

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:17 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Alo.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager McKibben recorded seven (7) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Alo, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent was Public Works Director Kaczorowski.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crown*) to approve the Bill List dated March 9, 2020 as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to approve the Minutes dated February 24, 2020 as presented.

Ms. Perry asked if the Manager should be considered permanent as of the previous meeting.

Manager McKibben noted that his employment agreement was effective March 1, 2020.

MOTION #2 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Levasseur stated that there are no citizens signed up to speak.

Mr. Levasseur added that, regarding to a motion that is included on the published agenda, citizens will be given an opportunity to comment prior to Council's vote.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BANNER COMMUNITY

Mr. Levasseur noted that Crafton Borough was recognized by the Allegheny League of Municipalities as a Banner Community for the second year in a row.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Mr. Levasseur announced that the planning of Crafton's annual clean-up day is in the works. No date has been set at this time.

2020 SHADE TREE PROGRAM

Mr. Levasseur stated that the Manager, Council and the Public Works will be working with the Shade Tree Commission for implementation of the 2020 Shade Tree maintenance program and asked residents to submit tree concerns via the online service request portal.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bloom announced the passing of David Kratt, Assistant Fire Chief and gave a brief summary of his accomplishments and many roles within the community including his time served with the Pittsburgh Fire Fighters, Crafton Volunteer Fire Department, Crafton Public Works Department and as a Crossing Guard.

Council observed a moment of silence in memory of David Kratt.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

ALCOSAN GROW GRANT UPDATE

CRAFTON BOULEVARD – Engineer Minsterman stated that the layout and sizing has been finalized and Gateway is currently working on site plans for the proposed parking for submittal to the City of Pittsburgh. Engineer Minsterman noted that a preapplication presentation meeting is scheduled with the City of Pittsburgh Zoning next week which will be followed by a meeting with PWSA's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure to determine what permits will be needed.

S. GRANDVIEW AVENUE – Engineer Minsterman announced that the bid documents are completed and ready for advertisement. Engineer Minsterman added that he will work with the Manager to get the notice advertised to solicit bids.

PERRINE STREET – Engineer Minsterman stated that Gateway has prepared a rough concept regarding storm water retention and control, similar to the Crafton Boulevard project. Engineer Minsterman noted that the next steps will be to meet with the affected property owners, including the Borough Manager.

WOODLAWN AVENUE/FOUNTAIN STREET - Engineer Minsterman stated that Gateway is in the process of refining the drainage areas and developing modeling for storm water collection, retention and discharge.

BROADHEAD AVENUE/PAT BUSWAY – Engineer Minsterman noted that the field survey work has been completed which will be used for mapping and added that Gateway will continue to refine the concepts for the project.

EMERSON AVENUE - Engineer Minsterman announced that Gateway has a refined concept regarding the storm water retention control and added that the next step is to meet with the property owner and update them on the project.

2019 ROAD PROGRAM

Engineer Minsterman noted that Gateway has reached out to Mele & Mele for completion of the 2019 Road Paving Program and announced that Crafton is first on their list for completion, most likely in April or May. Engineer Minsterman added that Gateway will be in close contact with Mele & Mele to enforce the contract agreement.

Ms. Perry spoke to clarify that the first two Sewer Separation Projects Engineer Minsterman spoke of have been awarded by ALCOSAN and noted that the remaining four projects have been authorized for design and application submittal.

Engineer Minsterman confirmed that this information is correct.

Engineer Minsterman gave a brief explanation of the requirements for Crafton from the City of Pittsburgh in order to complete the Crafton Boulevard Separation project. Engineer Minsterman explained that the project will include retention tanks that will be installed for the purpose of retaining storm water during heavy rain events and added that the storm water will be discharged after peak flow.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

5G WIRELESS

Solicitor Korbelt spoke regarding the 5G wireless infrastructure and added that he will have a draft ordinance sometime in April which includes a zoning amendment and an amendment to the streets and sidewalks ordinance.

LIBRARY LEASE

Solicitor Korbelt noted that he has had no response regarding the lease from the Library.

LEGAL MATTERS

Solicitor Korbelt announced that the lawsuit, that was filed by a resident, against several Members of Council had been withdrawn.

POLICE PENSION

Solicitor Korbel stated that in accordance with the new Crafton Police Bargaining Agreement, the Police Pension Ordinance will need to be amended to include the drop pension option.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Perry*) to authorize Solicitor Korbel to prepare and advertise an ordinance to add the drop pension to the Uniform Pension Ordinance.

MOTION #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

11. MANAGER'S REPORT***2020 ROAD PROGRAM***

Manager McKibben noted that the bid opening for the 2020 Road Paving Program will be held next week. Manager McKibben noted that Oregon Avenue will be discussed with the Utility Company following the line replacement work.

GRANT UPDATES

Manager McKibben announced that the preliminary markings have been made for the poles and some site work has been completed regarding the ADA ramps.

PLANNING COMMISSION REQUEST

Manager McKibben noted that he sent letters to the Companies who submitted RFP's in response to the Zoning Re-Write project and requested additional information for 1) a proposal to include an overlay district of the entire Crafton-Ingram Shopping Center and 2) for a stand-alone proposal to Re-Zone Ingram Borough.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Manager McKibben gave an update on a few minor repairs/maintenances requested from the Library, including the larger items such as the roof replacement. Manager McKibben noted that Public Works has done some extensive work to improve the security of the doors in the Magistrates Office. Manager McKibben added that he has solicited quotes from a few companies on replacement of carpet in the Borough Building.

Mr. Saba inquired about an update on the parks.

Manager McKibben noted that Public Works responded quickly to the complaints of mud and water causing a hazardous condition on the steps at Linwood Park from earlier in the morning and stated that repairs are being discussed to resolve the issue.

Mr. Levasseur thanked Manager McKibben and Public Works for the quick action.

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS***SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY***

Mr. Alo noted that there had been previous discussion regarding the establishment of a Social Media Policy and suggests they move forward by adding the draft ordinance, which was previously provided by the Solicitor, to the next voting meeting if Council has no further discussion.

Mr. Crouse asked for clarification on who the policy will affect.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the policy is directed toward employee use of social media and not Members of Council. Solicitor Korbel suggested that Council create a small working group to refine exactly what the policy should include prior to voting.

Mr. Levasseur announced that the Social Media Policy working group will include Mr. Alo, Mr. Crouse and Manager McKibben.

NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Saba suggested forming a work group including Council and Residents to set aside time to discuss the implementation of a Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

Solicitor Korbel noted that if there is the possibility of a quorum the work group meeting should be advertised and suggested making any documents available prior to the meeting so the discussions can be proactive and successful.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the working group will consist of Mr. Saba, Mr. Alo and Ms. Perry and a meeting will be held on March 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers of the Community Center.

Ms. Perry noted that she will be out of town and will send any notes/suggestions prior to the meeting.

Solicitor Korbel stated that he will not be available to attend the meeting, but he can send someone from his office if Council wishes.

Mr. Alo suggested that the Manager attend and takes notes on any legal questions to be relayed to the Solicitor for review.

ORDINANCE 1654 ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Crown stated that the Fire Inspection ordinance was approved by Council last January and added that there has been no follow up in the way of enforcement.

Ms. Perry noted that between the businesses and the residential rental units there would be a significant amount of inspections to complete and suggested that enforcement start with the Business/Commercial Inspections.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the ordinance states the registration years as 2021 for Commercial and 2022 for Residential Rentals and added that if Council works diligently a process can be in place to start enforcement in 2021.

Mr. Crown clarified that Residential would be for dwellings with three or more units.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the inspections would encompass the building and property maintenance codes in addition to fire safety code.

Manager McKibben noted that, although the Borough does require the residential rental inspections, fire inspections are not part of the process at this time. Manager McKibben also reminded Council that the inspections are currently contracted out to Building Inspection Underwriters and added that they will need to decide to continue this practice or possibly hire an employee to take on these duties.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Fire Department has an inspection software and that it can be coupled with the TRAISR software the administrative office is using. Mr. Levasseur stated that Mr. Crown, the Fire Marshal, Manager McKibben and the Code Enforcement Officer will form a working group to get a plan in place by the July discussion meeting and asked that an update be provided at the first meeting of each month.

BLIGHT PROPERTY UPDATE

Mr. Crouse inquired about an update on the Baldwick Road and Barr Avenue blighted properties.

Solicitor Korbel suggested reaching out to Jordan Tax Service or the School District to get those properties sold at Sherriff Sale.

Mr. Crouse suggested that the Baldwick Road property be demolished as it is beyond repair.

Council continued discussing the blight properties and the possibilities of having them sold at Sherriff Sale.

Solicitor Korbel suggested that Council identify a few properties and then develop a strategy for a plan to remedy.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that Council review the current list of blight properties and have them posted to the website or advertised to attract investors.

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Crown suggested that Council work with Gateway, as well as the community recreation organizations, on a new Comprehensive Recreation Plan and look to DCNR for a grant to complete the study.

Mr. Levasseur suggested adding additional members to the Planning Commission.

Engineer Minsterman stated that April is the deadline for grant applications and added that Gateway can prepare the application at the direction of Council. Engineer Minsterman noted that it could cost between eighty and one hundred thousand dollars to do the study and added that it would be favorable that Crafton would receive funding.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (Crown/Crouse) to authorize the Manager, along with Gateway Engineers, to submit an application to DCNR for a grant to develop a Master Comprehensive Parks Plan.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for citizen comments.

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

Mr. Amendola asked for an update on the current recreation grants and projects.

Manager McKibben noted the grants are still under review by the State and added that it is a long process and steps must be followed.

RULES FOR MEETINGS

Mr. Crown asked Council to review the Rules for Meetings and Council Conduct Resolution.

Mr. Also offered to revise and combine both policies.

Mr. Levasseur noted that a working group, consisting of Mr. Alo and Mr. Crouse will work on suggested updates and forward them to Council.

Council continued the discussion regarding how to enforce rules and the conflicts contained in the 2014 Rules and Conduct of Council.

PERMIT/METERED PARKING

Mr. Saba shared a presentation concerning a parking issue on streets neighboring the busway and noted that most of these commuters are coming from surrounding communities into Crafton to park and utilize the busway. Mr. Saba added that parking around the Borough Building is little to none and urged Council come up with a solution to help with the parking needs of Crafton's residents and businesses.

Manager McKibben noted that he had some experience with permit parking and meter parking while working in Dormont, in areas around the T Stations, and added that if Council decides to implement permit parking it would need to be enforced regularly and stated that it cannot be a

function of the Administrative Staff. Manager McKibben suggested for the business district the use of metered parking and residential areas as permit parking.

Mayor Bloom stated that the only way to remove the parking issue is to have Port Authority remove the Crafton stop all together and added that with metered parking or permit parking it will just push commuters further into the community and impacting other streets.

Mr. Levasseur asked Mayor Bloom to join Mr. Saba and himself to form a working group to discuss these parking issues with the Planning Commission and work on a solution for the residents that are impacted.

Council continued the discussion on how to enforce parking rules, who would be responsible for enforcing them and how to determine who is parking in these areas.

Kirsten Compitello, 23 Hawthorne Avenue, asked that Council include the Planning Commission in future discussions regarding the parking situation.

ATHLETIC FIELD UPDATE

Ms. Perry asked if there has been any contact from the School District or any movement on the Athletic Field sale or development and inquired if there is any interest in acquiring the property for Borough use.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he has not had any contract from the School regarding the property.

Ms. Perry asked if the Master Parks Plan grant could be a way for the Borough to purchase the property.

Mr. Crown stated that purchases of property can be included in these types of grants.

Mr. Saba suggested that the School Board Directors come and meet with Crafton residents and explain the reasons for selling the property.

Ms. Perry stated that, from previous conversations, the School Board was looking at the sale price for capital improvements in other School properties.

Council continued discussion on working with the School Board on potential sale or use of the Athletic Field property.

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Deadline for seasonal employment applications is Friday, March 13th by 4:00 PM. Applications must be submitted to the Borough Office.
- Representative Deasy's office staff will be in the Community Center March 21st from 3:30 – 5:00PM to assist in securing PAAC Connect Cards right before the first Senior

Dinner of the year. Please RSVP for the dinner by March 17th and all remaining dinner dates can be found on-line.

- A Firecracker 5K committee meeting will be held March 25th @ 7:00PM in the Community Center.
- Crafton Celebrates will host a Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser at the American Legion on April 18, 2020. Tickets are \$30.00 each and \$50.00 per couple.
- A Shred Event will be held on May 9th at Crafton Park. More information to follow.
- The CVFD will host their annual Night at the Races on May 2, 2020. Contact the CVFD for more information.

14. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are no additional comments.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary