

Borough of Crafton  
Thursday, November 9, 2023

*(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ))*

*Council Members held their fourth Budget Workshop meeting prior to the November 9, 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, November 9, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

### **2. FLAG SALUTE**

Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

Manager Price recorded four (4) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, and Ms. Pulkownik. Also present were Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbel, and Engineer Haberman. Absent were Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Ridilla.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda for November 9, 2023, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2023,
2. Bill List – November 9, 2023, with exception of the Gateway and Babst Calland invoices.
3. September Reports – Manager’s Report, Budget vs. Actual through September 2023, and the Bond Sheet.

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to approve the November 9, 2023, Consent Agenda.

**MOTION #1** carries by a Unanimous Vote (4-0).

### **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 declared November 2<sup>nd</sup>, as Dorothy Little day in Crafton in honor of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

### **8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel reported that the Commonwealth Court announced a decision yesterday on the Sunshine Act, regarding amending the agenda. He stated that there are only three reasons that an agenda can be amended within the 24 hour time period prior to the public meeting, which include, an emergency, an item that arises that is de minimis in nature with no funding or contract required, or in response to public comments that are also de minimis in nature with no funding or contract required. Solicitor Korbel added that he expects that this decision will be appealed by the PA Supreme Court.

### **9. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Haberman noted that the written report was submitted to Council prior to the meeting for review. He stated that there is one action item on the agenda for this evening, which is to approve the resolution for the Duncan Sidewalk grant.

### **10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Price gave an update on the following items:

- ***2024 Budget Workshops*** – Budget Workshops will be held at 6:30 PM prior to the November 30, and December 14, meetings. Council plans to consider adoption of the budget at the December 14, 2023, Council Meeting.

Mayor Perry inquired about switching the order of the meetings on November 30<sup>th</sup> by holding the voting meeting first and the budget workshop second.

Solicitor Korbel stated that it would need to be readvertised in that manner. He added that if the budget workshop runs over, they could continue it following the regular public meeting.

- ***Crafton Boulevard Traffic Study*** – Council is considering applying for a Safe Streets grant for improvements of the Crafton Boulevard corridor, including the Noble, Johnston, N. Emily, and S. Emily intersections.

Manager Price stated that Council had tabled the motion for the Traffic Study at the past meeting and was advertised in the original agenda, this motion was removed from the evening's agenda.

Ms. Compitello added that it was discussed at the Engineer Committee meeting this week where a plan was put in place to do additional research and assess the requirements.

- ***CD Year 50 Resolution*** – A resolution is required for the Community Block Grant Year 50 application. Crafton is applying for a grant to repair the sidewalks on Duncan.

**MOTION: #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Marks*) to approve Resolution 2023-21 confirming that Crafton Borough is applying for CD Yr. 50 funds in the amount of \$45,170 to Allegheny County through the Charwest COG.

**MOTION #2** carries by a Unanimous Vote (4-0).

- ***Vacant Property Recovery Program (VPRP)*** – Resident of 55 Taylor Street is applying to purchase the land behind their property through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program to use as a parking area. If Council approves, it will go back to the County for processing and approval.

**MOTION: #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Pulkownik*) to approve Resolution 2023-23 approve that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a vacant property known as Block and Lot Number 69-R-313.

Manager Price stated that the property has been under the same ownership since 1920 and the taxes have been unpaid.

**MOTION #3** carries by a Unanimous Vote (4-0).

## **11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION***

***Mayor Perry spoke regarding the following items:***

- ***Appoint Auditor Resolution*** – Boroughs are required to appoint a financial auditor by resolution before December 31, 2023.

**MOTION: #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to adopt Resolution 2023-22 appointing Maher Duessel as the Crafton Borough independent auditor for fiscal year 2023, to conduct the annual financial audit for the Borough of Crafton at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

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

- ***2024 Budget Resolutions*** – Recommendation for changes to the millage rates, fee schedules, and wage rates will be discussed at the next meeting.
- ***Budget Advertisement & Public Inspection*** –

**MOTION: #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to advertise and make available for public inspection the 2024 Proposed General, Road, Sewer, and Capital Fund Budgets for adoption at the December 14th, 2023, Council Meeting.

Manager Price noted that the advertisement will be published in the Post-Gazette and digital format on the website.

**MOTION #5** carries by a Unanimous Vote (4-0).

***COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE***

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following projects.

- ***Broadhead Separation Project*** – Crafton is working on securing the easements for the project to go out to bid.
- ***Multi-Municipal Zoning Project*** – Steering Committee met on November 8<sup>th</sup> to work through edits of the calibration tables. Draft documents are expected to be ready for the Planning Committee meeting at the end of this month. Notices have gone out via SavvyCitizen reminding residents of the status of the project as well as where to review the website information, diagnostic reports, and the input survey.
- ***Pool Bathhouse*** – Unexpected issues will require the back wall of the bathhouse to be removed and rebuilt.

**MOTION: #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Marks*) to ratify a change order vote that was conducted via email on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 approving an additional \$52,700 for M.A. Dunn to deconstruct and replace the rear wall of the Bathhouse.

Mr. Marks noted that the issue was that the structural poles within the back wall were in bad shape.

**MOTION #6** carries by a Unanimous Vote (4-0).

- ***Public Works Building*** – Crafton is working with the County to update the \$200,000 CTIF grant for construction costs on the Public Works Building.
- ***Stairs Replacement Project*** – Notice to proceed has been signed for the Belvidere Stairs and the four remaining stairways will be sent out to bid by the end of the year.
- ***Trail Planning*** – Borough Manager met with the DCNR representative. Crafton will be creating an RFP to select a firm to complete the study and a steering committee will be formed for the planning process.
- ***Consent Order Agreement*** – Requires Crafton to provide preliminary plans for compliance with the consent decree. Gateway will prepare a list of options for Council to review and discuss in the upcoming meetings.

***COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS***

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

- **Upcoming Events – Save the Date**
  - Celebration of Lights
    - December 2, 2023
    - 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
      - Santa and Ms. Claus, Snow Princess, Kids Crafts, Letters to Santa, and more.
      - Holiday Food Drive for food and/or monetary donations to Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry
      - Non-profit organizations interested in hosting a booth please contact the recreation board at [recreation@craftonborough.com](mailto:recreation@craftonborough.com)
  - Holiday House Tour
    - December 10, 2023
    - 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
      - Partnered with Crafton Heritage
      - \$20.00 Advance Sale Tickets available November 1, 2023
      - Available at Crafton Administrative Office, Crafton Public Library, Blue Snail Gift Shop and [www.craftonborough.com/christmas-house-tour](http://www.craftonborough.com/christmas-house-tour).
      - \$25.00 on Tour Day at Box Office
        - Box Office: Crafton Public Library
        - 140 Bradford Avenue
        - 12:45 PM to 3:45 PM
- **Newsletter** – Expected to arrive in mailboxes within the next couple of weeks.
- **Logo** – The Committee is working with a designer on the new Crafton Logo for more consistent branding.

### **COMMISSION VACANCY**

Ms. Pulkownik noted that there are a few open seats still available for appointment.

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

\* *Interested candidates should apply on the Borough's website at [www.craftonborough.com/commissions](http://www.craftonborough.com/commissions).*

### **COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)**

Mr. Marks stated that the next GOG meeting will be held November 16, 2023, in Crescent Township.

## **12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, November 30, 2023, budget workshop will start at 6:30 pm and the regular Council Meeting will start at 7:15 pm.
- **Celebration of Lights** – Join the Rec Board for Holiday Festivities on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm in Crafton Park as the Recreation Board illuminates Crafton and welcomes the Holiday season in style. There will be crafts for kids, and a special letter to Santa station where you can send a letter directly to the North Pole!
- **Holiday House Tour** – Sunday, December 10, 1 PM – 6 PM. \$20 advance tix, \$25 day of. You can buy tickets online (with a credit card) at [craftonborough.com/Christmas-house-tour](http://craftonborough.com/Christmas-house-tour) or you can stop at the Crafton Borough Library or the Blue Snail Giftshop to buy tickets with cash and/or to pick up your tour booklet. At your own pace, you will tour Crafton’s beautifully decorated homes.

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Charlene Krenke, 800 Clearview Avenue*, spoke regarding her concern for the school buses turning from Bradford Avenue onto Crafton Boulevard. She stated that they cannot make the turn without making the opposing traffic at the stop sign back up. Ms. Krenke inquired about the liability of the Borough.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the Borough is protected under the Pennsylvania Tort Law.

*Jane Boyer, 28 Duncan Avenue*, thanked the Crafton Police Department for their assistance.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary