

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021.

*(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 Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7:18 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded five (5) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Levasseur, and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Engineer Minsterman and Solicitor Korbel. Absent was Mr. Crown.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Alo*) to approve the February 11, 2021 Consent Agenda (Including the Meeting Minutes dated January 28, 2021 and the Bill List dated February 11, 2021)

Ms. Perry noted that there was an addendum to the minutes.

MOTION #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Crawford, 187 Noble Avenue, thanked Council for getting the new Traffic Signals up and operational and inquired about the status of the investigation of the shooting incident on Union Avenue.

Mayor Bloom stated that it is an ongoing investigation and noted that he cannot release the details at this time.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur thanked Public Works and the Police Department on their efforts to keep the Borough streets clear and safe during the recent snow fall.

Mr. Levasseur also announced that he has been in communication with Duquesne Light Company regarding alternative fuel options.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted that he had a few items he will bring up during discussion.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman stated that the monthly Engineer's Report has been submitted for Council review and added that the specifications for the Crafton Boulevard Sewer Separation project is ready to be advertised for bidding.

Mayor Bloom expressed his concern regarding several complaints he received by Borough residents about the state of the concrete roadways at Union Avenue and Sterrett Street.

Engineer Minsterman noted that these roadways are currently under discussion for reconstruction or joint repair.

Interim Manager Sample added that both streets were discussed at the previous Engineer's meeting and stated that they are working on a solution for repair that will be brought to Council for consideration.

9. SOLICITOR REPORT

Solicitor Korbel noted that he had nothing to report this evening.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Sample stated that the Public Works Department has depleted the 2019-2020 salt reserve and added that they are on track to meet the contracted salt amount for 2020-2021.

Interim Manager Sample noted Public Works Forman Killen found a Ford F550 for sale at the amount of twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars, which was worked into the 2021 Budget. He added that this truck is already outfitted with a plow and spreader and will be purchased through 3-year lease.

11. BUSINESS AGENDA

A) COUNCIL RESIGNATION

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Perry*) to accept Anthony Saba's resignation from Crafton Borough's Council effective February 11, 2021.

Mr. Alo read Mr. Saba's resignation letter for the record.

Mr. Levasseur thank Mr. Saba for his service to the community.

MOTION #2 carries by a Voice Vote (4-1). *CROUSE - NO*

Mr. Amendola asked if Council will be announcing the acceptance of letters of interest.

Mr. Levasseur stated that outline for acceptance of letters of interest for the Council vacancy is as follows; Council will accept the resignation, then Candidates interested in filling the vacancy must submit a letter of interest to Council via email at council@craftonborough.com before the next Council Meeting on February 25, 2021. He also stated that those candidates will present to Council at the next public meeting at which time Council will select the candidate by majority vote.

Mr. Amendola asked when the deadline for submission will be and noted that there have been a few letters of interest emailed to all of Council in the last few weeks.

Mr. Levasseur stated that letters of interest should be received by February 24, 2021 and added that anyone interested should submit them in the manner accepted by Council. He added that any letters that were submitted prior to this discussion should be resubmitted via the process agreed upon by Council.

Mr. Alo noted that the acceptance of letters and the agreed upon procedure should be announced on the website.

Mr. Korbel stated that candidates must be a resident of the Borough for at least one year and will be required to complete an affidavit stating so if they are selected to serve. He also added that Council should consider a motion approving the process for selection.

Council continued discussion of the acceptance of letters, the process for the candidates and how Council will make their selection.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Perry*) for Council to begin accepting letters of interest to fill the vacancy made by Mr. Anthony Saba on February 11, 2021, letters of interest are to be submitted to council@craftonborough.com and to copy the Manager at manager@craftonborough.com, these letters will be due by 12:01 AM on February 25, 2021, Candidates will be required to attend, and will have a maximum of five minutes to present at the February 25, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for comment.

Mike Zuhl, 604 Broadhead Avenue, inquired about the length of the term.

Ms. Perry stated that the appointee will serve until December 31, 2021. She added that if they wish to continue to serve on Council, they will need to run for election in the 2021 Primary.

MOTION #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Project Updates (Manager and Engineer)

Interim Manager Sample noted that there are no additional comments.

B) SEIT Delegate to Allegheny Southwest Tax Collection District

Interim Manager Sample stated that Council will need to appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate and added that this is typically filled by the Manager or the Financial Director.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that Mr. Sample and Ms. Perry be selected as the delegate and the alternate.

C) Real Estate Collecting and Billing Proposal

Interim Manager Sample noted that Council will need to vote at the next meeting to reappoint Jordan Tax Service, Inc for the billing and collection of the Real Estate Taxes.

D) Recreation Board Vacancies

Interim Manager Sample noted that there is are vacancies on the Recreation Board.

Mr. Levasseur stated that anyone interested in serving should submit their letter to council@craftonborough.com.

E) Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant

Mr. Levasseur spoke regarding the increase in the use of alternative fuels. Mr. Levasseur stated that that most Municipalities will continue to utilize vehicles fueled by diesel or gasoline. However, he added that there is a grant available to help Municipalities with creating infrastructure for electronic vehicle charging stations.

Mr. Levasseur announced that Port Authority Transit will be hosting the NexTransit public meeting series on the future planning of Port Authority Transit. He stated that there will be virtual meetings held on February 25th and March 2nd.

13. 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.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Zuhl, 604 Broadhead Avenue, spoke regarding the growing deer population in Crafton and asked if the Borough has plans to attempt to control the heard.

Mr. Levasseur stated that this is an ongoing concern of the residents of Crafton and suggests that Council consider this for discussion in March.

Ms. Perry asked Interim Manager Sample to investigate resources regarding the control of the deer population.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary