

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2022

(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed on YouTube 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, December 8, 2022, at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded seven (7) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher*, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Compitello, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. (*Ms. Bollenbacher joined the meeting late via Zoom.)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Marks*) to approve the December 8, 2022, Consent Agenda (including the Meeting Minutes dated November 21, 2022, and the Bill List dated December 8, 2022).

MOTION #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

**Ms. Bollenbacher was not present for the vote.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Charlene Krenke, 800 Clearview Avenue, asked about the unfinished painting of the crosswalks and stop bars on Clearview Avenue and Sterrett Street and mentioned other intersections in the Borough.

Interim Manager Sample noted that he will investigate and follow up with Ms. Krenke.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Oliverio had nothing to report.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry thanked the Crafton Plaza for their invitation to their Christmas Luncheon. She also noted that there is no traffic control at Stotz Avenue and E. Crafton Avenue near the Crafton Plaza and requested that this be a priority in 2023.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

**Ms. Bollenbacher entered the meeting via zoom.*

9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

BRADFORD AVENUE STOP SIGN ORDINANCE

Solicitor Korbel stated that the draft ordinance was available for Council to review prior to the meeting.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Levasseur*) to approve Ordinance 1674 amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances revising stop intersections to include adding a stop intersection at Bradford Avenue and Crafton Blvd.

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

ACT 57 TAX PENALTY WAIVER ORDINANCE

Solicitor Korbel noted that this ordinance will allow new property owners to request that the penalty and interest be waived on their property tax if they did not receive their tax bill. He added that this ordinance is required by the State to be passed prior to the end of the year.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Chandler*) to approve Ordinance 1675 declaring property tax penalty waiver provisions by implementation of Act 57 of 2022.

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

PA FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

Solicitor Korbel stated that the draft ordinance was available for the Council Members to review. He reminded Council that the permit requirements are for display fireworks and not consumer grade fireworks to ensure that all safety protocols are being used. Solicitor Korbel added that the next step would be to advertise the ordinance for adoption at a later meeting.

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE (UCC) ORDINANCE UPDATE

Solicitor Korbel noted that the UCC Ordinance has been drafted and will be advertised for adoption at a meeting in January.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Sample had one addition to his written report. He stated that in addition to the Shade Tree Commission annual tree planting there were fifty-two trees and one-hundred and ninety-nine shrubs planted in the new Parking Lot area and twenty-five trees and six-hundred and sixty-three shrubs and perennials planted along the streetscape.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2023 FUND BUDGET

Ms. Perry stated that the following motions had been discussed at the previous three Budget Workshops.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to adopt the 2023 Proposed 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 2023.

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

2023 TAX MILLAGE RESOLUTION

Mr. Ridilla stated that the tax millage will remain at 8.59 per dollar of assessed valuation of which 2.42 mill will be dedicated to the Road Improvement Fund.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Chandler*) to adopt Resolution 2022-028 setting the real estate millage rate for property for the year 2023.

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

2023 FEE RESOLUTION

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Marks*) to adopt Resolution 2022-029 adopting the general fee schedule for the year 2023.

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

2023 WAGE RESOLUTION

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Marks*) to adopt Resolution 2021-030 adopting the general wages for non-union employees for the year 2023.

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

2023 DEDUCT METER REFUNDS

Mr. Ridilla noted that these credits are based on auxiliary meter readings approved by ALCOSAN.

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Chandler*) to approve the 2022 Sewer Deduct Meter Refunds in the amount of \$6,390.22.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

H2O GRANT RESOLUTION

Ms. Compitello stated that the ALCOSAN grant award for the Broadhead Separation Project was less than the Borough had expected and added that this H2O Grant will help with the required match. She noted that this separation project will encompass the areas Broadhead Avenue, Belvidere Street, Warren Street, Parke Street, Coulter Street, Crennell Avenue, N. Linwood Avenue, and N. Emily Street.

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Levasseur*) to adopt Resolution 2022-031 requesting grant of \$3,832,116.25 from Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Broadhead Sewer Separation Project.

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

Council Members discussed the grant details to clarify that the H2O Grant will cover the road reconstruction that was not included in the ALCOSAN Grant funds.

MULTI MUNICIPAL ZONING PROJECT

Ms. Compitello stated that the Consultant is still in the re-writing phase and added that there will be public engagement events forthcoming in 2023.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mr. Marks reminded the community that the Senior Giving Tree event is ongoing and there are still opportunities to help. Gifts can be purchased and dropped off at the Borough Building by end of business tomorrow.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Mr. Chandler noted that there are still a few open vacancies and stated that the application is available on the borough's website, www.craftonborough.com/commissions.

1. Civil Service (Alternate)
2. Library Board
3. Upcoming - Zoning Hearing Board (12/31/22)

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Mr. Ridilla announced that Crafton will be hosting the December 15, 2022, meeting.

12. COUNCIL VACANCY

Mr. Oliverio stated that there are three Candidates applying for the Council Vacancy. He noted that each Candidate will have five minutes to speak. Mr. Oliverio added that Council can accept Mr. Levasseur's resignation and then vote for the candidate or to hold off accepting the resignation and postpone the vote until January.

INTERVIEWS

Nathan Henry, 245 W. Steuben Street, lifetime resident of Crafton Borough and current student at Chatham University. Mr. Henry stated that he was highly involved in the Student Council Government and noted that as he served as both President and Treasurer during his High School Career. Mr. Henry stated that his strong work ethic will help him take on a more representative role for the younger members of the Crafton Community and added that his passion for communication will work toward improving communication of Borough information to the Public. Lastly, Mr. Henry expressed his desire to give back to the community.

Mr. Henry responded to various questions from the Council Members including; Current interest in Borough Board and Committees – Mr. Henry stated that he is in his junior year of college, which will allow him more time outside of school to focus on local government and community involvement.

Awareness of the Infrastructure Bond – Mr. Henry noted that he feels improvements to infrastructure will improve many other aspects of the Borough such as safety and security.

Borough's lack of Communication – Mr. Henry stated that there are many different options available that the Borough is not currently utilizing that could extend the reach of communications to the residents.

Additional comments: Mr. Henry added that he has knowledge of grants and different funding opportunities.

Mr. Oliverio read a statement submitted by the next candidate, ***Pamela Pulkownik, 31 Division Street***.

“Apologies for not being at the meeting in person - I had a prior commitment that I am unable to miss.

When I moved to Crafton ten years ago, I knew nothing about our amazing little neighborhood. I simply fell in love with a charming house on Division Street.

Over the past decade I have grown to appreciate everything about our neighborhood. The sense of community, all of the fun events, our wonderful library and so much more! I have even participated in the Holiday Open House tour. You can find me at Sarafino's about once a month and regularly buying gifts at Blue Snail.

As a member of the Crafton Council, I would enjoy having a hand in continuing to make our community a wonderful one. Whether it is helping plan events or deciding what businesses should make Crafton a better place, I feel I would be a valuable addition to the council.”

Mr. Oliverio also noted that Ms. Pulkownik was recently appointed to the Recreation Board.

Brad Crouse, 40 Belvidere Street, stated he is a lifetime resident of Pittsburgh and served for four years on Crafton Council. Mr. Crouse noted that he ran for Borough Council for issues such as blight remediation and failing infrastructure. He stated that the community had a hunger and passion for change and noted that Crafton Borough is a safer, more prosperous, and equitable community than when he joined Council five years ago. Mr. Crouse added that, while on Council, he worked with state officials, Council of Governments, and CONNECT to facilitate infrastructure plans. He noted that he worked with various departments of the Borough on new projects, and the purchase of new trucks and fire equipment. Mr. Crouse noted that the biggest accomplishment while on Council was acquiring the Infrastructure Bond. He added that he understands the roles and responsibilities of the Council Members the Communities need for honesty and transparency. Mr. Crouse stated that he is invested in Crafton Borough and its amenities and potential growth.

Mr. Crouse responded to various questions from the Council Members, including;

Top priorities for current and future Council – Mr. Crouse stated a few of his top priorities for Council would include infrastructure and execution of the bond funds, creating visions for business development, tri-borough land bank development plans and continuing the work of the current Council Members.

Vision for area around Crafton Elementary and Crafton Boulevard – Mr. Crouse noted that the current improvements to Crafton Boulevard have gone beyond what Council could have imagined when the idea was put forward. He added that he would love to see the streetscape project expanded beyond Crafton Boulevard.

Keeping up the momentum – Mr. Crouse noted that it is important to keep up relationships with State Officials and the line of opportunities open.

Ideas from other Communities that could be implemented in Crafton – Mr. Crouse stated that he would be interested in working on a tri-borough land bank, collaborating with the School District on remediation of dilapidated buildings, and creating an economic development corporation.

Additional Comments: Mr. Crouse cited his experience serving on Council previously.

Specific accomplishments while on Council – Mr. Crouse said he worked specifically on the Capital Improvement Plan and bond acquisition and facilitated open communication on multiple projects and plans.

Mr. Oliverio thanked all the candidates for attending the meeting.

Ms. Compitello asked if the newly appointed member could attend the Newly Elected Officials course.

Interim Manager Sample noted that the course is run during election years only.

Mr. Oliverio said Council could run extensive orientation with the current members and Mayor.

Mr. Ridilla stated that Council should postpone the appointment to give Ms. Pulkownik a chance to interview with Council.

Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, and Ms. Bollenbacher noted that they agreed with postponing.

Mr. Oliverio stated that if Council decides not to accept Mr. Levasseur's resignation he would remain on Council until December 25, 2022. He added that there are no additional actions that need to be taken. Mr. Oliverio also invited the other candidates to the January meeting and said they will also have a chance to speak again if they wish.

DECEMBER 22ND MEETING DISCUSSION

Mr. Oliverio stated that there are a few items on the agenda for the next meeting.

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Marks*) to cancel the December 22nd, 2022, Council Meeting.

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

Mr. Oliverio stated that this would be Mr. Levasseur's final meeting and thanked him for his service and his dedication to the Borough throughout the years he has served on Council.

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, January 12th, 2023, at 7:15 PM.
- b. **Santa Comes to town by Fire Truck** – Saturday, December 17th. Beginning at 9:00 AM (until Noon), Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Crafton Volunteer Firefighters will tour the streets of Crafton by Fire Truck and then visit Thornburg and Rosslyn Farms. Santa will be passing out candy.
- c. The **Borough Offices will be closed** on December 26th and January 2nd due to the Holiday Season.

Ms. Compitello announced that there is a large amount of federal funding available for families in need of internet access and noted that once the information becomes available a Savvy Citizen notice will be sent out.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Smith, 50 Walnut Street, Scout Master, announced that during COVID, the Crafton and Ingram Cub Scout Packs had disbanded and stated that a new Cub Scout Pack 205 has been created and serves Crafton, Ingram, Thornburg, Rosslyn Farms, and parts of Greentree and Carnegie. He added that the meetings will be held in rotation between Ingram and Crafton.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary