Final - \$12,136.34 as recommended by the Engineer and included in the adopted budget, payable to SHACOG.

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

Ms. Amendola noted, Council entered into an agreement with the City of Pittsburgh regarding paving of Chartiers Avenue. Work is scheduled to begin Thursday or Friday this week, weather permitting.

Ms. Damits inquired if directional signs could be posted regarding CIT Field locations. Mr. Kaczorowski noted this would be something that could be done in Spring.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted the majority of the Public Works time has been concentrated on leaf collection. Collection is scheduled through December 1, 2016, however, with the warmer weather, this will be extended weather permitting.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the Street Sign at Mueller and Willard could be replaced with the newer, decorative street sign? Mr. Kaczorowski will check the Borough Garage stock to see if any are available.

ZONING & PLANNING

MOTION: – It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Glaser*) to reappoint Mark Viola to the Crafton Appeals Board for a three year term, expiring December 31, 2020.

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

MOTION – It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Glaser*) to approve the Preliminary and Final Subdivision Plan for 103 – 109 Noble Avenue, as recommended by the Engineer and reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.

Comments: Ms. Scott noted the proposed subdivision is actually moving of property lines, adjoining the properties for additional parking. The engineer has reviewed and recommended approval.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Scott noted the following announcements;

- December 3, 2016 – **HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS!!!**
 10 am to 12 pm – Gingerbread House Making – Community Room
 Must pre-register by December 1 – Cost is \$5.00 per child
 2 pm to 7 pm – Mini Golf with Santa at the North Hole
 Kids 12 & Under \$2 (Santa will be back Sunday, Dec. 4; 2-6 pm)
 DUSK – LIGHT UP NIGHT – Mayor Bloom will throw the switch and light up the Borough at Dusk. Enjoy hot dogs, hot chocolate, toasted marshmallows and candy canes!
- 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
- CRAFTON LIBRARY WINE AND CHEESE – *Saturday, December 10*, \$35 per person, Tickets available at the Library or on line.
- CHRISTIMAS IN CRAFTON – *Sunday, December 11, 2016*
 Annual House Tour, 1 pm to 6 pm – Advanced Ticket Price - \$15.00, Tickets available In the Borough Offices or Library

- SANTA VISITS BY CRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT -*Saturday, December 17*, Listen for the Siren

Mr. Levasseur asked everyone to Stay Safe, please do not Drink and Drive, or Text and Drive. His wish is for everyone to Enjoy a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Amendola noted no residents signed up to speak before Council regarding any other matters.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/F. Amendola*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

MOTION #8 was carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager