

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of December 12, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President O'Brien 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. Levasseur.

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

Mr. O'Brien 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/Glaser*) to approve the Bill List dated December 12, 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 November 28, 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:

Kathleen Watson, 74 Fountain Avenue, inquired the status of the property located at 78 Fountain and the hearing held last week. She noted that the owner was at the home cleaning up inside the property, however, there are five large garbage bags full of debris in the rear yard. She stated these bags have been on the property for at least the past two weeks. So now she has to live next to a property where the home was condemned, and now there are piles of trash.

Solicitor Gladys noted Attorney Bole from his office was in attendance tonight and will provide Council and the audience an update from the hearing on this property.

The Mayor inquired as to the time the trash was collected on Fountain Street. Ms. Watson stated approximately 7:00 am. Mr. Kaczorowski stated he will send the Public Works night-turn crew over in the AM to take the trash to the curb before collection.

Charlene Krenke 800 Clearview Avenue, asked for an explanation of Motion 4 under the Business Agenda.

Ms. Scott noted this is the consideration of adopting Resolution No. 2016-13 regarding salaries and wages of certain employees effective January 1, 2017. Ms. Krenke inquired if this was for the Police Department. Ms. Scott noted, this was non-contracted employees, such as the Public Works Director, Manager and Administrative Staff.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (November 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.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to accept the Written Reports as submitted.

Ms. Perry noted on the Monthly Fire Department Report, the Fire Chief has required a meeting with Council and wanted to make sure this will be coordinated. Ms. Scott noted a meeting with the Fire Department has been scheduled for our first meeting, January 9, 2017.

Ms. Perry also noted that on the EMS report there was something regarding a garage door, she inquired as to the status of this. Ms. Scott noted, the EMS garage door had broken off the cables and needed replaced. The new door has been installed. Ms. Perry noted the report states the maintenance on this door will be that of the EMS moving forward.

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

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the traffic monitoring equipment report was available for review from Clearview? Mr. Kaczorowski noted the device was still installed and explained the report is typically generated once the batteries die, approximately 30 days of monitoring. Mr. Levasseur inquired if the device could be moved further down the road past Harris for another session. Mr. Kaczorowski noted the device can be moved down.

Ms. Scott noted a few reports have not been received, the last Council meeting was only two weeks ago. The missing reports will be provided to Council at the January 9 meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted a Community Awareness Town Hall meeting was held on Monday, December 5 at Crafton Elementary School hosted by State Representative Dan Deasy and Senator Wayne Fontana. He noted the scheduled speakers included Attorney General's Office, Sherriff's Office, District Attorney Office, Local Magistrate, Allegheny Health and Human Services and representative from Gateway Rehabilitation.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic finding its way into Crafton and all over the Country. The Mayor noted there is a "Drug Drop Off" box in Crafton, anyone can

drop off unused or old prescriptions or forms of heroin or other opiates during regular business hours. Flushing such items is not environmentally correct. Items dropped off are properly disposed. Mayor Bloom noted at the end of the presentation, there was a question and answer session. Many persons spoke about how heroin and opiates have affected their lives. One Crafton resident shared his story of how he lost his daughter to heroin about a year ago. Another couple, recovering addicts, spoke of the use of “free” drugs provided to addicts to aid them in withdrawal. How readily available these drugs have become and noting they are just as dangerous.

Mayor Bloom noted that Allegheny County Health Department has various programs available to anyone in need of assistance, a listing is available on their website.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Strunk noted Gateway continues to work on the Corrective Action Plan and preparing plans and specifications for the 2017 Projects.

He noted Pay Estimate #1 has been received from State Pipe Services for the pipe bursting work completed on Duncan Avenue and is recommending approval this evening. He noted five (5) percent is being retained to complete restoration in the Spring of 2017.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the engineer has gone over to look at Willard recently and the paving completed, stating cars are scraping at the bottom. He requested on future projects, the grade of the roadway be included in the drawings and roadways that are paved be reviewed prior to the termination of the maintenance bond.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor Gladys noted the trial regarding 78 Fountain was held on Friday, December 2, 2016. He noted that Attorney Bole from his office attending the hearing and will provide a report to Council.

Attorney Bole stated that they had appeared at the trial on behalf of the Borough. It was the consensus of the Borough they would prefer to see the property repaired and put back on the tax rolls at the expense of the homeowner rather than be torn down. On the day of the trial, we entered into a contingent order, the property owner will need to complete various repairs by certain dates, should these deadlines not be met, the Borough can automatically obtain the right to demolish the property without going back into Court.

Ms. Watson from the audience inquired if there was a time limit on the repairs. Attorney Bole noted that there is a time limit for the repairs to be completed and an occupancy permit obtained, by June 1, 2017. He stated that internal repairs need completed by January 1, external repairs by February 1, retaining wall and steps repaired by May 1 and any remaining items by the June 1 deadline.

Mr. O’Brien inquired if the owner needs a time extension on any of these deadlines, where would he obtain the proper permission. Attorney Bole noted he could request an extension from Council or from the Courts, however, he believes the Courts would be reluctant to grant any such extensions.

BUSINESS AGENDA

FINANCE

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to Adopt the 2017 General Fund, Sewer and Road Tax Fund Budgets as presented.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to Adopt Ordinance No. 1641 fixing the 2017 Tax Rate at 5.67 mills on real estate property and the Special Road Improvement Fund at 1.92 mills for a total of 7.59 mills, noting No tax increase.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to Adopt Resolution 2016-12 establishing a general schedule of fees, costs, charges and expenses for the year 2017 and repealing any and all Resolutions inconsistent.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to Adopt Resolution No. 2016-13 fixing the salaries of certain employees effective, January 1, 2017 and establishing holidays, vacations, sick leave and other benefits and providing disciplinary procedures for the violations thereof, and repealing any and all Resolutions inconsistent.

Ms. Perry inquired if Resolutions is something that could be put on the Borough website. Ms. Scott noted this typically would be covered under a Right to Know request. Ordinances are advertised and once adopted a matter of Law. The ordinances are then codified and put on the website. Resolutions are policies and procedures that are not required to be advertised. Solicitor Gladys agreed, however, will look into the matter and report back to Council.

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

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to appoint Catherine Forgenie as Full Time Clerk in the Administration beginning January 1, 2017.

MOTION #8 was moved and seconded by a Voice Vote (5-0) with (1) descent.

ZONING & PLANNING

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to adopt Resolution No. 2016-14 Approving the Acquisition and Subsequent Disposition of Numerous Parcels of Vacant Property known as Block & Lot Number 69-S-174 would be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan of the Borough of Crafton in cooperation with the County of Allegheny and the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County participating in the Allegheny County Vacant Property Program.

The lot/structure located at 19 N. Emily Street, the neighbor at 17 N. Emily Street has applied through the vacant side yard property to purchase the lot/structure. Due to the fact there is an existing structure on the property, Council has to approve the purchase and verify the purchaser does not have any outstanding zoning violations of their own. This is the first property taking advantage of this Side Yard program through the County.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if there are any delinquent taxes due on the property if they are removed. Ms. Scott noted, Council authorized to participate in the Vacant Lot program, any taxes collected will be significantly reduced.

MOTION #9 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Mr. O'Brien noted that Pashek and Associates will be presenting the Draft Comprehensive Plan to Crafton Council at their meeting of January 23, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. O'Brien noted, work on Chartiers Avenue may begin this week. Ms. Scott noted with the weather conditions predicted for the remainder of the week, it is very unlikely that the City will pave Chartiers, more than likely this is going to have to wait until Spring of 2017.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Glaser*) to approve Payment Request No. 1 for the Duncan Avenue Pipe Bursting project in the amount of \$94,848 payable to State Pipe Services, as recommended by the Engineer.

Ms. Perry noted this item was not on the Agenda. Ms. Scott agreed, Council was provided a copy of the pay estimate, which was received late today, December 12, 2016.

MOTION #10 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. O'Brien noted the following announcements;

- Santa visits by the Crafton Fire Department on Saturday, December 17, 2016
Listen for the sirens.
- Senior Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2016 in the Community Center beginning at 5:30 pm. Volunteers are always welcome!
- Crafton Administration Offices will be closed Monday, December 26 and January 2, 2017 in observance of the Holidays.
- There is no Council Meeting on Monday, December 26, 2016. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 9, 2017.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Andie Sevacko, 10 Bell Avenue, spoke in reference Military Banner Program. She noted Ingram is about to launch their program, Carnegie, Heidelberg and Green Tree already have theirs in place. According to her literature, there are 45 other participating communities in the Pittsburgh Area. There is no cost to the Borough, they are provided one 24" x 36" banner to be displayed. The cost of \$85 incurred is to the person/family interested in purchasing the decorative military banner for the Community. The person also receives two decorative banners for their home along with the necessary hardware. She noted that some Communities have these banners on fancy light poles, Crafton does not have these type of light poles. Her understanding is the banners can be placed on telephone poles, owned and maintained by Duquesne Light and Verizon. Typically these companies work with the Communities regarding the installation of such banners. Public Works would be required to put the banners up each year from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day.

Ms. Sevacko noted the one issue she may have, you are required to scan the photos in and submit to have banners made. She inquired if the Borough had any such scanner. Ms. Scott noted the Borough does have a scanner that can be used. Ms. Scott inquired if she had the name of the Company that prepares the banners, she would like to assure they will have the cooperation from Duquesne Light and Verizon. Ms. Sevacko will contact the Borough offices tomorrow with the information.

Mayor Bloom asked where she was thinking installing the banners throughout the Borough. If you purchase a banner is it placed close to your home, do you get to select where the banner is placed. The Mayor also noted it will need to be verified that the banners are any type of visual obstruction as well. Ms. Sevacko noted she wasn't sure but she would look into this matter.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the person on the banner must be a resident of Crafton. Again Ms. Sevacko will contact the firm. At this time she is requesting Council's approval to move forward with the Program, if approved, she will ask for additional clarification.

Charlene Krenke, 800 Clearview asked if the Mayor could discuss the educational program offered by Allegheny County at the Town Hall Meeting that takes the place of the DARE program.

Mayor Bloom noted that he brought up the elimination of the DARE Program at that meeting. One of the panelists, a doctor from Allegheny County Health Department stated they have an educational program offered to every school district in the County, they send letters out each year. Carlynton has not responded to the letter.

Ms. Watson, Fountain Avenue, inquired if there is any way Council could approach the School Board on the matter.

Mayor Bloom suggested that a few members of Council attend the next School Board Meeting and bring the matter up. Inquire as to why the program is not being offered in Carlynton School District.

Mr. O'Brien noted there are many Departments and talented people out there trying to tackle this problem including Police Departments, Allegheny County, Doctors and other organizations. He fears there is a disconnect to reach the people who are struggling every day with drug addiction. The Doctors study for years on how to treat people and the psychology of it all, however, the people faced with this issue on a day to day basis aren't aware of the programs out there that can help. We need to let the residents of our Community know these programs exist, we need to be good neighbors and look after the children of Crafton. We need to support and reach out those on the front line, the family members and friends of the person addicted to these drugs. Mr. O'Brien suggested having our own Town Hall Meeting to let people know they are not alone and we are here to assist.

Mayor Bloom stated the importance of educating the youth of our Community the danger of drugs, and educating them before they become addicted. Mr. Amendola agreed, and suggested again that Council attend a School Board Meeting to be proactive and educate our youth.

Mr. Levasseur inquired when the next School Board Meeting was scheduled. Ms. Scott noted she will look into the matter and provide the information to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/F. Amendola*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager