

**BOROUGH OF CRAFTON
COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of March 27, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

President Amendola called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council of March 27, 2017, 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 Six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Damits, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Perry, Mr. Levasseur and Ms. Amendola. Absent at the meeting was Ms. Glaser. Also present, Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys, Engineer Minsterman, Public Works Director Kaczorowski and Manager Scott.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated March 27, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #1 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (6-0).

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O'Brien*) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated March 13, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #2 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Amendola noted, that Council held an advertised special meeting with Ingram Council at 6:00 pm to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and how the two Communities can work together. Also at that meeting, Councils presented to the Steering Committee Members a copy of Resolution No. 2017-03 recognizing their hard work and accomplishments.

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

Ms. Amendola noted, that no one signed up to speak before Council on Agenda Items.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (February 2017)

Council acknowledged receipt of the following Monthly Reports; Financial Report, Treasurer's Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection, Annual Police Report, NW EMS Report, Ordinance Officer Report, Building Inspection Report, Engineer's Report, Public Works Report, Fire Department Report and the Library Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted the Police Department and EMS had another “save” since the last meeting. Proof that they continue to save lives through this epidemic.

Representative Deasy contacted the Mayor and asked him to announce the Annual Shred Event, Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Crafton Park, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Information is available on the website.

Mayor Bloom noted the Police Department Facebook page is doing well, receiving positive feedback from the Community.

Mayor Bloom noted, every officer has been scheduled for a Driver's Training Course through the District Attorney's Office. The training is in response to a new pursuit policy.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman noted bids are due Wednesday, April 12, for the 2017 Road Resurfacing Program. The final list of streets was identified, plans and specifications were prepared and advertised.

Mr. Minsterman noted, the various SHACOG Operations and Maintenance contracts for 2017; Excavation and lining contracts, the bids are due in approximately two weeks; the CCTV contract, bids were opened last week and came in lower than anticipated, Gateway will be recommending award; and the Preventive Maintenance Contract, each municipality returns a survey of interest, SHACOG is gathering that information, bid documents will be prepared shortly thereafter.

The last item, the Handicap Ramp replacement project on Foster Avenue. Work has been completed on the project, a site walk of the work was done today of each of the ramps. Mr. Minsterman noted this was a CDBG Funded project, total project cost is approximately \$22,000, with funding of \$14,000 through CDBG.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Gladys noted that in reference to the property located at 78 Fountain, the Borough went to Court in December and was settled by way of a Consent Order. As of this date the homeowner has not complied and is in default of the Order. A certified letter was sent to the property owner on March 8 that he is in default of the Order and missed several required milestones. The letter provided 20 days to respond, which ends tomorrow, March 28. He will report to Council at the next meeting.

BUSINESS AGENDA***FINANCE***

Ms. Amendola noted, the Borough received \$73,692 in 902 Grant Monies through the PA Department of Environmental Protection; \$42,692 will remain in the General Fund as reimbursement for the purchase of the leaf loader and box; \$31,000 will be paid with the April Payment on the PNC Capital Lease Agreement as previously approved by Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Amendola noted, the Borough received the Compliance Audit from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of the Auditor General, for the Crafton Firefighters Relief Fund for the years of January 2013 through December 2015. No findings made.

ZONING & PLANNING

Ms. Amendola noted the Planning Commission held a Meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017, where they recommended Approval of the Joint Comprehensive Plan to Crafton Council. The Commission presented minor revisions to the Pashek for consideration.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to Authorize to Advertise, Monday, April 24, 2017, for a Public Hearing for consideration and adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

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

Ms. Amendola noted a special joint meeting will need to be scheduled for the presentation of the Early Intervention Program. The dates available with the representative from the State are Wednesday, April 19, Tuesday, April 25 and Wednesday, April 26. She noted at the meeting held earlier this evening with Ingram, it was decided that Wednesday, April 19, 2017 is the best available date.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Damits*) to authorize to advertise, Wednesday, April 19, 2017, for a Special Joint Meeting to hear the presentation on the final Early Intervention Program (EIP) at 7:00 pm.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Amendola made the following announcements;

- *CRAFTON MILITARY BANNER PROGRAM* – Applications are available to purchase your Military Banner on the website (Crafton.org) or the Administration Offices, Cost is \$85
1 Large Banner and 2 Small Banners
- *SHRED EVENT* – The Borough of Crafton and Ingram, in cooperation with Representative Dan Deasy and Senator Wayne Fontana Offices are hosting a Shred Event, Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in Crafton Pool Parking Lot.
- Ms. Perry noted she had a robocall from Representative Dan Deasy office, regarding a Career Fair scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the American Legion Post 496 in Sheraden; 2 pm to 4 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm. There will be about 40 representatives from various companies there. For more information, please contact his office directly at (412) 928-9514.
- Mr. O'Brien noted that he attended the Poetry Box Grand Opening at Season Ciechanowski home on Barr Avenue on Sunday, March 26. He noted she has a passion for poetry and wants to share that passion with the residents of Crafton. Mr. O'Brien hopes that everyone takes the time to stop by and pick up some poetry at her home.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Amendola noted that six residents have signed up to speak regarding the church on Belvidere Street. She noted, everyone certainly will be given the opportunity to address Council and will be given 3 minutes.

Brad Crouse, 40 Belvidere Street, he is concerned the church will become a blighted property on the street. He stated at one time the church was an asset to the Community and those living along Belvidere, however, he is concerned about the future. He suggested it may be a good opportunity for the Borough to take control of it, and to take advantage of this parcel and property, to repurpose it for something the entire Community may be able to utilize.

Phyllis Barber, 17 Belvidere Street, echoed Mr. Crouse's sentiments as well as many of the other neighbors. She noted that she does not have a garage or driveway, there is significant street traffic on Belvidere, concerned about the Community and maintaining the neighborhood.

Pat Siegfried, 38 Belvidere Street, she noted that since the Church has been gone for about a year, there has been quite a change in the neighborhood. When the Church was active, there was a day care inside, and a lot of good activity. She wants to encourage young people to move into Crafton by offering certain amenities, by developing the church property, these amenities could be presented.

Scott Recalde, 49 Belvidere Street, he noted the Church has been broken into on several occasions. He stated the property is slowly falling apart. A piece of the roof fell off and landed on his fence. He believes if the Borough and the residents put their heads together, an amicable solution could be possible.

Robert Wolbert, 1 E. Steuben Street, he is interested in purchasing the entire property (church, parking lot and house). He has been in contact with the realtor on the property. He noted there is a church from Heidelberg that was interested in possibly opening a remote church on the property, he understands that deal is still in the works. The Methodist Council would like to sell all of the property together and maintain it as a church. Mr. Wolbert stated if the property is sold separately, the church will definitely become blighted. He stated that the Methodist Council will donate the Church to the Borough, at no cost. He is before Council, as an interested party in the parking lot and house. His intention is to build a single family ranch style home on the parking lot parcel and rent out the existing house. He is asking Council if they would be willing to take over the church property, which has an assessed value of over two million dollars.

Ms. Amendola thanked Mr. Wolbert for his inquiry and the other residents for bringing the matter to Council's attention, however, Council will not be speaking on the matter this evening.

Eric Valcheff, 78 Belvidere Street, noted that he too has an offer in on the property. He wanted to address the other church interested in the property. He stated it is a congregation of approximately 100 persons, they are very active, but will not be able to sustain the expense of operating the church. The estimated cost for heating alone is approximately \$10,000 a month, not including the other repairs necessary to the property. He wants to eliminate rental properties in the Community, he would like to see increased home ownership and property values. Mr. Valcheff wants Council to be aware of the existing property, he wants the Methodist Church to do their part in the Community. He wants the conversation to start.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Levasseur*) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott, Borough Manager