

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2020.

(Meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and can be viewed by going to www.craftonborough.com/council-meeting-videos)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

Assistant Manager Sample recorded seven (7) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry, and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Malik, and Engineer Slagle.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Minutes dated November 23, 2020 and the Bill List dated December 14, 2020.

MOTION #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Crawford, 187 Noble Avenue, spoke regarding the shooting incident that took place near Union and Sidney and expressed his concern for the community's safety. Mr. Crawford also thanked the Borough and the Crafton Police Department for their thorough investigation into the incident. He also inquired about the timeline of operation for the new traffic signals.

Alice Glaser, 10 Belvidere Street, asked for an explanation on the separation of the latest Borough Manager.

Tom Crawford, 187 Noble Avenue, also inquired about the turnover in management in recent years.

Mr. Levasseur stated that the shooting incident will be addressed later in the meeting and added that Council cannot comment on any personnel matters at this time.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur stated that it has been a challenging year and thanked the residents and the Borough's employees for following the guidelines set forth and the continued efforts to keep the

COVID infection rate low within the community. He thanked the Crafton Police Department, the Public Works Department, the Office Staff, and the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department on a job well done as the whole community continues to navigate the challenges of the pandemic. Mr. Levasseur also recognized the Crafton Elves, the Crafton Recreation Board, and the residents for organizing the “Celebration of Lights” event.

Mr. Levasseur addressed the community’s concern over the shooting incident and stated that the issue is being taken very seriously as the Police Department and the Mayor continues to investigate. He also stated that the Code Enforcement and the Administrative Offices are working to make sure the rules and regulations are being enforced. Mr. Levasseur ensured everyone that Crafton is a safe community to live in.

7. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Bloom stated that the shooting incident that occurred on the 9th of December continues to be under investigation. He noted that the Police Department is working with Allegheny County to determine the individual responsible for the incident.

8. ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Malik gave a quick update on the Johnston Street/N. Emily Sewer Repair and stated that they expect the re-design drawings to be ready for public bidding soon. She added that they continue to work on the list of prospective Sewer grant projects. Engineer Malik also added that the thirty-day test period for the new Traffic Signals should begin within a week and noted that once the testing period is complete the old poles will be removed.

9. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor Malik noted that there is no report.

10. MANAGER’S REPORT

Assistant Manager Sample noted that he will comment on the agenda items as they are addressed later in the meeting. He also stated that the leaf collection will continue through the end of this week and added that the Public Works Department is ready and prepared for the impending snow.

11. ACTION ITEMS

A) 2021 BUDGET ADOPTION

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crown*) to adopt the 2021 Proposed General Fund, Sewer Fund, Road Fund and Capital Projects Budgets, as advertised, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the Borough Government set fourth during 2021.

Mayor Bloom requested a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (YES), AMENDOLA (NO), CROUSE (YES), CROWN (YES), LEVASSEUR (YES), PERRY (YES), SABA (YES).

MOTION #2 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-1).

B) 2021 TAX MILLAGE

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crown*) to adopt Ordinance #1670 setting the real estate millage rate for property for the year 2021.

Mr. Levasseur noted that this represents an increase of one mil on the property tax rate.

Assistant Manager Sample noted that the increase will compensate for the Bond Issue discussed and voted on by Council at a previous meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (YES), AMENDOLA (NO), CROUSE (YES), CROWN (YES), LEVASSEUR (YES), PERRY (YES), SABA (NO).

MOTION #3 carries by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

C) 2021 FEE RESOLUTION

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Perry*) to adopt Resolution 2020-20 adopting the fee schedule for the year 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (YES), AMENDOLA (YES), CROUSE (YES), CROWN (YES), LEVASSEUR (YES), PERRY (YES), SABA (YES).

MOTION #4 carries by a Roll Call Vote (7-0).

D) 2021 WAGE RESOLUTION

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Perry*) to adopt Resolution 2020-21 adopting the wages for non-union employees for the year 2021.

Mr. Amendola noted that he did not recall having a discussion on the final wages for the non-union employees.

Mr. Levasseur noted that a 10% increase was discussed and agreed upon.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (NO), AMENDOLA (YES), CROUSE (YES), CROWN (YES), LEVASSEUR (YES), PERRY (YES), SABA (YES).

MOTION #5 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-1).

E) WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to approve Option Year 2 of the Solid Waste and Recycling Contract with Waste Management.

Mr. Levasseur reminded community residents that the contract includes the removal of electronics and hazardous waste.

Mr. Saba stated that there is a PDF document on the website with helpful information on what can and cannot be recycled and added that glass will continue to be accepted for Crafton Borough residents.

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

F) RELEASE AND SEPARATION AGREEMENT

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Crouse*) to ratify the Separation and Release Agreement between Russell McKibben and the Borough of Crafton.

Mr. Amendola inquired about the timeline of this decision when no meetings or executive sessions were held.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he spoke with each member of Council regarding this matter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (YES), AMENDOLA (NO), CROUSE (YES), CROWN (YES), LEVASSEUR (YES), PERRY (NO), SABA (YES).

MOTION #7 carries by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

G) INTERIM MANAGER APPOINTMENT

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to appoint Douglas Sample as the Interim Borough Manager.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (YES), AMENDOLA (YES), CROUSE (YES), CROWN (YES), LEVASSEUR (YES), PERRY (YES), SABA (YES).

MOTION #8 carries by a Roll Call Vote (7-0).

H) 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to authorize the Interim Borough Manager to advertise the 2021 Meeting Schedule for the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month starting at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Amendola asked when this matter was discussed with all of Council.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the schedule change had been discussed earlier in the year and stated that the change will allow for additional time for the office staff to prepare for the meetings throughout the week.

Council continued discussion regarding the meeting changes as well as scheduling conflicts.

MOTION #9 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

I) BOROUGH AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Perry*) to adopt Resolution 2020-22 appointing Maher Duessel as the Auditor for Fiscal Year 2020 for the Borough of Crafton.

Mr. Saba noted that this is the same Auditor that has conducted the annual audits for several years.

MOTION #10 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Borough Office will remain closed to the public; however, staff is available during normal business hours and can be reached via telephone or e-mail. There is a drop-box in the rear of the building for any written correspondence. Any changes to this action will be posted on the Borough website and Savvy Citizen.
- The Crafton Library is open (with COVID – 19 Safety Limitations in place) M/W/F from 9AM -1PM and T/H from 2PM – 6PM. please visit their website for further details.

Mr. Saba noted that the Library is doing curbside pickup and recommends patrons to please check with the Library's website to confirm availability of indoor use.

- Crafton's First Annual "Celebration of Lights" has started and will be benefitting the Crafton- Ingram Food Bank. The self-guided tour will run through January 3rd and tickets can be purchased on-line and will be mailed to you.

Mr. Saba stated that the information and instructions for this event are on the Borough's website. He added that it is a family friendly, COVID compliant event. Mr. Saba noted that the "Celebration of Lights" event raised \$1000, just over the past weekend, for the Crafton-Ingram Food Bank and added that this event is on track to exceed the amount raised by the Haunted Crafton tour.

Ms. Perry spoke to clarify that the instructions for the event will be sent via email, and not postal mail.

- Santa comes to town by Fire Truck on Saturday, December 19th. Beginning at 9:15 AM, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Crafton Volunteer Firefighters will tour the streets of Crafton by Fire Truck. The event will finish in Crafton by noon and then visit Thornburg and Rosslyn Farms. Santa will be passing out candy and we politely ask anyone coming out to wear a mask.

Mr. Crown stated that the new Rescue Engine should be in operation by the first of the year.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary