

Borough of Crafton
Monday, June 24, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Perry called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, June 24, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Amendola.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Susko recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Crouse, Ms. Damits, Ms. Glaser, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Amendola (via Facetime) and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to approve the Bill List and the Bill List Addendum dated June 24, 2019, as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to approve the Minutes dated June 10, 2019, as presented.

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

6. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES:

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to approve the Public Hearing Minutes for the South Grandview Sewer Separation Project dated May 29, 2019, as presented.

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

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

No citizens were present to comment on any agenda items.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Ms. Perry acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for May 2019: Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511, Trash Collection and Property Tax Report, Police Report,

~~E.M.S. Report~~, Ordinance Officer's Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report, ~~Fire Department Report~~ and Library Report.

Ms. Perry announced that all the department reports are available online and in the Borough Office.

9. PRESENTATIONS

MANHUNT LOCATION MANAGEMENT TEAM

Manager Susko announced that the filming team for Manhunt has been working closely with the Borough regarding the filming that is scheduled to occur in Crafton. Manager Susko noted that Jason the Location Scout, is working with residents and businesses on any concerns or issues they may have.

Jason Calabro introduced himself and his co-worker Kent who gave a brief presentation of where the crews will begin and the working plan for filming as well as how they plan to tackle the parking concerns that the community will have by presenting a slideshow and maps. He also gave a synopsis of the show, noting that Manhunt is based on a series that will chronicle the manhunt for the Centennial Olympic Park Bomber. Mr. Calabro noted that the community and local businesses seem very excited and have been very accommodating and welcoming.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Perry reminded everyone that the Borough follows the Borough Code and the Solicitor is there to make sure that Council abides by the Borough Code and added that Council governs as a body and not by any one single Council Member. Ms. Perry stated that due to the Sunshine Act, and for Council to be transparent, important discussions and debates by Council Members must be done in an advertised meeting, with a quorum present. Ms. Perry noted that transparency is created through time and discussion versus quick meetings and to keep things moving quickly, Council will observe the three-minute Citizen Comment rule.

Ms. Perry again stated that the written reports are available online or in the Borough Office and any questions can be directed to Herself or the Manager.

Ms. Perry spoke regarding a few of the goals that Council will discuss over the next few months, such as, working toward a strategic plan to implement the two key pillars from the Comprehensive Plan, Infrastructure and Economic Development, while balancing the community needs and keeping within the financial budget.

Ms. Perry stated that Council will begin the budgeting process for 2020 toward the end of August when the financial information is available from the administrative staff and the budget requests are received from the various departments.

Ms. Perry noted that the administrative staff are looking into grants to help with the expenses, for a full Zoning Ordinance review and revision as per the recommendation of the Early Intervention Plan that was completed in 2017.

Ms. Perry noted that the Interns last summer did a great deal of work toward tackling blight and she would like to see the Blight Committee back in action.

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom announced that the Click-It or Ticket grant was received by the Crafton Police Department and gave a brief summary of the results of the twenty-six hours worked by the officers.

Mayor Bloom stated that the Police Department Report was provided to Council and available to review. Mayor Bloom noted that, although there was one overdose related death the past weekend, the report stated that there was no use of Narcan and added that there were only two minor marijuana related arrests.

Mayor Bloom inquired about the status of the Harris Street railing that was damaged when a tree came down on it during a storm.

Manager Susko noted that Public Works Director Kaczorowski is aware and planning to repair this railing ASAP.

12. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman noted that there are two Resolutions on the agenda for Council to consider in regards to the ALCOSAN GROW grants.

13. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbelt noted that, at Council's direction, the Traffic Ordinance amendments have been advertised and will be on the July 8th agenda for consideration.

Solicitor Korbelt announced that Council may consider a resolution if the Council Vacancy is filled this evening. Solicitor Korbelt also stated that the candidate will need to have notarized an affidavit of residency that certified they are a registered elector and meets the one-year residency requirement and added that these questions will be asked to each candidate prior to consideration.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that he will have a lease agreement available for Council to review prior to discussion at the next executive session.

14. MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Susko noted that the resolution has been prepared for the Fair Districts PA at the request of Council at the previous meeting.

Manager Susko updated Council on the Vacant Seat advertisement noting that the advertisement cost was approximately \$214, much less than expected.

Manager Susko noted that the list of vacant boards and commissions seats are available in the meeting packet information adding that some may not have any candidates available for vacancies.

Manager Susko gave an update on the I Heart Crafton block party, tentatively scheduled for October 5th, that Kristen Compitello from the Planning Commission has been chairing and added that there will be workshops going forward that residents and businesses will be welcome to contribute. Manager Susko noted that this event will showcase the business district “downtown” area to boost Crafton Businesses and to launch the “I Heart Crafton” branding.

Manager Susko urged the Community to report any flooding events to the Borough Office either via phone, email, or by submitting a service request adding that the flooding information will help the Office and Council determine if a Backflow Prevention grant program is needed for residents. Manager Susko briefed Council on a proposed Backflow Prevention Device Mini-Grant and the potential process for residents to apply or be considered.

15. BUSINESS AGENDA

A. ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to approve Resolution No. 2019-06 in support of a citizen’s commission for legislative and congressional redistricting.

Ms. Perry noted that this was the resolution discussed at the previous meeting.

MOTION #4: carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

B. PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to approve Resolution No. 2019-07 requesting grant funding from the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority GROW Program for the South Grandview Avenue Storm Separation Project.

MOTION #5: carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to approve Resolution No. 2019-08 requesting grant funding from the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority GROW Program for the Crafton Boulevard Storm Separation Project.

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

16. DISCUSSION ITEMS

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Levasseur suggested that homeowners should be made aware that the Borough cannot be held liable in the event the backflow prevention device fails to prevent flooding.

Manager Susko noted that it is stated clearly in the sample ordinance that the Borough cannot be held liable.

Engineer Minsterman also stated that the requirement to have a certified plumber install the device will reduce liability to the Borough. Engineer Minsterman spoke briefly about how a backwater valve works and its functions.

Mr. Crouse asked if homeowners could take advantage of this program if they have not had reoccurring flooding or if they have not reported flooding to the Borough adding that program should be inclusive to all residents regardless of past flooding issues.

Ms. Perry noted that Council will have to discuss the process on how the Borough will assign priority to the applications as they come in. Ms. Perry asked the Solicitor to do a little more research to bring to the next meeting

BOARD/COMMISSION LETTERS OF INTEREST

Ms. Perry stated that there are two vacant seats on the Building Code Appeals Board and the Borough had received one letter of interest.

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Amendola*) to appoint Brandon Eady to the Building Appeals Board term expiring December 31, 2021.

MOTION #7: carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

Ms. Perry noted that there is one vacant seat open on the Civil Service Commission and the Borough had received two letters of interest.

Mr. Amendola suggested the candidates attend the next meeting for a quick interview prior to appointing anyone to the vacant seat.

Ms. Perry noted that there is one vacant seat open on the Shade Tree Commission and the Borough does not have any letters of interest at this time.

Ms. Perry stated that the Planning Commission has no vacant seats at this time.

Ms. Perry noted that the Recreation Board has several vacant seats open and the Borough does not have any letters of interest at this time.

Ms. Perry stated that the Zoning Hearing Board has one vacant seat open for an alternate and added that the Borough does not have any letters of interest at this time.

COUNCIL SEAT APPLICANTS – TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

Ms. Perry announced that the Borough received five letters of interest for the vacant Council seat, of which four candidates are in attendance.

Ms. Perry stated that the candidates will speak in the order each letter was received, Anthony Saba, David Bloom, Edward Alo, Roy Niemann, and Eric Valcheff who was unable to attend.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, gave a summary of his goals if appointed to Council. Mr. Saba stated that he would like to work toward closing the age gap between residents, work together with other Council Members toward common goals, encourage growth in the Borough, improve transit oriented and mixed-use development, and implement aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Saba certified that he is a registered elector and has been a resident for at least one year.

Mr. Amendola took a few minutes to conduct a question and answer session with Mr. Saba.

Mr. Crouse thanked Mr. Saba and noted that no one on Council had any experience prior to being elected and taking a seat on Council.

David Bloom, 48 Maplewood Avenue, stated that he is a lifelong resident of Crafton and that he has served on Council in the past. Mr. Bloom looks forward to working with Council and to do what is best for the Community.

Mr. Amendola took a few minutes to conduct a question and answer session with Mr. Bloom.

Edward Alo, 568 Broadhead Avenue, gave a brief summary of his qualifications and how his experience working as an attorney can benefit the Borough with legal documents such as ordinances and resolutions. Mr. Alo noted that Crafton is already situated close to the City and hopes to improve economic development adding that he would help the Manager and work with the Solicitor and Commissions to draft ordinances or amendments. Mr. Alo stated he would like to help make Council more transparent and to do his part to help Crafton reach its full potential.

Mr. Amendola took a few minutes to conduct a question and answer session with Mr. Alo.

Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street, hopes to be appointed so he can help the community. Mr. Niemann noted that he stays informed by attending the various boards and commission meetings, by communicating with the different departments of the Borough and by communicating with neighbors.

Mr. Niemann certified that he is a registered elector and has been a resident for at least one year.

Eric Valcheff, 78 Belvidere Street, (via Facetime) spoke of Crafton's many attributes including its proximity to the highways, the walkability and parks. Mr. Valcheff noted that he would like to help grow the community through unity and improve infrastructure. Mr. Valcheff stated that he would be an asset to Council because of his ability to be creative and look at things in a different way as well as his attention to detail.

Ms. Perry took a few minutes to conduct a question and answer session with Mr. Valcheff.

Ms. Perry thanked all the candidates for attending and taking the time to speak and interact with Council.

NOMINATIONS

Ms. Perry opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Crouse nominated Mr. Valcheff

Mr. Amendola nominated Mr. Bloom

Mr. Crouse nominated Mr. Alo

Mr. Crouse asked to have all five candidates nominated for the vacant seat.

Ms. Perry stated that this decision is going to be a difficult enough for Council to decide and feels it is in their best interest to choose from a smaller list of candidates; however, Ms. Perry stated that she will follow if that is the wish of Council.

Mr. Crouse noted that the roll call will go in alphabetical order and each Council Member will vote for their candidate of choice out of the five candidates.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Crouse (VALCHEFF), Ms. Damits (VALCHEFF), Ms. Glaser (VALCHEFF), Mr. Levasseur (VALCHEFF). Mr. Amendola (VALCHEFF) Ms. Perry (ABSTAIN).

Mr. Valcheff was appointed to the vacant Council seat, term expiring December 31, 2019 by a Roll Call Vote (5-0-1). *With one abstention.*

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Damits*) to approve Resolution No. 2019-09 appointing Eric Valcheff to fulfill the vacancy created by Abbie Rosario from Borough Council.

Ms. Perry opened the floor to citizen comments.

Edward Alo, 568 Broadhead Avenue, noted that the vacant seat candidacy requirement stated that the applicant must be in attendance.

Solicitor Korbel noted that electronic attendance is allowed by Borough Code.

MOTION #8: carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

Solicitor Korbel noted that Mr. Valcheff must complete an affidavit of residency and take the oath of office and he will be a full member of Council.

Ms. Perry wished the remaining candidates the best of luck in the General Election in November.

Ms. Damits inquired about her stop sign request for Emily Street and Crafton Boulevard.

Mayor Bloom asked for clarification of the location and direction the for the stop sign placement.

Ms. Damits clarified that her request for a stop sign would be at N. Emily Street and Crafton Boulevard.

Mayor Bloom noted that the visibility limitations at this intersection are due to the hedges belonging to the property owner and not at the fault of the Borough.

Ms. Damits noted that there have been multiple accidents due to the limited visibility at this intersection.

Mayor Bloom stated that he will have the Chief of Police prepare a report of accidents for the past 2 years.

17. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Crafton Celebrates will be held this weekend, June 28-30, starting with a parade from Bradford Avenue to Crafton Park at 6:30pm, Friday, June 28.

18. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Angela Palchowski, Crafton Celebrates, urged residents to sign up to volunteer. Ms. Palchowski stated that people are needed to help sell Pop, French Fries, operate the Bounce Houses and the Raffle Basket Auction. Ms. Palchowski stated that the dates of the festival and the fireworks were scheduled to maximize the funds raised for the non-profit organizations as well as Crafton Celebrates.

Mayor Bloom noted that Crafton Celebrates is a volunteer run festival that has been around since 1976 and added that volunteerism is down in every community in the United States.

Mr. Crouse stated that Crafton as a community needs to step up and help.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, noted that many community members have valid questions and concerns regarding the borough and added that there are several seats open that create the availability for those community members to get involved.

Dorothy Kraemer, 26 S. Grandview Avenue, thanked all the volunteers, as well as Angela Palchowski, for all their hard work especially with Crafton Celebrates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary