

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of August 8, 2016
Discussion Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council, Amendola called to order the Discussion Meeting in the Borough of Crafton, on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 7:15 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building.

Ms. Amendola noted that an Executive Session was held prior to the Meeting regarding a Personnel matter, No action was taken.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Seven (6) Members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Ms. Perry, Mr. Levasseur and Ms. Amendola; Mr. O'Brien was absent. Also present, Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys and Manager Scott.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated August 8, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #1 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Glaser*) to approve the Minutes of July 25, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #2 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

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

Matt Hilarzewski, 266 Noble Avenue, addressed Council regarding Ordinance No. 1637, Burning Regulations. He noted in Section 113-6 (4) if the smoke or ashes and or smell emitting to the outside atmosphere from the chimney, stove pipe or flue are objectionable or offensive to the general public the operation of such fireplace, wood burning, coal stove, coal furnace or solid fuel heater shall be suspended by the Borough. He asked for clarification, noting this is his homes only source of heat in the winter is the coal furnace. He has followed all of the required steps to maintain a coal furnace in his home regulated by the EPA. Anything installed prior to 1990 is required to be removed and/or updated to meet the regulations. He noted he has stainless steel stacks going up through the chimney (as required). He explained on certain days, there may be a down draft, dependent upon weather conditions and the amount of wind, the smoke doesn't last long, once the coal rises to temperature, the smoke does absorb. He noted, on the occasions when the Police Department was called to his home after receiving a complaint, upon arrival the officer would be unable to see any type of "smoke". He doesn't want to have to shut down his furnace, if someone calls in a complaint.

The solicitor noted, the complaint would need to be made to the Police Department or Code Enforcement Officer. If a violation is confirmed, the person will be cited.

Ms. Amendola noted, that the Ordinance adopted emphasized and regulated for the most part, outdoor burning. The section of the ordinance regarding indoor burning regulates the safe and proper items that may be burned, and shall not present a fire hazard.

Mayor Bloom noted, if a resident is burning coal or wood for heat in their home, when the stove or furnace is first lit, smoke will be emitted, however, once the coal or wood gets up to temperature, it will no longer emit smoke.

Mr. Gladys confirmed, if a complaint is received, a police officer may come to your home to verify the type of material that is being burned. If improper materials are utilized, the officer will cite the resident.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Gladys noted in reference to Ordinance No. 1637, the Code Enforcement Officer inquired as to Section 113-2 (A) 1. Any open or outdoor fire shall be at least ten (10) feet from any building or dwelling. The County Ordinance maintains fifteen (15) feet away. Mr. Gladys noted that Council reviewed and discussed this at the Public Hearing in June. It was their intention to reflect in the adopted ordinance ten (10) feet, noting that properties in Crafton, sometimes may be closer. Mr. Gladys noted that he has spoken with a representative from the Allegheny County Health Department in reference to the ordinance, they found the ordinance to be in compliance with the County. They are still in the process of reviewing, if they have any revisions or questions, they will contact the Ordinance Officer.

Lastly, Solicitor Gladys noted his office has been working with the School District on the tax exempt status of the properties located at 201 Ewing Road and on Fountain. From 1999 through 2014, the County removed the tax exempt status. That status has been reinstated, however, their office is working to strike the taxes imposed during that time. The petitions are being presented to the Court on August 16, 2016, the School District will not oppose these petitions.

Ms. Damits inquired if there was any update on 96 Noble Avenue property. Mr. Gladys noted his office has spoken with the School District about pursuing other legal actions. The Mayor noted the Ordinance Officer continues to monitor and has sent several citations to the owner. Ms. Perry inquired if someone was interested in purchasing this property, could this be pursued with the owner or through the court system. Mr. Gladys noted this would require legal action, Sherriff Sale, which typically is pursued by the largest taxing body, the School District.

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Amendola noted the first item on the Agenda was the Ordinance presented for the installation of a stop sign at Willard and Clearview Avenue, she asked the Mayor if he could provide an update. Mayor Bloom noted that the Speed Enforcement sign is still located on Willard, the Public Works recommends leaving up for at least 30 days, we should have the results for the next meeting. Ms. Amendola noted this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to appoint Anthony Fletcher to the Civil Service Commission with a term expiring May 20, 2020.

Mr. Amendola asked if any member of Council was familiar with Mr. Fletcher. Ms. Amendola noted that he is a member of the Crafton Ingram Rotary, he is involved with Little Cougars Organization, and that he typically attends our meetings. He is trying to be more involved in the Community. Mr. Levasseur noted he was a member of the Color Guard at Crafton Celebrates.

MOTION #3 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Amendola noted the first item on the Agenda, was to authorize payment for Joint Operations and Maintenance Program.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F.Amendola/Perry*) to authorize payment of \$16,781.14, for Joint O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning Project, Year 6, Payable to SHACOG as recommended by the Engineer.

MOTION #4 carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to authorize Gateway Engineers to begin design on the Johnston Street sewer Replacement Project payment for the Small Water and Sewer Project Grant Application

Ms. Scott noted that estimated construction cost for this project is \$175,000 and requires a 15% local match approximately \$27,000. Applications under this program are due by October 31, 2016.

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

Ms. Scott noted that the Borough has submitted a second GROW project to ALCOSAN for consideration. The project is located in Crafton Park Project and is a green infrastructure project, includes the installation of Rain Garden on Steuben, resurfacing of the Parking Lot and installation of a storm sewer to capture the run off from the parking lot. The sewer would drain directly into the creek, reducing the amount of flow in the combined system.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Amendola noted there weren't any items listed under Discussion on the Agenda.

Ms. Perry noted that the Communication working group is working on a mock-up of some of the recommended changes they would see incorporated. Their next meeting is Thursday, August 18, 2016.

Mr. Levassuer noted he would like to discuss infrastructure. He noted that everyone is certainly appreciative of the 2016 Road Program, but happy it is completed. As one of the residents living and impacted by the construction, many of the delays were a direct result of work completed by the water company (PA American), and not a result of the contractor, engineer or the Borough. He noted he and his neighbors were inconvenienced on numerous occasions, but emphasized the need for continued communication with the utility companies in Crafton.

Mr. Levassuer noted the importance of maintaining our infrastructure. In order to attract people to live in Crafton and invest in 30 year mortgages, we need to maintain our roadways and invest in the Community. He noted that bond rates are at an all-time low, and wants Council to consider all of their options to meet our five year goals for the Community. He stated that we have numerous challenges to overcome and would like Council to keep an open mind while we figure out how to meet those goals financially. Council needs to allow the Community the opportunity to take advantage of global economy prices at their all-time low.

Mr. Amendola noted that Mr. Levasseur has mentioned a Bond Issue on several occasions, and for the record, he is not in favor of putting the Borough into debt at any rate.

Ms. Perry stated making large investment in our infrastructure, there are options out there that may allow for this investment while rolling back the tax rate.

Mr. Levasseur continued to discuss how we can improve our infrastructure, an inversion to raise property values. We have an opportunity to allow residents to realize gains on their investment.

Ms. Amendola noted that each member of Council has the same goals for our Community, different philosophies on how we can get there. We will continue to discuss these matters at future Council and Budget Meetings.

Ms. Glaser stated that properties in Crafton need to be better taken care of by the residents. She noted she walks four miles per day through the Community and so many homes the grass is high, sidewalks are in poor condition and some of the homes look as if they are ready to fall down. Ms. Perry suggested perhaps the Borough needs to look into Code Enforcement in the future. Mr. Levasseur noted that is a one of the main components in the Comprehensive Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALCOSAN OPEN HOUSE – Saturday, September 17, 2016 (9 am to 4 pm) at ALCOSAN

ALLEGHENY COUNTY VACANT PROPERTY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Is accepting Applications to acquire vacant properties at a reduced cost, owner must share a common boundary. Applications due by August 31, 2016.

AUDIENCE AGENDA

Steven Sunderland, 106 Chartiers Avenue, inquired if Chartiers Avenue was on the paving list for 2016. Ms. Scott noted, the Borough has completed our 2016 paving project, the Public Works Director has been notified the City portion of Chartiers will be paved this year.

Mr. Sunderland wanted to personally Thank the Mayor, Council, Manager and Public Works Director for all of their hard work and efforts over the past eighteen (18) months regarding the tree across the street from his property located in the City of Pittsburgh. He contacted the City directly for months, with no answer, no one would speak with him. He contacted the Borough, and a meeting with the City was organized, over a year ago. With continued efforts, the work was finally completed a week or so ago. The City Forestry Department came out and topped the tree, removing the threat that the tree would fall on their house or hit the wires during a storm event. He stated that he and his wife are very happy and thanked everyone again for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/F. Amendola*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager