

COUNCIL DISCUSSION MEETING
Minutes of Monday, March 13, 2017

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 (5) members of Council present as follows: Ms. Damits, Ms. Perry, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. O'Brien, and Ms. Amendola. Those not in attendance; Mr. Amendola and Ms. Glaser. Also present Mayor Bloom, and Solicitor Gladys.

Ms. Amendola noted a brief executive session took place before the meeting, no action was taken.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the payment of bills on the Bill List dated March 13, 2017.

MOTION #1- carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0)

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O'Brien*) to accept the Meeting Minutes dated February 27, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #2 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items only

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor noted that his office sent out a Letter of Default to the property owner at 78 Fountain, regular and certified mail. He will have 20 days in which to comply with the Judge's order, or the Borough will have the authority to begin the demolition procedure.

The next item on the Agenda is 19 N. Emily Street. If Council recalled, in December 2016 the Borough passed a resolution regarding this property and participation in the Allegheny County Side Yard Program.

Jordan Tax Service the delinquent tax collector for the Borough, listed this property for Sheriff Sale on April 15, 2017.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to cancel the Sheriff Sale and uphold the Allegheny County Side Yard Sale of the property located at 19 N. Emily Street.

MOTION #3 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted it has been a quiet two weeks in Crafton in reference to the opioid epidemic. The Department continues to work towards reducing or eliminating this in our Community.

BUSINESS AGENDA***COMPREHENSIVE PLAN***

Ms. Amendola stated, there is Notice of a Special Meeting schedule with Ingram Council (prior to Council's next meeting) on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 6:00 pm to discuss the Implemental Comprehensive Plan and Joint Services.

Crafton Planning Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:30 pm to review and discuss the proposed Comprehensive Plan,

Ms. Amendola noted comments were received from Allegheny County Economic Development on the DRAFT plan submitted for review. Pashek and Associates have prepared a response and addressed each of the comments submitted. The comments were incorporated in the final plan.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O'Brien*) to Adopt Resolution 2017-03 the Joint Resolution Recognizing the Contributions and Achievements of the Comprehensive Plan Joint Steering Committee as presented.

MOTION #4 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (5-0).

Ms. Amendola noted that Ingram will be adopting the same Resolution this evening. Ms. Scott noted that the President of Council from Ingram, Sam Nucci, inquired if Crafton would like to invite the Steering Committee Members to the meeting on March 27 and present them each with a signed copy of the signed resolution. After discussion, Council agreed to invite the Committee Members to the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to Appoint Heather Ravenstahl as Pool Manager and Jocelyn Gentile as Assistant Manager for the 2017 Season.

Ms. Damits inquired if any other applications for these positions were received. Ms. Scott noted there were not any other applicants for these positions.

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

Ms. Amendola noted that summer applications are still being accepted in the Administration Offices. Applications are available on the website.

FINANCE

Ms. Scott noted that the Borough received the 2017 Liquid Fuels allocation in the amount of \$168,031, an increase from last year of \$6,684. She noted these monies are utilized for the purchase of bulk rock salt, street lighting and road resurfacing materials.

ZONING & PLANNING

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Levasseur*) to Adopt Ordinance No. 1642 regarding Disorderly Houses, Gatherings and Nuisance Properties as prepared by the Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Levasseur noted after reviewing the ordinance again, he suggested that the ordinance focus more on the disorderly homes issue and eliminate the noise section of the ordinance as it is redundant, addressed in previous ordinances. Solicitor Gladys noted any ordinance inconsistent are repealed.

Ms. Perry voiced concerns that the proper attention was not given to this section of the ordinance, the concentration and discussion was more on the disorderly homes section. She suggested that either the noise section be eliminated from the ordinance, or encouraged more discussion on this particular section and Council take additional time before they consider adopting the ordinance.

Mr. O'Brien inquired if keeping the noise section in the ordinance provided Code Enforcement and Police Department a better tool for enforcement. All the information located in one section of the code rather than searching in various sections.

Ms. Scott noted that the ordinance presented and advertised is the ordinance that would need to be adopted. Council cannot remove or add sections of a proposed, advertised ordinance, it must be adopt as presented. Amendments or revisions can be made by adopting another ordinance, which would require advertisement, and public comment, if any.

Mayor Bloom suggested adopting this ordinance as presented, and in the future, address the noise concerns and adopt another ordinance.

Ms. Perry stated she disagreed, that since the ordinance repeals any previous ordinance, it may make it more difficult to add a revised section on noise. She recommended removing this section and consider the ordinance at the next meeting in two weeks.

Ms. Amendola reiterated that the all pertinent information is regarding noise and disorderly homes, is all located in the same ordinance. She believes this leads to easier enforcement.

Mr. Levasseur questioned the legal validity of the noise section. He also noted that the sample ordinance used in reference for preparation was from that of a "college" town in PA, and different type of residential setting than Crafton. He recommended keeping the ordinance streamlined and simple.

Ms. Amendola noted a motion was on the floor to Adopt Ordinance No. 1642 as submitted, asked for a roll call vote please.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION #6 - carried by Roll Call Vote (3-2)

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to Adopt Ordinance No. 1643 regarding Vacant Homes as prepared by the Borough Solicitor.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Amendola noted the first item on the discussion listing this evening was the Spring Mailing for the Service Line Warranties (water and sewer).

Ms. Amendola noted, the Company came to a Council Meeting, they addressed Council, and it was voted on and approved to enter into a three year agreement to offer this type of utility line service protection to our residents. She noted this is an extra protection for residents, they are not mandated to purchase this protection.

The letter was sent out on behalf of Council in the Fall 2016. Ms. Amendola noted after the mailing was sent, one residential complaint was received at a Council Meeting. The resident questioned if this is the only company that offers this type of protections in Crafton, and inquired if residents are obligated to purchase. She felt it looked like the Borough was endorsing this business, and the Borough doesn't typically endorse any type of business.

Ms. Scott noted the only Community in the area that utilize Service Line Warranties is Robinson Township. The Manager stated that with each mailing fewer inquiries or concerns are received, and with the last mailing, the letter is sent out by the Borough, not signed by the Chairman.

Ms. Perry inquired if the Borough has received a sample of the letter itself, and the letterhead and envelope planned for this mailing. She believes their advertising methods are deceptive. She stated, she has received numerous complaints and concerns from residents on this mailing than any other matter brought before Council. She recommends this company does not utilize Borough letterhead or envelope, and they could include in the letter itself, the Borough endorsement of this service.

Mr. Levasseur agreed, the Borough of Crafton should NOT be on the letterhead or the envelope. He doesn't believe any Member of Council thought this was how the letter or the product was going to go out to the residents.

Solicitor Gladys pulled up the Agreement signed with Service Line Warranties, wherein it stated that the Borough grants a non-exclusive license to use Borough name and logo on letterhead, bills and marketing materials to be sent to residents.

Mr. O'Brien understands the product that Service Line Warranties offers, and the fact that it is a service or warranty offered to assist our residents. However, the Borough has received numerous concerns and complaints, and he hopes that this Company is willing to meet with Crafton to discuss and address our concerns.

Ms. Amendola inquired if perhaps the Manager could contact a Service Line Warranties representative, ask them to attend the meeting in April and discuss our concerns with them in person. Ms. Scott stated, she will contact them first thing tomorrow morning, and let Council know the outcome.

Ms. Amendola suggested the Borough ask upfront if they would consider different letterhead and envelope when sending out the mailing. If no, then please ask them to come to the meeting. Until a meeting has been scheduled, postpone the mailing until after.

Mr. O'Brien stated he would prefer someone from the Company to attend a meeting. He would appreciate someone addressing the negative feedback received from the residents of the Community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Amendola made the following announcements;

- The First Senior Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2017; Doors Open at 5:00 pm
- Slippery Rock University sent the Borough a Thank You Note for designating Memorial Day 2017 as Captain James West Day in Crafton
- Poetry Box Grand Opening – 1753 Barr Avenue, Sunday March 26 at 2:00 pm
- SHRED EVENT – Saturday, April 22, 2017, 9 am to 1 pm – Crafton Park
Representative Dan Deasy, Senator Wayne Fontana, Boroughs of Crafton & Ingram - Hosting the Event!!

Mr. Levasseur asked everyone there this evening to be an Ambassador for Crafton, the best source for marketing our Community is through the residents that live here! Crafton is in a perfect location, has outstanding housing stock with Great Residents!

Let the record reflect, Mr. Fred Amendola arrived at the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm. He apologized for being late, however, he wanted to address Council.

Mr. Amendola noted he had concerns on the Spring Mailing for the Service Line Warranty mailing and asked if he could be brought to date.

Ms. Amendola noted the following;

- The Borough would contact Service Line Warranties and ask them to remove the letter from Borough letterhead and from use of the Borough envelope.
- If they are unable to complete these tasks, inquire if they could attend the meeting on April 10, 2017 to discuss our concerns.

AUDIENCE AGENDA

No one from the audience signed up to speak before Council

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott, Borough Manager