

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of December 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President Hayes called to order the Agenda Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute led by Mr. Crown. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded Six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Amendola, Mr. Crown, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Hayes. (*Absent: Ms. Weitzel*) Also present: Mayor Bloom, Manager Scott and Director Kaczorowski.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*N.Amendola/F.Amendola*) to approve the Bill List dated December 14, 2015.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*N.Amendola/Crown*) to approve the Minutes of November 23, 2015.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A.J. Pescuric, Bradford Avenue/Civil Service Commission Chair – Ms. Pescuric thanked Manager Scott for her assistance with both the patrolman hiring and promotion process. She noted that the panel of examiners remarked on the three patrolmen interviewing for the Sergeant position; that they were a fine group and any one of the three would be an excellent candidate. Ms. Pescuric also chairs the Holiday Decorating Committee, and thanked Council for the funding and support for this annual project, and she thanked the many volunteer elves for the great job.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (November 2015)

(Not Available)

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom reported that the Police Department participated, again this year, in the PA seat belt enforcement program, Buckle Up, during the Thanksgiving holiday. Six officers participated for a total of 22 ½ hours, and the Borough will receive payroll reimbursement totaling \$1,136.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- a. Swimming Pool Renovations – The coping tile and concrete decking has been completed; the retaining wall will be completed this year before the weather breaks, and the rest of the work will be done in the spring.
- b. 2015 Road Program Update – Completed; one of two punch list items on Orchard Way have been completed.
- c. 217 Lincoln Demolition Update – Bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday.
- d. Joint Lining Project – Year 9 – Estimate No. 1 - \$12,392.07 - Payable to SHACOG; this item is on the Agenda for approval.
- e. Administrative Consent Order – A Resolution is on the Agenda for adoption.
- f. Discuss SR 60 E. Steuben at Union Avenue – PENNDOT Proposal: A portion of E. Steuben, between Union and Noble, before the Allegheny County line, is the Borough's responsibility. It has been patched several times by Public Works and it would benefit the Borough to have

the entire road resurfaced, and enter into an agreement with PennDot to have their contractor do the Crafton portion of E. Steuben. A motion is on the Agenda for consideration.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

a. 96 Noble – Status Update. Solicitor Ayoob reported that Atty. Fives is representing the Calabrese family, and has filed an answer to our complaint. Judge O’Reilly issued an Order of Court scheduling a status conference for January 13, 2016. He will review any work permits issued, and will need a regular update on the work performed to date, and ongoing work performed.

b. Ordinance–Permitting Chickens in Certain Zoning Districts – Solicitor Ayoob reported that he is actually working on two ordinances; one relating to sections concerning domestic pets and health, and nuisance issues, and one relating to Zoning, to allow as a use. The Zoning ordinance will require a public hearing and advertisement.

c. Sobol Property Violations – On his appeal, this property owner was found guilty and fined for repeated trash/property violations. Now, with this record of violations, it should be easier to proceed with future citations and enforcement at this property.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS AGENDA

PERSONNEL

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/N.Amendola*) to promote Officer Frank Scatena to the position of Sergeant with the Crafton Police Department, in accordance with the CSC Certified Eligibility Listing, effective December 15, 2015.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*F.Amendola/Crown*) to hire Brian D. Tully, to the position of Police Officer with the Crafton Police Department, in accordance with the CSC Certified Eligibility Listing, subject to the satisfactory completion of the physical and psychological examinations.

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

MOTION - It was regularly moved and seconded (*N.Amendola/Crown*) to ratify and approve hiring of Ronald Orwig – Part Time School Guard.

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

NOTICE – It was noted that Applications are being accepted for the position of Part Time Administration Clerk in the Managers Office.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - MAYOR BLOOM; Oath/Swearing in of Sergeant Frank Scatena.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*N.Amendola/Phillips*) to adopt Resolution No. 2015-17 to enter into an updated Interim Consent Order and Agreement with Allegheny County Health Department and US Environmental Protection Agency related to the Borough combined sewer system.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/N.Amendola*) to authorize Payment Request No. 1 – Joint Pipe Lining Project – Year 9 in the amount of \$12,392.07 payable to SHACOG, as recommended by the Engineer.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*F.Amendola/Crown*) to authorize Payment to SHACOG – Joint O&M Repairs – Year 3 – Engineering Expense - \$1,723.63.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/N.Amendola*) to authorize the Borough to enter into an Agreement with PENNDOT regarding the design and resurfacing of E. Steuben between Union Avenue and Noble Avenue, in accordance with the submitted estimated cost and recommended by the Engineer, in the amount of \$41,700.

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

BUDGET/FINANCE

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/O’Brien*) to adopt the 2016 General Fund, Sewer and Road Tax Fund Budgets as presented, with a ½ mil increase in the Road Improvement Fund. **COMMENTS:** President Hayes explained that the increase is being considered based on discussions/comments during the Budget meetings; that more roads need to be improved annually and not enough money is being budgeted to cover the increasing costs. If this motion fails, and a budget adopted without an increase, then Council will change the next motion accordingly for the Tax Ordinance. Mr. Crown noted that both the Engineer and Public Works indicate that we are lagging behind in road and infrastructure improvements; that this ½ mil increase will provide approx. \$120,000. more in funds which equates to maybe two roads, out of 32 miles of streets. To catch up with the five-year plan, the borough would need almost one million dollars. Mr. O’Brien was not in favor of an increase; suggested involving the new Council members in this decision and further review of the budget and street paving program, based on a comprehensive plan and being more informed. Mayor Bloom noted that the cost of goods and services are ever increasing and waiting two years to do the paving that needs done today will cost more. It was noted that the last increase in millage for the Road Fund was in 2009. Also, this increase will only result in approx. \$50. more/less per household, annually. The Borough saved money this year on the road paving program due to PAWC replacing their water lines and paving the length of Noble Avenue. A fund balance is now available to be carried forward to 2016. President Hayes noted that an increase in taxes would not be the first action of a new Council, and it has taken this Council four years of review to make this decision, and pushing this decision on to the next Council may take another four years before they realize what needs to be done with a crumbling infrastructure and lack of funds. Director Kaczorowski noted that he would like to address and reconstruct some of the brick streets in the borough that have been neglected for years. He also noted that Council-Elect, Ms. Perry, spoke at the Budget meetings and she indicated that while talking with residents prior to the election, that the most mentioned topics were our infrastructure and much-needed road repairs/improvement.

MOTION carried by a Three Yes (*F. Amendola, Crown, Hayes*), Three No (*N. Amendola, O’Brien, Phillips*) Roll Call Vote; with the Mayor breaking the tie vote with a Yes Vote (4-3).

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/O’Brien*) to adopt Ordinance No.1633 fixing the Tax Rate at 5.67 mills on real estate property for fiscal year 2016 and fixing the rate of the Special Road Improvement Fund at 1.92 mills; total of 7.59 mills. COMMENTS: Solicitor Ayoob noted that with the adoption of the 2016 Budget, Council is now obligated to adopt this Tax Ordinance; mandatory.

MOTION carried by a Five Yes, One No (*Phillips*) Roll Call Vote (5-1).

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*N.Amendola/Crown*) to adopt Resolution No. 2015-18 fixing the salaries of certain employees effective, January 1, 2016 and establishing holidays, vacations, sick leave and other benefits and providing disciplinary procedures for the violations, thereof, and repealing inconsistent ordinances and resolutions.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/N.Amendola*) to adopt Resolution No. 2015-19 establishing a general schedule of fees, costs, charges, and expense for the year 2016 and Repealing any and all Resolutions inconsistent.

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

PLANNING/ZONING

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/N.Amendola*) to reappoint Jeff Harlich to the Crafton Borough Zoning Hearing Board for a three year term which shall expire on December 31, 2018.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/N.Amendola*) to appoint Katherine DeAngelis as the Alternate on the Crafton Zoning Hearing Board for a three year term which shall expire on December31, 2018.

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

MOTION – It was regularly moved and seconded (*Crown/N.Amendola*) to reappoint Douglas Clark to the Crafton Building Appeals Board for a three year term which shall expire on December 31, 2018.

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

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was regularly moved and seconded (*Corwn/Phillips*) to adjourn the meeting.

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

CRAFTON BOROUGH

December 14, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary