

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes of February 13, 2017**  
**Discussion Meeting**

***CALL TO ORDER***

President of Council Ms. Amendola called to order the Discussion Meeting in the Borough of Crafton, on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7:15 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Perry.

***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 and Manager Scott.

Mr. Amendola asked Council for a Moment of Silence for Mr. Steven (Jack) Rusnak, who passed away recently. He is survived by his wife Charlene of 50 years and daughters Sharon (Gaitens) and Stephanie (Len). Jack served two terms on Council and worked closely with the Public Works Department. He owned his own construction company and was instrumental in getting the Swim Team started down at the Pool with Terry O'Shea. Jack was always down at the Pool, helping out in some way or another. A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Jack Rusnak.

Ms. Damits noted Mr. Rusnak was responsible for the construction of the Crafton Mini Golf. Mr. Amendola added that Jack worked with Tony Kushner on the Shade Tree Commission and the planning of all of the beautiful trees along Steuben Street. He received Grant Monies for the Community for these plantings.

Ms. Glaser recognized the special guests in the audience, Michael Kirsch and Michael Knavey who are both working on the Eagle Scout Badges. They are here to observe a Crafton Council Meeting and asked the Members of Council and audience to recognize these two you men.

**BILL LIST APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to approve the Bill List of February 13, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #1 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

**ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O'Brien*) to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #2 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

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

Ms. Amendola noted, there were not any residents signed up to speak on Agenda Items.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Gladys noted that there are two Draft Ordinances on the Agenda for Discussion by Council, Vacant Properties and Disorderly Houses. Ms. Amendola noted these ordinances will be discussed a little later in the meeting.

Ms. Damits inquired the status of the property located at 96 Noble Avenue noting there is still garbage located on the property. Ms. Scott stated she will have the Public Works Director go over and take a look at it this week.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Bloom noted since January 1, 2017, the Crafton Police and Northwest Ambulance Service have responded to eight (8) Overdose calls in Crafton, unfortunately resulting in three (3) deaths. The Mayor noted this isn't just a Crafton problem, it doesn't matter where you live or affluence of the Community, heroin overdoses are at epidemic levels across the Country. The Mayor asked residents, if you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, (cars briefly stopping in front of one particular home continuously), please contact the Police Department. He noted, residents concerned about contacting the Police, he is putting himself out there. Please send him an email, [jbloom@crafton.org](mailto:jbloom@crafton.org). Let him know what is going on in your neighborhood. He works closely with the Police, he will provide the officers the information. If you see something, say something.

Ms. Amendola inquired, if the person receiving the Narcan is required to get into some sort of Program or perhaps attend an NA Meeting? Mayor Bloom noted, there are no such requirements. The police are permitted to take the heroin out of the home, however, there is a Good Samaritan Regulation. Any person who may have been there with the victim utilizing the drugs, even the victim, can NOT be arrested.

Mr. Levasseur noted Governor Christie of New Jersey has been saying all along that the State and Local Governments need to get involved, there needs to be funding available through the Federal Level to the local Level at these programs moving. Rehabilitation needs to be mandated and funded.

**BUSINESS AGENDA*****COMPREHENSIVE PLAN***

Mr. O'Brien noted a meeting with Ingram Council was held on February 9 at Ingram, plenty of great ideas were discussed, especially in reference to eliminating blight in the Communities.

Mr. Levasseur noted, one of the items discussed at the meeting was Asset Management utilizing GIS. The Manager has been working with Gateway Engineers on behalf of both Communities, obtaining pricing, sharing costs, etc. Crafton has taken the lead, included in the 2017 Budget was moving the current GIS system to the Cloud System, the first step in Asset Management.

Ms. Amendola noted, it was agreed by those in attendance, the next meeting would be held at Crafton, prior to our meeting of March 27, 2017.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to authorize to advertise the Meeting with Ingram Officials to continue discussions on the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Monday, March 27, 2017 beginning at 6:00 pm.

MOTION #3 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Ms. Perry noted, it was discussed at that meeting, the possibility of Crafton offering Ingram, on a fee basis, administrative support for Code Enforcement. Ms. Perry noted that Crafton has a professional management staff and will be able to offer these type of administrative services to Ingram. Ms. Perry noted, sharing administrative services doesn't require identical Code Enforcement regulations, but working together is a result of the Plan and the Communities.

Mr. Amendola noted, he was unable to attend that joint meeting, and thanked everyone for their continued support of the Plan and providing an update to Council.

### ***PARKS & RECREATION***

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O'Brien*) to reappoint James Peterson to the Shade Tree Commission for another 5 year term, expiring March 31, 2022.

MOTION #4 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Ms. Glaser inquired if the advertisement for Summer Personnel /Public Works has been posted. Ms. Scott noted the Borough has advertised and the notification is on the Borough website as well.

### ***FINANCE***

Ms. Scott stated in October 2016, ALCOSAN announced their GROW (Green Our Waterways) Grant Opportunities. Crafton submitted two applications for funding; Thomas Street Sewer Separation Project, which received the highest percentage of funding (85%). This is a reimbursement, the project was completed and paid for in 2014. The total project costs is \$107,675; Grant Monies Reimbursed - \$91,600. The second project is a new construction, Crafton Park Rain Garden Project total proposed project is \$158,310, Grant Monies in the amount of \$80,800, for a total of 51% funded.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to authorize to accept the terms of the Grow Grant Agreement with ALCOSAN for the Thomas Street Project and the Crafton Park Rain Garden Project as presented.

MOTION #5 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Mr. Amendola thanked Ms. Scott, appreciates her continued work for the Community.

Ms. Scott noted the Borough received our first check in the amount of \$265.50 from Utility Service Partners, the insurance residents purchased for sewer repairs.

***DISCUSSION***

Ms. Amendola stated it was time to discuss the two (2) proposed Ordinances prepared by the Solicitor. She suggested we begin with the Ordinance regarding Disorderly Houses and Gatherings, Nuisance Properties and Noise. She inquired if any Member of Council had any thoughts or comments at this time.

Ms. Perry stated that after review of each of these ordinances, she believes each are well prepared and thought out.

Section 104 regarding Enforcement; her concerns is that any officer or designated employee may enforce the ordinance. Inquiring if this may cause some problems between neighbors and asked for the Solicitors opinion on the matter.

Mr. Gladys noted that enforcement of any ordinance is critical. He believes this enforcement provides the police officer opportunity to interrupt the ordinance to fit the situation. Ms. Amendola stated she spoke with the solicitor a little earlier on this matter, and each section of the ordinance has different levels of enforcement. Some areas the penalties may be greater, while other areas, the penalties may be less severe.

Section 201 – Violations used to determine nuisance; Ms. Perry noted a listing of various violations are listed. She inquired if these violations are limited to minors or is it simply an understanding for adults. The Solicitor explained that when you speak of trafficking in adults (selling drugs), comes under the criminal code, lawful tools when speaking of adults. He noted we can certainly add to the list of violations in the ordinance, but these type of violations would be covered under criminal code.

Section 303 (Item J) – Construction and repairs hours on Sunday are from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Ms. Perry stated this may be too restrictive. Monday through Saturday, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm appear to be typical hours of work during the week. Ms. Amendola and Mr. Levasseur also had concerns with these times. Mr. O'Brien stated he is in favor of 1:00 pm on Sunday start. Ms. Glaser stated that she in favor of making the time 10:00 am on a Sunday morning. Mr. Levasseur stated he is completing work on his home right now, working full time, Saturday and Sundays is the only time he has to complete some of these projects, he is not in favor of a 1:00 pm start on a Sunday. Neighbors need to have respect for each other, however, he would request Council consider 9:00 am.

Ms. Amendola asked for a consensus of Council on the allowing working on Sundays between the hours of 10 am to 8 pm, a consensus was received. The Solicitor will revise the section of the ordinance.

Ms. Scott stated, the next line in the proposed ordinance reads; only owners and residents shall have the right to repair their own properties on Sundays. Noting if you were having your cousin install roof on your home, that's the business he is in, he wouldn't be permitted to work on Sundays. Ms. Amendola noted there are no restrictions on who may work on your home Monday through Saturday, after discussion, she requested the solicitor to remove this statement, acknowledged by the solicitor.

There was a discussion regarding noise levels. Mr. Levasseur inquired as to the difference between working a circular saw and a dog constant barking. Ms. Perry noted the ordinance does address noise, disturbances, animals, prohibited noises, etc.

The Solicitor will make the proposed revisions to the Disorderly Homes Ordinance and forward to the Manager.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to authorize to advertise the Ordinance regarding Disorderly Houses, after the revisions have been completed by the Solicitor.

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

Ms. Amendola stated Council will next discuss the proposed Vacant Properties Ordinance submitted to Council for consideration by the Solicitor.

Mr. Levasseur noted, Section 106 Board Up Permit and the renewal process, he noted that any property that is boarded up as of the adoption of this Ordinance shall have six (6) months to make application. He inquired as the penalties that may be fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per day for each and every day that the vacant property is not registered until the vacant property is registered, will this be enforced by the Magistrate. He felt as if the \$1,000 fine may be too high.

The Solicitor noted that there is a certain amount of discretion in the ordinance, but provides the magistrate the tools to cite repeat offenders.

Mr. O'Brien inquired if these ordinances Council will consider includes commercial properties. Solicitor Gladys confirmed that it will include commercial properties.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to authorize to advertise the Ordinance regarding Vacant Properties as submitted by the Solicitor.

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

Ms. Perry noted these ordinance will provides the Code Enforcement Officer the tools needed to cite home owners/renters where there are problems areas. She noted that the previous code officer, Dave Morgan stated there were over 300 problem/vacant homes in Community. She suggested that once this ordinance is in place, the Code Officer may need additional administrative assistance to go after some of these properties. She wanted Council to begin thinking about this for future discussion.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if Act 91 included in these ordinances. This Act allows the Code Enforcement Officer to go after property owners living outside of the Community, placing penalties and violations on their current residence. Solicitor Gladys noted this Act is incorporated in the Municipal Planning Code, and a State Law, however, he will research to verify this.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

- ALCOSAN Clean Water Assistance Fund – Social Service Agencies (accept & process applications – Flyers on table or call Dollar Energy Fund – 1-800-375-1388
- Jordan Tax Service – Collect Refuse Service Fee  
Crafton Municipal Building - *Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – 1 pm to 4 pm*
- HUGE Thank You to Nancy Thomas (Crafton Elves) – Old Crossing Guard Coats found in the closet – Donated to Homeless Street Ministry – THANK YOU NOTE

Ms. Scott noted, Crafton Elves cleaned out a closet out in hallway where they store some of their holiday decorations. Inside were stored several old crossing guard winter coats. They long, heavy coats that have been stored in the closet for years, however, never used. Ms. Thomas asked if she could take these coats, have them cleaned and donate to a homeless shelter that she volunteers. Ms. Thomas shared a Thank You Note from a representative from the Street Ministries, where the coat was given to a homeless man, recently struck by a car, and appreciated the warm safe outerwear. Ms. Scott noted that Ms. Thomas had the coats cleaned at her own expense. Council acknowledged and thanked Ms. Thomas for her kindness and generosity.

***CITIZEN COMMENTS***

Ray Broglie, 4 Grace Street, stated he is the Executive Vice President of CIT, a non-profit organization serving the youth of Crafton, Ingram and Thornburg for baseball and softball. He is requesting Council to authorize to rename the Little League Baseball fields down by Crafton Park. They are currently named after the founders of CIT, Mr. Westcott and Mr. Miller. They are requesting to add another plaque in memory of Captain Jason M. West, a young man who lived on Afton Drive, went to Carlynton School District and participated in CIT baseball for years. On July 24, 2006, Captain Jason M. West, killed in action in Ramadi, Iraq, during a firefight with enemy combatants.

They would like to have a Ceremony down at the park and ask Council, Fire Department and the American Legion to attend. No date has been scheduled at this time. CIT would cover the costs for the plaque. He is requesting Council to consider a Proclamation that may be read at the ceremony. Mayor Bloom suggested CIT consider Memorial Day for the Ceremony, the organizations will be at the annual parade, which could be followed by the ceremony at the Park. Mr. Broglie noted CIT is interested in purchasing a Military Banner, that could be hung down near the entrance of the Park.

Mr. Broglie's next item was in reference to the Real Estate Taxes. He noted that the CIT had some issues with their Tax Exempt Status back in 2013. When Allegheny required non-profit organizations to reregister their status with the Real Estate Department, the previous CIT Officers failed to comply. Therefore, 2013 – 2015 are required to pay real estate taxes. As a non-profit organization, the taxes are delinquent, regular payments are being made from the current administration. He is requesting Council to consider authorizing "forgiveness" from the 2016 Real Estate Taxes, as their status with the County has been registered.

Ms. Scott stated, Council does not have any power over the tax exempt status for real estate taxes, this all is completed through Allegheny County. CIT would need to provide such exemption information to the County via a tax appeal hearing.

Mr. Broglie inquired if he and CIT treasurer could come to the Manager's office to further discuss in person. Mr. Amendola suggested that the Borough Solicitor look into the matter on behalf of CIT and forward information onto the Manager.

Kathleen Watson, 74 Fountain Street, inquired as the status of work to be completed by the owner of 78 Fountain Street. Ms. Watson noted that there is not electricity at the property, and not sure how any work can be done. Solicitor Gladys stated the Borough will look into the matter, speak with Dan Felton and request an update.

Ms. Watson noted Carlynton High School is hosting the performance of Brittney Maier on Thursday, February 16, 2017, tickets are \$20. Ms. Maier was born blind along with other physical limitations, she learned how to play the piano and is traveling to various districts to perform. Ms. Amendola thanked her for providing this Community information.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION #8 it was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann C. Scott  
Borough Manager