

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Rosario called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Crouse.

ROLL CALL

Manager Susko recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola (via FaceTime), Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur (via Skype). Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Public Works Director Kaczorowski. Absent was Ms. Glaser and Mayor Bloom.

APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Perry*) to approve the Bill List dated March 11, 2019 as presented.

Ms. Damits inquired about the status of a report from Animal Control Services.

MOTION #1 carries by a Voice Vote (5-1). (*Ms. Damits-NO*)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Crouse*) to approve the Minutes dated February 25, 2019 as presented.

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

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

Mr. Rosario announced that no citizens signed up to speak regarding agenda items.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Manager Susko noted that Mayor Bloom did not submit a report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel stated he had nothing to report on this evening.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Susko gave a brief summary on the items for tonight's agenda.

Manager Susko stated that there is a motion on the agenda to allow Crafton Celebrates to do a Pet Portrait fundraiser in the park; this will be held in conjunction with the Flea Market Fundraiser on May 25, 2019. Manager Susko added that there are provisions in the Crafton Code of Ordinances that gives Council the authority to grant special approval and allow pets in the park.

Manager Susko noted that there is a motion to advertise the ordinance to increase the Recreation Board and to advise Council to consider fixing the term lengths for new seats.

Manager Susko announced that the 2019 Liquid Fuels funds had been received in the amount of \$179,969.00.

Manager Susko noted she has scheduled her vacation and added that she will make herself available by phone if any problems arise.

Manager Susko provided an update on the L.G.A. Intern application noting that a decision should be received later in the week. Manager Susko noted that the Intern would be responsible for mapping of pedestrian infrastructure and provide recommendations on improvements and maintenance. Manager Susko added that the L.G.A. Intern program runs a minimum of 12 weeks and the Borough will be reimbursed at half of the cost.

Manager Susko spoke regarding several on street parking restrictions that had been discussed at a previous meeting; however, there has been no official action taken. Manager Susko noted that these parking restrictions include; Johnston Street - no parking on the westerly side, W. Crafton Avenue/Crennell Avenue – extend no parking from W. Steuben Street to Belvidere Street on both sides and continue no parking on the westerly side of Crennell Avenue from Belvidere Street to 55 Crennell Avenue, E. Crafton Avenue – restrict to one way traffic from Noble Avenue to Station Street and implement angled parking on one side only, and Clearview Avenue/Harris Street – request to add stop signs in all directions.

Mr. Crouse spoke in agreement with all the proposed changes adding that the Clearview Avenue/Harris Street intersection would benefit if it was posted No Parking.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski reminded Council that State Law prohibits vehicle parking within 15 feet of a stop sign.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to direct the Solicitor to prepare and advertise the amended ordinance to include the changes regarding on-street parking and traffic control as discussed and outlined in the Managers report.

Mr. Rosario opened the floor for citizen comment.

No citizens presented to comment on the motion.

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

Mr. Crouse inquired about the status of the Intern, Chris Bell. Manager Susko noted that he has been working on fine tuning the accuracy of the delinquent/blight maps for different uses and functions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Perry stated that Mr. Rosario and herself continue to meet with Manager Susko bi-weekly in order to keep up-to-date on the issues, concerns or needs of the Administration.

Ms. Perry announced to Council that the office staff met with Mark Schuster for training on the turnKey Taxes software. Ms. Perry added that this software will be used to create a better connection between Jordan Tax Service, Inc, on delinquent and missing tax payments. Manager Susko spoke regarding the functions of the software and noted that Jordan Tax Service, Inc will be able to receive information as it is entered by the office staff and can use this information to update tax payer records and make connections between businesses and find uncollected taxes. Ms. Perry also noted that the software will directly help Jordan Tax Service, Inc find owners of rental properties and businesses that are not registered within the Borough or whom have not paid business privilege tax and/or mercantile taxes. Ms. Perry also added that it may take six months to a year for the Borough to see the benefits of using this software. Lastly, Ms. Perry noted that the contract with turnKey Taxes is now under Jordan Tax Service, Inc. adding that the Borough's agreement between the Borough and turnKey Taxes can be terminated.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Damits reported on the conditions of the softball field/sled riding hill and the structure of the park stage asking Council to consider a motion to direct the Engineer to look and make a recommendation to restore these facilities to a usable state.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Engineer has reviewed possible drainage in the lower field as a part of the potential Belvidere Street reconstruction/extension project.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that the damage on the stage is only the wood of the facade adding that, with exception of normal shifts in the foundation, the stage is structurally sound. Public Works Director Kaczorowski spoke with a member of the Crafton Performing Arts, Dennis Joyce, and discussed possible repair options. Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that the Public Works Department has obtained a masonry type material to maintain the shelters and it could potentially be used on the stage area. Public Works Director Kaczorowski suggested that the Recreation Board meet with the Crafton Performing Arts to discuss further repair solutions.

Ms. Damits announced that the Senior Dinner will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019 adding that the entertainment for this month will be the Pittsburgh Irish Reelers.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Amendola noted that the Mayor should have an update on the speeding situation on Crafton Boulevard at the next meeting.

Mr. Amendola announced that the Civil Service Commission will hold a public meeting on March 20, 2019 in the Council Chambers at 6:00 PM. Mr. Amendola added that the Civil Service Commission will provide Council with a recommendation on a final offer for the new Crafton Police Officer.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Crouse announced that Mr. Levasseur, Manager Susko, Solicitor Korbel and himself met with Boenning and Scattergood, Inc., a financing services company, regarding possible long-term financing options for funding of the proposed infrastructure projects throughout the Borough. Mr. Crouse noted that he hopes to have Boenning and Scattergood, Inc. present to Council at a future meeting with options of how/where these projects can fit into the budget.

Ms. Perry stated that the financial discussions in regards to the capital projects bond issuance should have been brought to Council as a whole.

Council continued discussion regarding clarification on the duties and responsibilities of the appointed Council Committees.

Ms. Damits inquired about the signs at Crafton Park. Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the Public Works Department is in the process of refurbishing the signs and reinstalling them.

Ms. Damits inquired about the status of Alley Paving. Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the 2019 Road Paving program is in the process of being finalized adding that the Public Works Department should have the paver up and running and able to pave a few alleys in house this year.

Ms. Damits inquired who is responsible for the paving of the alley between Orchard Alley and Crafton Boulevard. Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the Gas Company will be responsible for restoration of that section of Vance Alley.

Mr. Levasseur addressed the draining issue with the lower ball field in Crafton Park noting that the Public Works Committee, the Public Works Director, Manager Susko and the Engineer discussed installing a French drain as a temporary solution and added that they will continue discussions toward options on a long-term resolution to bring to Council. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that, as discussed at the meeting with the Engineer, there are possible connections into the existing drainage system; however, Public Works Director Kaczorowski recommends that the lower field would better serve as a green space and as a buffer between Crafton Boulevard and the Park as well as a sled ridding hill.

Council continued the discussion regarding infrastructure and transparency regarding the duties and responsibility of appointed Council Committees.

Mr. Levasseur exited the meeting at this time (8:22 PM).

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Damits*) to approve the 2018 Real Estate and Road Tax refunds in the amount of \$609.52 as presented and submitted by Jordan Tax Service, Inc.

MOTION #4 carries by a Voice Vote (4-1). (*Mr. Crouse-NO*)

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Amendola*) to approve the 2018 Volunteer Service Tax Credits in the amount of \$2,359.88 as presented and submitted by Crafton Volunteer Fire Chief Michael Crown and certified by Jordan Tax Service, Inc.

Ms. Damits questioned if there has been an increase in membership since the adoption of this ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (ABSTAINED) Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Damits (NO), Mr. Rosario (YES).*

MOTION #5 carries by a Roll Call Vote (3-1).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to authorize Crafton Celebrates to host a Pet Portrait station at their fundraising event in Crafton Park on May 25, 2019, in accordance with Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 154 Parks and Recreation Areas, provided that any pets are kept on a leash, or otherwise restrained, at all times.

Ms. Damits inquired about liability in the case of an injury caused by a pet. Solicitor Korbel noted that the owner would be responsible.

Manager Susko added that the code has a prevision to allow for Council to waive the dog restriction for special events as Council sees fit.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Amendola (NO), Mr. Crouse (YES) Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Damits (NO), Mr. Rosario (YES).*

MOTION #6 carries by a Roll Call Vote (3-2).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Damits*) to advertise an ordinance to increase the membership of the Recreation Board from seven (7) to nine (9) and set term lengths for newly appointed seats.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the new ordinance will amend the term lengths, each ending December 31, and added that Council should wait to appoint any new members until January of next year; therefore, current members can continue to serve until the seat has been reappointed.

MOTION #7 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve payment in the amount of \$9,123.78 to PennDOT as the Borough's share of the ADA Curb Ramps project approved on May 8, 2017.

MOTION #8 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Perry*) to approve Pay Application No. 1 and Final in the amount of \$20,472.62 to SHACOG for the SHACOG Joint O&M Preventative Maintenance – Year 8. This payment is for work completed as a part of the joint bid that has been reviewed by SHACOG's engineer and will be the final pay application for this project.

MOTION #9 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

PLANNING & ZONING

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Perry*) to approve Resolution No. 2019-03 accepting the Side Yard Program application for 40-K-75 (1508 Barr Ave) as recommended by the Planning Commission.

MOTION #10 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

DISCUSSION

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fire Safety Info Session
 - March 27 at 7 PM, Community Center
 - Hosted by Crafton Code Enforcement, Building Inspection Underwriters and the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department.

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street, inquired about a Notaries in Crafton or possibly the Borough Office.

Manager Susko noted that this was discussed in the Borough Office today but added that most banks have a notary.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary