

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Monday, March 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President Amendola called the Discussion/Agenda Meeting of Crafton Borough Council to order, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute led by Mayor Bloom. ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Five (4) members of Council present and Two (2) via Skype as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Damits, Ms. Glaser (via Skype), Ms. Perry (via Skype), Mr. Levasseur, Mr. O'Brien, and Ms. Amendola. Also present Mayor Bloom, and Solicitor Gladys.

Ms. Amendola noted the first thing on the Agenda was a Public Hearing regarding Draft Ordinance No. 1634, Regulating the keeping of chickens in the Borough of Crafton.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to open the Public Hearing regarding Draft Ordinance No. 1634.

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

Solicitor Gladys noted he will oversee the Public Hearing. He noted that a Court Report will swear in each witness prior to speaking. He noted that a transcript will only be prepared, should the need arise.

John Reese, 37 ½ Norma Street, Crafton Borough, spoke in favor of adopting the ordinance. He noted he did not have any chickens, but believes it is good for the Borough.

Phillip Thomkins, 110 Olinda Street, Freeport, PA. He is the owner of Rent the Chicken. He noted that the proposed ordinance addresses many of the issues residents have concerns with, as well as, other areas including; Odor and noise control; predators; running at large and design of the coops. He stated that the ordinance was well written and is in favor of Council considering adopting the Ordinance.

Charles McGrogan, 1642 Crafton Boulevard, Crafton Borough, spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance. He stated that residents that live on Walnut Street, currently have 4 or 5 chickens and every morning around 7:30 or 8:00 am, while sitting on his desk, the noise is extremely loud, louder than any dog in the neighborhood. Mr. McGrogan, played a recording for Council to let them know what it sounded like from his deck.

Susan Shane, 35 Bradford Avenue, Crafton Borough, spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. Ms. Shane noted she owns two chickens, and has not received any complaints from the neighbors. She stated the chickens were like her pets.

Phillip Thomkins spoke again regarding some of the concerns regarding noise. As the expert on the matter, he noted chickens only make noise when they are laying eggs or if a predator is threatening their surroundings. He stated that typically a chicken lays one egg per day, taking about 10 to 15 minutes. That's when you will be able to hear them "clucking". He noted that Rent the Chicken participates in other programs offering "therapy chickens", Coops for Troops and many others. He noted there are over 500 species of chickens, perhaps the resident needs to consider another type of chicken.

Mr. Gladys noted, no one else from the audience wished to speak before Council on the matter. He suggested that the Hearing be closed. He noted Council will consider the information presented this evening and will consider adopting the Ordinance at the Regular Meeting of March 28 2016.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to close the Public Hearing regarding Draft Ordinance No. 1634.

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

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Glaser*) to ratify the payment of bills on the Bill List dated March 14, 2016.

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

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 4: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Levasseur*) to accept the Meeting Minutes dated February 22, 2016.

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

CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items only

Ms. Amendola noted that no Citizens wished to speak on Agenda Items only.

SOLITICTOR’S REPORT

- a. 96 Noble – Solicitor Gladys provided a status update on the property. He noted the Building Inspector did an inspection on the property on February 17. He noted that all the repairs to the roof have been completed an in accordance with the submitted drawings. The property passed inspection. He noted, the Code Enforcement Officer has sent a violation notice for the trash and debris on the property.
- b. 78 Fountain – Welch, Gold, Siegle & Fiffik submitted a letter to the attorney for Mr. Sanchez, property owner, to enter and inspect the property. A mutually convenient time is being scheduled.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ZONING & PLANNING

Ms. Amendola noted that the Planning Commission will be meeting on Monday, March 21, 2016 to consider the Preliminary and Final Subdivision application at 36 W. Steuben Street, 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Levasseur*) to authorize to advertise one (1) vacancy on the Planning Commission with a term expiring April 13, 2017. Mr. Levasseur noted that the current member, Rachel Richter, moved from the area for her career.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*Levasseur/O'Brien*) to authorize Gateway Engineers to begin preparing Plans and Specs, pipe bursting, approximately 185 lf of 24" pipe.

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

Council discussed the cleaning of eight (8) vacant lot properties throughout the Borough. The Manager noted the Public Works Director and Code Enforcement Officer rode around the Borough and provided a listing of the top eight properties that require immediate attention and cleaning. Only one (1) proposal was received for the overall cleanup of the property including removal of debris and cutting of grass and weeds. Council noted they would like the opportunity to review the proposal further. This item will appear on the Agenda at the Regular Meeting. After completion the Borough will put a lien on the property for any costs incurred.

Ms. Amendola noted the PA American Water will begin work on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 on Noble Avenue replacing the water main from White Street to Steuben. The work will take approximately three weeks.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*F. Amendola/Glaser*) to authorize final payment for the O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning – Year 5 in the amount of \$2,476.52 payable to SHACOG.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to award the bid by SHACOG for the 2016 O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning Contract – Year 6 to RedZone Robotics, Inc., as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to release the retainage to A. Folino Construction for the 2015 Road Program, as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

MOTION #9 - carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to adopt Resolution No. 2016-03 authorize to enter into an Administrative Consent Order with the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

MOTION #10 - carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Ms. Amendola noted that the Borough received two proposals regarding the cleaning of the basement at the Municipal Building. Council noted they wanted to review the proposals further. This item will appear on the Agenda at the Regular Meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Amendola noted that Crafton Celebrates Executive Board would like to donate a bench to Crafton Borough to be installed in the Park overlooking the ballfield for viewing of fireworks during Celebrates. A plaque is to be installed and donated by Crafton Celebrates Committee.

AUDIENCE AGENDA

Kathy Watson, 74 Fountain Street, Crafton Borough noted the house at 78 Fountain Street is a mess, and believes there were squatters living on the property. Attorney Bole from Welch, Gold, Siegle & Fiffik, noted they are meeting with Mr. Sanchez's attorney on the property this week. He will report the findings at the next meeting.

Ms. Watson also mentioned that there is water coming down from Promenade draining onto Fountain, she believes it may be from a natural spring. She stated it causes ice buildup and potholes along Fountain. Ms. Scott noted she will send the Public Works Department to the area.

Steve Sunderland, 106 Chartiers Avenue, Crafton Borough, noted that the City of Pittsburgh, the Borough and Representative Dan Deasy all met last year at his property regarding a tree on the embankment that needs to be removed or topped off. He was told last year, attention would be given and the tree would be addressed. He has concerns that if a storm comes, the tree is going to fall onto his home. Ms. Scott noted that she will contact the City of Pittsburgh tomorrow and Representative Deasy on the matter.

Season Ciechanowski, 1753 Barr Avenue, Crafton Borough, noted that April is National Poetry Month. She places free poetry that her and her daughters prepare outside of her home. She is promoting National Poetry Month and will have boxes available to anyone interested.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Perry requested to bring before Council a discussion item; She noted that there are several new members of Council, and would like the opportunity to discuss the Roles and Responsibilities of Council in regards to Committees. She wondered if there were any written guidelines in Crafton, if not, if Council could prepare such guidelines.

A discussion ensued with Members of Council on the matter.

Mr. Amendola noted that two years prior, the President of Council, Joseph Hayes, disbanded Committees, he appointed Liaisons to various departments including Public Safety, Public Works, Finance, Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Amendola noted that the reason Committees were done away with, no one was showing up for meetings and no one was participating. Being appointed as the liaison, that person serves as a spokesperson, brings matters back to Council for review and consideration. She noted that Council votes on matters as a whole, not by Committee. The Borough Manager brings matters to Council to review and vote at Public Meetings and Manager oversees the day to day operations of the Borough.

Ms. Perry requested Council consider defining by Resolution the responsibilities of a Committee. She believes she has an obligation to let the Community know what they are and provide information to the constituents. She suggested we have a Special Meeting/Workshop to discuss the matter. She wants to display transparency and provide visibility to the Community.

Mr. Amendola suggested that the Solicitor review that particular section of the Borough Code and provide some sort of description or guideline to Council on the matter.

Mr. Gladys suggested that the Borough Code is a floor to build upon as Council deems appropriate for their Community, within the guidelines of the Code. He noted that if Council goes beyond what is permitted by the Code, he will certainly let Council know and be aware.

Ms. Perry noted, she is looking for a forum to further discuss the matter, and to define the rules and responsibilities.

Mr. O'Brien, noted in the past that the Community was not participating or attending the numerous Committee Meetings. He wants to make sure that Committees represent the entire Community and the decisions of Council as a whole.

Ms. Amendola suggested that we have a Special Meeting to further discuss the matter. She recommends that we discuss the responsibilities of each Committee and prepare bullet points. Go through each Committee and make a final determination.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*Damits/Levasseur*) to advertise a Special Meeting for Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the Responsibilities of the Committee and Council Responsibilities in Crafton.

MOTION #11 - carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by (*Damits/Levasseur*) that Crafton residents be given preference and hired for Summer Employment at pool over any non-resident. A discussion by Council on the matter followed. Ms. Perry inquired if this was for all personnel including the Manager. Mr. Levasseur clarified that a Crafton resident should be given preference, however, we should consider who will be best suited person for the position.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Amendola – No; Ms. Glaser – No; Ms. Damits – Yes; Mr. O'Brien – No;
Ms. Perry – No; Mr. Levasseur – Yes; Ms. Amendola – No

MOTION #12 – Motion Denied

Dan Cindrich, 45 Creighton Road, Crafton Borough inquired as to the next steps regarding the Chicken Ordinance. The Solicitor stated the next step would be to adopt the proposed Ordinance and it will be considered at the next meeting.

Mayor Bloom noted that there was discussion tonight on Committees. He noted that Kathy Watson came to Council tonight and presented her public works problem. Follow up will be done by the Public Works Director to try to resolve this problem. She came to Council as whole to try and resolve the issue. The forum for a resident to address any problem, issue or idea, is attend a Public Meeting and discuss the matter with all Members of Council.

Jacqueline Levasseur, 401 Clearview Avenue, Crafton Borough – Inquired as to how information distributed to residents of the Community. She asked that perhaps the Agenda be more detailed with more specific information.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/F. Amendola*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

MOTION #13 - carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott, Borough Manager