

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of May 23, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council, Amendola called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council to Order, 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. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Perry and Ms. Amendola. Absent was Mr. Levasseur. Also present Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys, Engineer Minsterman, and PW Director Kaczorowski and Manager Scott.

Mr. Amendola requested a moment of silence for Mrs. Suehr, a long-time resident of Crafton Borough, on Union Avenue who passed away earlier this month. Mrs. Suehr was very active in the Community and in fact her husband was the former tax collector. A moment of silence was recognized.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O'Brien*) to approve the Bill List dated May 9, 2016.

Discussion – Mr. Amendola inquired as to the cost for the reimbursement for the purchase of storage totes to Mr. Levasseur for use in the Borough Building Cleanup. Ms. Amendola noted that Mr. Levasseur had done some work with the documents in the basement in cooperation with the firm hired to complete the cleanup. She had spoken to him on this matter, and he stated the totes were necessary as storage of old housing plats stored in the basement. However, she noted that Members of Council are not permitted to make any type of purchase or spend any monies without prior approval. Mr. Amendola inquired where the documents are located at the current moment. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that he will check in the "Comex" box located at the Public Works Garage Area where the other documents are being stored.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O'Brien*) to approve the Bill List of May 23, 2016

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

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Glaser*) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated May 9, 2016 as presented.

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

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

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Amendola noted that Joseph Edward Gramz, 711 Valonia Street was in attendance and wished to address Council regarding a proposed Eagle Scout Merit Project in the Borough of Crafton.

Mr. Gramz noted he is from Troop 147, which was established May 12, 1912. He is interested in painting each set of the outside stairs in Crafton, two-inches wide and corners with glow-in-the-dark green paint mixed with sand and make small repairs as his Eagle Scout Merit Project.

Ms. Glaser noted she thought this was a fantastic project and appreciated his efforts. Mr. Amendola inquired if he would complete the work on his own. Mr. Gramz indicated that he will work with volunteers, family, friends and members of the Boy Scout troop to complete the project. He is working on finalizing the plan for the project and will bring back to Council for final review. He asked Ms. Amendola to sign the documentation approving the project, which was completed.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Andrea Marquis, 38 Marion Street, of the Crafton Community Garden provided a brief update on the Garden. She noted this is the second and final year of the Grow Pittsburgh Grant for the Garden, this year we installed the Rain Garden and gutters, the Tool Shed and expanded the garden itself. Last year they harvested over 1,500 pounds of produce, provided to the Crafton Community Food Bank. She noted, all of the seeds and seedlings have been planted, thanks to the volunteers. She invited Council and the residents to stop down anytime to tour the Garden. If anyone is interested, the group meets on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:30 pm to dark and Sunday mornings for routine maintenance.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (April 2016)

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

Mr. Amendola inquired if there was a monthly Library Report. Ms. Perry asked what type of report he was looking for from the Library. She noted that a quarterly report is prepared regarding circulation and a monthly financial statement and is provided to the Library Board. She can put a request into the Board at their next meeting regarding submitting some sort of report to the Borough on a monthly basis. Ms. Amendola suggested that this item be included for discussion at the next meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted a few months ago, the sign at Crennell and N. Linwood prohibiting a Right Turn on Red during certain hours was taken down to complete a traffic study at the intersection. The Police Department conducted a study between May 11 and May 23, 2016. The Mayor noted that the signals at the same intersection (Crennell at N. Linwood West) do not have any such restriction. The results of the Police Traffic Study indicate that there was no increase in traffic or any report of traffic accidents, therefore, recommends that the sign be permanently removed allowing for traffic to make a Right Turn on Red. The Mayor requests Council's consideration in making the revision to that Ordinance.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Glaser*) to authorize the advertisement of the revised Traffic Ordinance allowing for the Right Turn on Red on a Steady Red Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Crennell Avenue and N. Linwood.

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

Mayor Bloom noted Mr. Levasseur has requested the installation of a stop sign on Willard at Clearview Avenue. The Police Department is conducting a Traffic Study regarding this request and will provide the findings and provide a recommendation on the matter.

Mayor Bloom asked Council to recall the large and dangerous tree along Chartiers Avenue, located in the City of Pittsburgh, the resident living in Crafton. The tree is sliding and he is concerned it will fall down onto their home. A meeting was held with the Representative Deasy, City, Port Authority and Crafton last year. To this date, nothing has been completed, and we are entering raining season. Mr. Kaczorowski stated he will contact the City of Pittsburgh.

Mayor Bloom noted the Crafton Police have partnered with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) to install an unwanted or expired prescription collection box in the Municipal Building. The box has been installed and encouraged anyone with unwanted items to drop them off at the Borough Building during business hours.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Minsterman provided an update on the Operation and Maintenance of the sewer system. The televising contract has been completed, Gateway will begin their review to see condition of the system.

The defects of the system, consists of two contracts, Robinson Pipe for spot lining repairs, work has already begun, and Jet Jack for manhole to manhole lining of the larger sewers. This contract hasn't been awarded by SHACOG, but will be soon.

Mr. Minsterman noted that plans and specifications for the pipe bursting contract on Duncan Avenue have been advertised, bids will be opened on May 31, 2016.

Mr. Minsterman noted Council awarded the contract for the 2016 Road Program to Mele & Mele & Sons in the amount of \$299,946.05. The 2016 Budget includes \$500,000 for road resurfacing, additional roadways have been added, including Cowher Way, Gino Alley and Orchard Street. Foster Avenue had to be removed from the listing, the Borough received CDBG funding for installation of handicap ramps. The bid and paving is required to be completed through the COG, therefore, Fountain Road from Sycamore to McCann was added to the listing.

Mr. Minsterman noted that Swimming Pool Splash Pad/Pool has been completed. There is an Inspection scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2016 with the Allegheny County Health Department. If all goes well, the Splash Pad will be ready for Opening Day, May 28, 2016.

Mr. Minsterman noted that Council had requested a cost estimate to complete the last section of the Clearview Avenue Project that has been prepared and submitted to the Borough.

Mr. Minsterman provided an overview of the Flow Isolation Project, which is the result of the source reduction study of the Administrative Consent Order signed by the Borough in December 2015. The source reduction study reviews the source of infiltration into the sewer system that overloads the system causing overflows and backups. Flow Isolation identifies where the highest volume of infiltration is coming from is certain sewer lines. The belief is that 80% of the source reduction flow comes from 20% of the sewer segments. This will allow the repairs to be concentrated in that 20% of the sewer lines, reducing costs for repairs.

Ms. Perry inquired as to the cost of the Clearview Avenue Project, and the importance that the Borough consider completing the last phase of the Project. The Engineer provided a brief history of the overall project, noting it was a five phase project funded through a Growing Greener Grant for a portion of the project. The grant covered the four phases, phase five was not a part of the original application or design. He noted phase five has not been completely designed, current conditions would need to be reviewed to determine if the storm water is being captured and if additional retention would be required since the construction of the four phases. He did note that phase five had the least green infrastructure included in the design, it was more of a pavement restoration and storm water project. He proposed if some type of green infrastructure could be included in the last Phase, that Council could consider applying for additional funding. Gateway would be able to evaluate the project, do a site visit and provide a proposal for estimated costs.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Gladys noted that an internal inspection of the structure located at 78 Fountain was held on April 20, 2016 with the owner, his attorney, building inspector, code enforcement officer and Mr. Bolle from his office. The owner has requested a listing of repairs by Borough that would allow him to bring the property into Code. The building inspector and code enforcement office are preparing such a list. The Borough is waiting for the notice of the trial to be rescheduled on the matter.

Solicitor Gladys noted there have been two issues that have come before the Borough regarding current burning regulations; Open Outdoor Burning and Indoor Burning. He has reviewed the current ordinance and noted, there is no opening burning permitted in Crafton, with the exception of BBQ grilling, charcoal or gas. He noted that several Communities are following the Allegheny County Ordinance regulating fire pits and fire places. He suggested that if Council is interested in changing the regulations a revised ordinance would need to be adopted.

The other issue discussed was in reference to indoor burning and home heating. The Crafton Ordinance speaks mostly to it being a nuisance, if the residential home is emitting off gases or smoke, it may be considered a nuisance. He noted he reviewed the County Regulations on indoor burning, which controls wood-burning stoves. The resident that spoke last meeting stated the neighbor was burning coke inside his home for heating. Mr. Gladys noted he would question indoor burning of such material as a fire hazard and be reviewed under the fire code.

Mr. Gladys suggested that the Borough consider a new comprehensive ordinance that would regulate both indoor and outdoor burning. By revising the ordinance provide opportunity for Council to discuss and review, and residents to provide input.

Ms. Perry inquired if Council was required to make the revisions to make this current ordinance. Mr. Gladys replied the Borough was not required. Ms. Amendola noted that residents of the Community are indeed burning proper materials in fire pits at this time, and the ordinance needs to be updated and revised. Mr. O'Brien stated he would like to provide residents an opportunity to take part of the conversation on the proposed revisions. Council continued to discuss the current regulation and enforcement. The Mayor suggested that if a resident complains of an outdoor fire being a nuisance or hazard to the Police Department, the Police will order the violator to shut down the fire, until the new regulation can be adopted. Council agrees with this recommendation, and the Mayor will notify the Department.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to authorize the solicitor to prepare a Draft Ordinance to update the indoor and outdoor burning regulations.

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

Mr. Amendola noted regarding the cleanup of the basement downstairs. He is requesting the Solicitor prepare a waiver of some sort for any Community volunteer that intends to work on or remediate any of the documents would agree to hold the Borough harmless. He noted that no one should be working on any of the documents until a waiver is signed. Ms. Perry noted there hasn't been any work done on the documents at this time, the matter has been discussed.

BUSINESS AGENDA

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Glaser noted she has spoken with Pool Manager, the pool looks great, everyone is very excited about the new spray pool/pad opening. She thanked the Borough crew for all their hard work and efforts to bring it all together. Ms. Glaser also noted that Mary Luxbacher and her husband are dedicated to the Pool and their hard work need to be commended. Work continues down there, until opening day.

Ms. Glaser noted the Manager mentioned to her that all of the benches were removed, and inquired if any budget remaining for purchasing of replacement benches. She noted the benches were all rusted and corroded. The Manager noted that the backwash pump is in poor condition at the pool, required operational equipment, the Borough is getting proposals for replacement. Mr. Amendola inquired as the cost of a bench, Mr. Kaczorowski stated approximately \$300 per bench. Ms. Perry suggested that the Borough ask a few of the local business representatives for a contribution to the purchase of a replacement bench, and their company name could be recognized on each. Mr. Amendola stated his firm would be happy to donate a \$300 bench, as did Engineer Minsterman, Gateway would donate the cost. Mr. Kaczorowski will look into a price and bring back to Council.

Ms. Glaser noted that Pool opens on Saturday, May 28, 2016 at Noon to 8:00 pm.

Ms. Glaser announced the Recreation Board is looking for volunteers to serve on the Board and or volunteer to assist with the Senior Dinners, the third Saturday of the Month. Please contact the Borough.

Mr. Amendola inquired if a celebration has been organized for the new Splash Pool area? Ms. Scott stated she is working with the Recreation Board on organizing a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. She will update Council as details become available.

FINANCE

Ms. Amendola noted that at the last meeting there was a presentation regarding a Utility Line Warranty Program through the National League of Cities.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/Perry*) to enter into a partnership and agreement with Utility Service Partners, Inc. as presented regarding a Utility Line Warranty for the Community.

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Damits*) to authorize the payment of 2016 Real Estate Tax Refunds in the amount of \$3,505.64.

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Mr. O'Brien provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that on Saturday, May 14, 2016 a Walkability tour was held, and he was able to attend. The walk provided a new prospective on the history of the two Communities. Mr. O'Brien provided a listing of projects that came to light during the walk that need to be considered; improved and additional sidewalks, lighted crosswalks, benches and refuse containers.

Ms. Perry provided information on the Pop Up Event on May 20, 2016, customers were able to stop by and learn about the Comprehensive Plan. They received interest in the Plan and possible volunteers. Ms. Amendola asked if a listing of bulleted items could be provided to Council, Ms. Perry said she believes a summary of events is being prepared.

Ms. Perry provided a copy of the flyer that is being mailed to the residents. She noted Council approved \$2,500 toward the mailing cost, however, the final cost will be significantly lower. The question at this time is how the mailing costs should be divided. Work on the plan from this point has been split equally between Crafton and Ingram, noting Crafton is the larger Community. It was agreed that the cost would be shared equally.

Mr. O'Brien noted the next Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Ingram Borough Building.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O'Brien*) to authorize the inclusion of the proposed additional roads to the 2016 Road Resurfacing Project as recommended by the Engineer at an approximate cost of \$93,000.

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

Mr. Kaczorowski announced that work on Steuben Street is scheduled to begin in Crafton on Tuesday, May 24 through May 26, 2016. Work will be completed from 6 pm to 6 am from Union Street to the Bridge, (mill, tack coat, pave and seal).

Ms. Glaser inquired if the old railroad tracks under Steuben were removed. Mr. Kaczorowski noted the contractor was made aware of the old tracks.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that two summer kids began work this week, it is a busy time of year for the Borough, grass cutting, tiger machine is out and trimming work began, road resurfacing and the pool.

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: Accept and approve the 2015 Audit as submitted by Maher Duessel, CPA.

MOTION #8 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Scott noted that the 2014 Liquid Fuels State Audit has been completed, not findings were received.

MOTION: Authorize payment of \$11,715 plus interest to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the overpayment of State Aide provided to the Borough in 2013 as stated in the Auditor General's Audit of the Crafton Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan as a Finding.

MOTION #9 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jerry Petronsky, 16 Taylor Street, appeared before Council regarding regulations on burning in Crafton. He noted he had various health issues and would like to reiterate to Council his viewpoint on the burning ordinance. The current ordinance in Crafton is no burning, then there should be no burning permitted, regardless of Allegheny County regulations. He noted on Saturday evening, the neighbor was having a party and again burning, the smell was terrible. He is under a doctor's care for his health issues.

Ms. Perry noted that the Borough is considering revising the burning ordinance and a public hearing will be required before it may be considered. This would be the appropriate place to provide his input.

The Mayor stated, it was detailed earlier this evening, if someone is burning in the Borough and you have a health condition, to contact the Police Department (911). They will mandate the fire to be extinguished.

Tom Phillips, 85 Union Avenue, appeared before Council regarding indoor burning. He contacted the EPA who visited his property and visually saw the smoke from the neighboring home. The representative stated they did not have the authority over the issue, the chimney was built in accordance to regulation and the Borough would need to have an ordinance in place regarding such burning. He noted that Council may be opening the Borough up to potential litigation if the regulation is revised or not followed.

Jackie Levasseur, 401 Clearview, appeared before Council regarding the stop sign on Willard at Clearview. She is concerned that people are speeding down Willard and the area can be dangerous for pedestrians and children walking along Clearview. She would appreciate Council's consideration for installation of the stop sign.

Ms. Amendola noted no other citizen signed up to speak before Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

MOTION #10 was carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager