

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, August 24, 2023

(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Oliverio called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Price recorded seven (7) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher (Via Zoom), Mr. Chandler, Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, Ms. Pulkownik and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent was Mayor Perry.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda for August 24, 2023, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2023,
2. Bill List – August 24, 2023 & Ratify August 10, 2023 (with exception of the Gateway Bills).
3. July Reports - Treasurer's, Financial Statement, Manager's Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection and Property Tax Collection, Police, Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, and Library.

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to approve the August 24, 2023, Consent Agenda, with removal of the Gateway Bills.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens requesting to speak on agenda items.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Oliverio had nothing to report.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry was not in attendance.

8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to receive legal advice, to discuss pending litigation and to receive information from the Manager.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman had nothing to report in addition to the written report submitted to Council for review.

10. LIBRARY'S REPORT

Andrea Marquis, Crafton Public Library Board Member, stated that the Crafton Board members held a meeting on August 8, 2023, at which time they elected their board member positions and requested that she be re-appointed as her seat will expire in January of 2024. She spoke regarding the children's program, new bike locks and racks, and announced that September is Love Your Library Month. Ms. Marquis inquired about the status of the leak and furnace repairs.

Manager Price stated that the UV Lights were installed, and the drywall repairs will begin this fall.

Ms. Compitello added that the Crafton Library has a seed library which was enjoyed.

11. MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Price introduced the LGA Intern Shubham Goel.

Mr. Goel, a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon, gave a presentation on the data collection project he had been working on for the past three months. Mr. Goel collected data for asset management in the ArcGIS, completed an analysis of speed data from the speed monitors, completed a proposal for EV (Electric Vehicles) Charging station locations, and a draft manual for the Public Works Department. He noted that, of the information he collected, he surveyed the following:

- Military Banners: 20% of the current banners need to be replaced and over half of the banners are in great condition.
- Sidewalks: 80% of the sidewalks (affected by shade trees) are in good condition.
- Automated Signals: All in excellent condition.
- Trash Cans: All but three cans are in great condition.
- Crosswalks: All in good condition, with a few needing repairs and some needing new lines painted.
- Signs: Two thirds of the Boroughs 2,700 signs are in good to fair condition.

(The full presentation of slides can be found [HERE](#).)

Ms. Compitello noted that she was happy to share that she toured the EV Charging stations in West Mifflin this morning and they have reported that they are already seeing a return on their investment, after just a year of installation.

Manager Price added that most of this data Mr. Goel collected will be helpful going into the 2024 Budget season.

Mr. Chandler stated that speeding on the newly paved Union Avenue has decreased dramatically since the speed monitor's installation.

Manager Price gave an update on the following items:

- ***Allegheny County CDBG Program and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs*** – CDBG provides funding for public improvements such as water and sewer, demolition, recreation, and general infrastructure. The HOME Program provides funding for construction and repairs of affordable housing. A resolution is required for Crafton to be eligible for either funding program.

MOTION: #2: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to approve Resolution 2023-18 Opting into Allegheny County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs for 2024, 2025, 2026.

Manager Price noted that the Borough has used these grants for assistance with demolition of blighted properties.

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

- ***2024 Budget Workshops*** – The 2024 draft budget will be introduced to Council at the first budget workshop which will be held prior to the September 28, 2023, Council Meeting at 6:30 PM. In addition, budget workshops will be held at 6:30 PM prior to the next four Council meetings.
- ***Public Works Truck Lease*** – Lease payments on the new public works vehicle, a 2023 Ford F-550 chassis cab and dump truck with snowplow, was budgeted for 2023 and will be budgeted in 2024 and 2025. Crafton must pass a resolution declaring the Borough's intent to enter a financial agreement with Huntington Public Capital Corporation.

MOTION: #3: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Pulkownik*) to approve Resolution 2023-19 declaring the Borough's intent to enter a financial agreement with Huntington Public Capital Corporation in the amount of \$112,852.

Manager Price stated that the draft resolution was not available on the OneDrive, but he did have a printed copy if anyone wanted to review it. He added that the truck will replace one of the older Public Works vehicles and will be used for various tasks including snow removal.

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

- **Zoning Hearing/1960 Crafton Boulevard** – The Zoning Hearing regarding the hedges at 1960 Crafton Boulevard on the corner of Johnston Street and Crafton Boulevard was held on August 2, 2023. The Zoning Hearing Board requested that the homeowners work with the Borough to find an agreeable solution before the Board meets again at the end of September. There were three options explored including placing a traffic mirror, changing Johnston Street to one-way traffic, and removal or moving the hedges. Gateway confirmed that it is no longer a legal practice to install traffic mirrors in Pennsylvania, the homeowners are not in favor of removing the hedges, therefore, leaving only the option of converting Johnston Street to one-way traffic.

The following motion was moved by Mr. Marks but failed to second. Mr. Marks withdrew his motion, pending further discussion.

(MOTION: #4: It was moved but failed to second (Marks) to approve the Borough Administration to work with the property owner in determining the feasibility of making Johnston Street a one-way street. The property owner will be responsible for obtaining a traffic study to support the change and must obtain signatures from at least 70 percent of the property owners on Harrison and Johnston Streets. All costs will be borne by the property owner. If those requirements are met, the Borough will seek to pass an ordinance changing the traffic pattern to one-way on Johnston Street.)

Solicitor Korbel noted that Morton needs to be added to the list of streets for signatures. He also suggested that Gateway review the traffic study when it is available.

MOTION: #4: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Chandler*) to approve the Borough Administration to work with the property owner in determining the feasibility of making Johnston Street a one-way street. The property owner will be responsible for obtaining a traffic study to support the change, which will be reviewed by Gateway Engineers, and must obtain signatures from at least 80 percent of the property owners on Harrison, Johnston, Morton Streets, and the affected blocks of N. Emily Street. All costs will be borne by the property owner. If those requirements are met, the Borough will seek to pass an ordinance changing the traffic pattern to one-way on Johnston Street.

Council discussed amending the specific details of the motion including adding Morton Street and portions of N. Emily to the petition requirements, increasing the percentage of resident signatures that are needed to allow for the one-way traffic consideration, how this change could affect parking on Johnston Street, traffic pattern interruptions on surrounding streets, and the appeals process if a solution is not jointly agreed upon.

Benjamin Valimont, Zoning Hearing Board Member, spoke and gave a brief synopsis of the hearing and noted that the reason for the hearing request was due to the homeowner wanting to keep the hedges to preserve the privacy on their property.

AMENDED MOTION: #4: It was moved and seconded (Ridilla/Chandler) to approve the Borough Administration to work with the property owner in determining the feasibility of making Johnston Street a one-way street. The property owner will be responsible for obtaining a traffic study by the end of September to support the change, which will be reviewed by Gateway Engineers. The Borough will develop the permission document that the property owners will provide when obtaining signatures, from at least 90 percent, of the residents or tenants on Harrison, Johnston, and Morton Streets, and the affected blocks of N. Emily Street by the end of October. The petition shall include the name, address, phone number and email of the signee in addition to a clear narrative of the changes that would occur and the reason for the change. All costs will be borne by the property owner. If those requirements are met, the Borough will seek to pass an ordinance changing the traffic pattern to one-way on Johnston Street.

MOTION #4 carries by a Voices Vote (5-2). **OPPOSED:** Mr. Oliverio, Mr. Marks.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Perry was not in attendance. Manager Price noted that the Committee discussed the budget workshops and added that the monthly budget assessments have been good.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following ongoing projects.

- ***2023 Road Paving*** – Paving is complete, including the checklist.
- ***Broadhead Separation Project*** –

Engineer Minsterman gave an update on the Broadhead Separation project and noted that Perrine Street was added to the Broadhead Separation Project which will capture approximately four acres of runoff, restoration will be a full mill and pave. He added that this project addition was recommended by ALCOSAN for grant funding.

- ***Crafton Boulevard Streetscape Phase II*** – Three lights have been shifted to focus on the sidewalks. Council Members will vote on the position at the first September Meeting.

Ms. Compitello asked that residents take a moment to review the changes and attend the September meeting to offer their opinion on the light placement.

- **Multi-Municipal Zoning Project** – Public Engagement website is now live, and it can be found linked to the Borough’s website homepage.
- **Pool Bathhouse** – Bids were higher than originally anticipated, therefore cost cutting options will be discussed.

Manager Price noted that Council was provided with a list of potential changes in the scope of work reductions that would reduce the cost. He recommended keeping all the interior work and removing \$66,000 of the exterior work.

MOTION: #5: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Ridilla*) to approve the low bidder, M.A. Dunn Construction Company with the addition of the changes to remove some of the outside work.

Engineer Minsterman clarified that the recommended reduction would be \$60,000 and stated that the changes would affect the addition of the ADA handicap spaces.

Council discussed in detail the changes and how it compares to the design that was approved, the grant funding received, and how the additional cost would be financed.

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

MOTION: #6: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Chandler*) to approve Independent Mechanical for the electrical and building work.

Manager Price noted that the bid amount for M.A. Dunn is \$422,000 and \$94,945.00 for the electrical.

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

MOTION: #7: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Chandler*) to approve the Plumbing Contract to East End Plumbing Mechanical Inc. in the amount of \$135,000 for the electrical and building work.

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

- **Brick Street Survey** – A survey has been distributed asking residents their opinions on Brick Streets. The survey will remain open until October 1, 2023. The link to the survey is posted on the Borough’s homepage.
- **Stairs Replacement Project** – Cost adjustments were received, which included the addition of cheek walls and double railings. The cost estimate has increased to \$1.1 million, \$550,000 over the additional estimate. Council will continue to investigate options to bring the cost estimates back closer to the original amount.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Pulkownik gave a quick update on the following events.

- **Upcoming Events – Save the Date**
 - Senior Dinner - Casino Royale
 - This was the final dinner planned for 2023. The Recreation Board is planning future dinner events for 2024.
 - Fall Festival – September 30th, 2023 – 12PM to 6PM
 - Lots of free family events including, Ax Throwing, Cornhole Competition, Polka Band, Beer Garden and more. Cornhole and Vendor registration information is on the Borough’s Website.
 - Haunted Crafton Tour – October 21st through the 31st
 - Volunteers Needed
 - Audio Guided Vehicle Tour
 - Sign up to have your house on the tour via the Borough’s website.
 - Christmas House Tour
 - Houses needed, sign up on the website.
 - Celebration of Lights – December 2, 2023

- **Newsletter** – Hitting mailboxes now. Next newsletter will be sent in early December.
- **Crafton Park Digital Sign** – On track to be installed after Labor Day.
- **Crafton Logo** – Beginning the process to update the Borough’s Logo.

COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Chandler had no appointments and gave an update on the list of vacancies.

- **Current Open Vacancies**
 1. Civil Service (1 Alternate)
 2. Recreation Board (1 Opening)
 3. Zoning Hearing Board (1 Alternate)
 4. Upcoming
 - a. Recreation Board (12/31/23) (3 Regular)

** Interested candidates should apply on the Borough’s website at www.craftonborough.com/commissions.*

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Ms. Bollenbacher had nothing to report as Char-West COG is on a summer hiatus until September.

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:15 PM.
- **Crafton Pool Season Pass: The Pool staff staffed the pool to remain open two more weeks of weekday evenings.** The Crafton Pool will be open evenings and weekends for the next two weeks and will close for the season after Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2023.
- **Crafton Fall Festival** – Saturday, September 30 at Crafton Park from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event will include a beer garden, axe throwing, a cornhole tournament, and live music.
- **Haunted Crafton Driving Tour** – The tour starts on October 21st and will continue through the 31st. Please visit the Crafton Borough website for more information.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional citizen comments.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary