

**COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of October 10, 2016
Discussion Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President of Council O'Brien called to order the Discussion Meeting in the Borough of Crafton, on Monday, October 10, 2016 at 7:26 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

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

Mr. Amendola asked for a Moment of Silence for the following Crafton Borough Residents who served their Community with pride; Jerry Bittner of S. Grandview Avenue and Art Londino of Barr Avenue.

(Moment of Silence).

Mr. O'Brien noted that an Executive Session was held prior to the Meeting regarding Personnel and possible Litigation, No action was taken.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to approve the Bill List dated October 10, 2016 as presented.

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

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to approve the Minutes of September 26, 2016 as presented.

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

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

Mr. O'Brien noted that no Citizens signed up to speak before Council on Agenda Items only.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Gladys noted the 78 Fountain property, was on the Trial List in Allegheny County for December 2, 2016 and the Pretrial Conference is scheduled with the Judge on October 21, 2016. He noted, the Homeowner has terminated his relationship with his Attorney.

The next property Solicitor Gladys discussed was 25-27 Sycamore, the Hassick Residence. This matter has been settled; his office has presented a Motion for Damages to the courts schedule for October 14, 2016; the damages include the attorney fees and costs. The Solicitor noted that CDBG Funding for the removal of blighted properties is no longer available, therefore, the removal of such properties becomes the Boroughs responsibility. Ms. Perry asked for clarification as to the ownership of the property. Solicitor Gladys noted that the ownership remains with the property owner. The property becomes the Borough's responsibility, due to the fact, the homeowner is typically not willing to care or maintain the property due to the burden of taxes etc. Two solutions would be condemning the property or having a tax sale since it is located within the Borough. Ms. Perry noted that this could be part of the Blight Prevention Program.

BUSINESS AGENDA***PUBLIC WORKS***

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Perry*) to award Duncan Avenue Pipe Bursting to State Pipe in the amount of \$97,760.00.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to authorize to Advertise Ordinance 1640, designating Rodgers Avenue as a Public Owned and Maintained Roadway.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Perry asked for clarification on adopting an Ordinance for a street that already belongs to the Borough. Ms. Scott provided the following explanation; PENNDOT submitted a map of Borough roadways, these are owned and maintained by Crafton, and we receive reimbursement through the Liquid Fuels Tax. She and the Public Works Director reviewed the map provided, noticing Rodgers Avenue was not included. The only way for the Borough to be reimbursed for maintaining the roadway, was by providing PENNDOT with the original Ordinance when the street was originally adopted or by adopting a new Ordinance. An ordinance was prepared, as she was unable to locate the original. Mr. Amendola requested clarification as to why the street in question was not being referred to as Arc Alley, he stated that Rodgers is a paper street. Ms. Scott stated the 2015 Road Resurfacing bids and specifications and the GIS system have the roadway labeled as Rodgers Avenue. The Solicitor explained to Mr. Amendola that the County Real Estate website has the street shown as Rodgers Avenue as well. Ms. Perry noted, County 911 referred to the roadway as Rodgers, and should remain Rodgers for Public Safety reasons. Mr. O'Brien suggested to move forward with advertising and ask PENNDOT if they have dealt with different versions of maps previously. Solicitor Gladys agreed to move ahead with advertising the Ordinance and that the street name can be altered at a later date.

MOTION #4 carried by Voice Vote (5-0), Mr. Amendola abstained from voting.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to authorize payment to SHACOG for Joint Lining Project (Year 10) in the amount of \$25,766.39 for Estimate No. 1 and Final payment, as recommended by the Engineer.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to authorize Joint O&M CCTV-Inspection Cleaning Project (Year 4) for Engineering Expenses in the amount of \$759.72.

Ms. Perry requested clarification this is the fee for the Engineer's not the Project. Ms. Scott acknowledged this is Crafton's portion of the joint

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

PLANNING & ZONING

Mr. O'Brien noted that the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers to consider preliminary and final subdivision application for the property located at 103-107 Noble Avenue.

Mr. O'Brien requested a Motion to authorized to advertise for a Part Time Code Enforcement Officer position for the Borough; Ms. Damits made the motion, however, Motion died due to a lack of a second.

FINANCE

Mr. O'Brien announced the 2017 Budget Meetings will be held beginning on October 17, November 7, 9 and November 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Borough Building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. O'Brien announced that Halloween, Trick or Treating will be Monday October 31, 2016 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Grim's Mini Golf will be from October 20- 30, 2016. Weekdays 6 pm to 9pm, Saturday's and Sunday's 3 pm to 9 pm. Adults \$5.00, Kids 12 and under \$3.00

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BLIGHT PREVENTION PROGRAM

Mayor Bloom began discussion regarding Blighted Properties; issues with vacant properties and disorderly houses. He suggested, Council consider adopting Ordinances similar to the Borough of Carnegie. Such regulations will assist the Police Department, Building Inspector and Ordinance Officer to have better control over these types of properties.

One suggested Ordinance is a three strikes policy; should the Police Department continuously be called to a particular disorderly home, it would allow the owner to evict the disorderly tenants for cause. The Ordinance would address the maintenance of rental properties i.e. sidewalks that propose a tripping hazard, eye sores in front yard etc. Ms. Perry noted that the Council will need to look into what resources these Departments will need to enforce these proposed Ordinances. To address the properties and remediate the problem. She noted there are 3 homes on her street that are abandoned and need to be removed.

Mr. O'Brien suggested a member of the Police Department and the Ordinance Officer could attend a Council Meeting once a month to connect the Community with current issues going on throughout the Borough. This would provide residents an opportunity to be more involved in their neighborhood and support Council in being more proactive.

Mr. Levasseur stated adopting this type of Ordinance would hold landowners accountable for their properties and encourage future investments in the Community.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the suggestion to adopt such an Ordinance seems to be agreeable amongst Members of Council. He suggested that this be included on the Agenda for the November Discussion Meeting so Council can continue to discuss. Solicitor Gladys noted that he will have review the Code presented from Carnegie and provide a legal opinion for the next meeting.

Ms. Perry noted that we need to continue to be proactive on Blight, one of the main topics of the Comprehensive Plan. Council needs to figure how we allocate resources to meet the requirements of the proposed ordinances in the 2017 budget.

AUDIENCE AGENDA

Charlene Krenke 800 Clearview Ave

Ms. Krenke inquired about the solicitation letter from Service Line Warranties. Solicitor Gladys explained that Council entered into a Licensing Agreement with the company offering a warranty for sewer line repairs. However, the explanation as to how the information would be distributed was not made clear to the Council or himself at the time. Mr. Levasseur agreed that the letter was misleading, and in the fact stated it was from the Office of the Borough with Ms. Amendola's signature. Solicitor Gladys noted that he will look into this matter before any new mailings are sent out.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Damits*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager