

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

Council Members held their fifth Budget Workshop meeting prior to the December 14, 2023, Council Meeting. The Budget Workshop can be viewed on Youtube.com at the above link.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Oliverio called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 7:17 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 Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda for December 14, 2023, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2023,
2. Bill List – December 14, 2023.

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Chandler*) to approve the December 14, 2023, Consent Agenda.

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 announced that she attended the Christmas Party at the senior high rise.

8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will hold a special hearing to vote on the pending variance decision. He added that no new testimony will be heard, however the public is invited to attend.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Price had nothing to report.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Perry spoke regarding the following items:

- ***Sale of Police Interceptor*** – Resolution to approve the sale of a 2019 Ford Police Interceptor to Elizabeth Township.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Pulkownik*) to adopt Resolution 2023-25 authorizing the sale of a 2019 Ford Interceptor to Elizabeth Township for \$15,000.

Ms. Compitello inquired about the value of the vehicle for sale.

Manager Price stated that it is difficult to put a value on these vehicles and the Borough is fortunate to have the offer as is.

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

- ***2024 Budget & Resolutions***

Manager Price stated that the only minor changes to the fee resolution would be allowing groups and organizations to make rentals for multiple days at a discounted rate for events such as hosting classes.

Mayor Perry added that the wage resolution will be discussed in the new year.

- ***2024 General, Road, Sewer, and Capital Fund Budgets***

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to adopt the 2024 General Fund, Road Fund, Sewer Fund, and Capital Projects Budgets as advertised, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the Borough Government set forth during the year 2024.

Mr. Marks continued the Budget Workshop discussion and agreed to take the extra time to look over the budget items.

Ms. Compitello added that there were a few small last-minute changes to the budget numbers discussed at the Budget Workshop prior to this evening's meeting.

Mr. Ridilla noted that the changes were not that significant, and he would be in favor of passing the budget as is.

Ms. Compitello and Ms. Pulkownik both stated that they would be in favor of passing the budget as is but would also be willing to extend the budget discussion into another meeting and pass it at that time.

Manager Price also noted that Council could vote to adopt the budget and then reopen the budget later if Council so wished.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Council can withdrawal the motion and set a date and time for the discussion to continue and stated that there would be a cost to advertise the meeting.

Ms. Bollenbacher and Mr. Chandler agreed that they would be comfortable with passing the budget as is.

ROLL CALL VOTE: BOLLENBACHER (YES), CHANDLER (YES), COMPITELLO (YES), MARKS (YES), OLIVERIO (NO), PULKOWNIK (YES), RIDILLA (YES).

MOTION # 3 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-1).

- **2024 Tax Millage** – No increase in real property tax millage rate. The millage rate will remain at 8.59 with 2.42 mills going into the special road tax fund.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to adopt Resolution 2023-24 setting the real estate millage rate for property for the year 2024.

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

- **2024 Fee Schedule** – Was available on the drive for Council to review.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to adopt Resolution 2023-26 adopting the general fee schedule for the year 2024.

Mr. Marks noted that the only changes were the addition of multi-date rentals for groups and organizations at a discounted cost.

Manager Price gave a quick explanation of the procedure the administrative staff follows to process a single application.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following projects.

- ***Broadhead Separation Project*** – Continue to work on acquiring easements from the property owners with work expected to begin in the spring.
- ***Multi-Municipal Zoning Project*** – Public outreach event to be scheduled in February.

Manager Price added that there has been a significant amount of input received through the website and he will be organizing it in a way that can be presented anonymously.

- ***Public Works Building*** – The committee is reassessing the remaining work to determine the best path forward.
- ***Stairs Replacement Project*** – Belvidere Stairs work to begin soon.
- ***Consent Order Agreement (COA)*** – Extension letter was sent to DEP. Crafton continues to work with Gateway on a list of projects to be presented to Council in January.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Bollenbacher thanked the Recreation Board Members and Crafton Heritage for their time and effort put into the recent community events.

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

- ***Upcoming Events – Save the Date***
 - Santa visits Crafton by Firetruck
 - Saturday, December 16, 2023, starting at 9AM,
 - Listen for the Siren letting you know he is close,
 - Santa will also visit Thornburg and Rosslyn Farms.
- ***Crafton Logo*** – Crafton is working with a local artist to design a few options for the new logo that will be selected by the community.
- ***Digital Sign*** – Council has reviewed the draft policy for the digital sign.

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to approve the draft digital sign policy that was presented to Council at the November 30th meeting.

Ms. Compitello suggested that the policy be shared on the Borough's website.

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

Ms. Pulkownik stated that the House Tour was a tremendous success and noted that over 400 tickets were purchased. She thanked all the ticket locations for pushing the ticket sales, specifically our tour sponsor, The Blue Snail Gift Shop.

Ms. Pulkownik added that the Celebration of Lights was well attended.

COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Chandler announced the following appointments.

- ***Current Open Vacancies***
 1. Civil Service (1 Alternate)
 2. Zoning Hearing Board (1 Alternate)
 3. Recreation Board (1 Regular)
 4. Upcoming in 2024
 - Library Board (2 Regular)
 - Shade Tree Commission (1 Regular)
 - Planning Commission (1 Regular)
 - Civil Service Commission (1 Regular)
 - Recreation Board (2 Regular)
 - Zoning Hearing Board (2 Regular, 1 Alternate)

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

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Ms. Bollenbacher also announced that the next COG meeting will be held December 21, 2023, at 6:30 PM, in Carnegie.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Borough Office Hours** – The Borough Offices will close on Friday, December 22, at 12:00 pm and the offices will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26, and January 1.

- **Holiday Garbage Pickup** – Garbage pickup will be pushed back to Wednesday, December 27, and Wednesday, January 3, due to the shortened weeks.
- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Council unanimously agreed to cancel the December 28, 2023, meeting. The Reorganization Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 5:00pm. The first regular meeting will be held Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:15 pm unless the schedule is changed at the reorganization meeting.
- **Santa Comes to Crafton by Fire Truck** – Saturday, December 16th beginning at 9:00 AM, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Crafton Volunteer Firefighters will work their way through the streets of Crafton by Fire Truck and then visit Thornburg and Rosslyn Farms. Listen for the sirens and enjoy one of Crafton’s oldest traditions.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Boyer, 28 Duncan Avenue, asked if the Borough would look at the wall in the rear of her property that was disturbed due to construction and equipment.

Manager Price stated that he would meet with Ms. Boyer to discuss her concerns.

Mr. Oliverio thanked Mr. Marks for his service on Council for the past two years.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary