

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023

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

Borough Council Members held the second Budget Workshop meeting prior to the October 12, 2023, Council Meeting. The Budget Workshop can be viewed on Youtube.com at the following link: <https://youtu.be/Q6iXQGx-WDU?si=c63vLSI7LmzWtVsB>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Oliverio called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7:17 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Price recorded five (5) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler (Via Zoom), Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, and Mr. Oliverio. Also present were Solicitor Korbel, Engineer Minsterman, and Mayor Perry (Via Zoom). Absent were Ms. Pulkownik and Mr. Ridilla.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to approve the October 12, 2023, Consent Agenda, including:

1. Meeting Minutes dated September 28, 2023.
2. Bill List dated October 12, 2023, including the September Gateway Bills.

MOTION #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Hough, 38 Bradford Avenue, spoke regarding the Johnston Street/Crafton Boulevard stop sign discussion and stated that the current three-way traffic, two-way stop sign makes it confusing for drivers to know who has the right of way. He added that there is a similar intersection further down Crafton Boulevard where there is a stop sign on Crafton Boulevard at S. Emily Street and a stop sign on N. Emily Street at Crafton Boulevard. Mr. Hough suggested that it would make travel less confusing if the stop sign at S. Emily Street was removed and a new stop sign erected at Johnston Street. He noted that this would lessen the concern about the hedges at Mr. Greiner's property.

Matthew Greiner, 91 N. Emily Street, also spoke regarding the stop signs on Crafton Boulevard and requested that Council have a speed detector on Crafton Boulevard between S. Emily Street and Noble Aveue because there are no stop signs between S. Emily Street and Baldwick Road.

Manager Price stated a speed detection sign can be placed on Crafton Boulevard.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Oliverio had nothing to report.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry announced that Pat Shaw, a longtime resident, business owner, and avid Crafton supporter has passed away. She stated that there will be an informal gathering to celebrate his life at the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department between 5PM and 7PM.

8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel had nothing to report.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman had nothing to add to the written report submitted prior to the meeting for Council review.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Price gave an update on the following items.

- **2024 Budget Schedule & Process** – Council held a Budget Workshop prior to the meeting. The next budget meeting will be held prior to the Council Meeting on October 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Budget workshops will be held prior to each meeting through the end of the year, as needed. The 2024 Budget will be considered at the December 14, 2023, meeting.
- **Civil Engineer** – With help from Councilwoman Compitello and Planning Commissioner Herring, a thorough search was conducted for the hiring of a Civil Engineer. It is recommended that Crafton Borough hire Larry Keenan for the position of Civil Engineer.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to approve hiring Larry Keenan for the position of Civil Engineer as recommended by the Borough Manager.

Manager Price said there are many funds budgeted for Engineering over the next few years and hiring Mr. Keenan can allow the Borough to bring on more projects and grant funding. He added that Mr. Keenan has 15 years of experience working as an engineer and is a few months away from taking his PE test.

Mr. Oliverio noted that there are several grants for all types of projects, which will be a focal point for Crafton.

MOTION #2 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

Manager Price added that Mr. Sample has submitted a letter of resignation, his last day will be Thursday, October 19, 2023.

Mr. Oliverio stated that Mr. Sample has been with the Borough twice in many positions and thanked him for his dedication to Crafton.

- ***Part-Time Crossing Guard*** – Mark Sumpter, Chief of Police, has recommended the hiring of a Part-Time Crossing Guard.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to approve hiring Laura Burns as a part-time School Crossing Guard as recommended by Police Chief Sumpter.

MOTION #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

- ***Baker's Acres Plaque*** – Plaque dedication will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 11:00 AM near the Woodlawn Avenue entrance of the property.
- ***Waste Management Contract*** – Crafton will extend the contract with Waste Management for the final option year. There will be a slight increase for the 2024 collection year.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to approve extending the Waste Management Contract for the final year allowed in the contract.

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

Ms. Compitello asked for clarification of any changes with the extension of the contract.

Manager Price noted that all the services will stay the same for residents.

Solicitor Korbel stated that if Crafton plans to partner with the City of Pittsburgh, it would be a simple municipal agreement as to bidding the contract out which could take a significant amount of time.

- ***Request for Proposal*** – Crafton Council agreed to draft a Request for Proposals for the Linden Avenue Property to seek potential development. The RFP must be approved by the Crafton Borough Council and then approved by the Carlynton School Board.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Bollenbacher*) to approve the draft RFP for the disposition of the properties 69-G-25 and 69-G-15 (1 South Linden Ave, and 3 South Linden Ave).

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

Mr. Marks noted that this is the property located across from Crafton Park where the baseball field and the mini golf are located.

Mr. Oliverio added that the property was part of a feasibility study completed last year which is available on the Borough's website. He added that the School Board has reviewed the study.

- **Woodchipper Purchase** – Public Works has requested the purchase of a new woodchipper, this was budgeted for \$75,000 in 2023.

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Bollenbacher*) to approve the purchase of a BC1500 130 HP Cummins Diesel 15-inch brush chipper in the amount of \$72,100 which includes \$10,000 for trade in.

MOTION #6 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

- **1960 Crafton Boulevard/Zoning Variance Update** – Gateway Engineers was asked about the traffic study, and they determined that even with cutting the hedges, it would still not meet PennDOT's regulations for a stop sign. A letter has been sent to Mr. Greiner extending the deadline for the Zoning Hearing to the end of December, which he has signed and returned.

Ms. Compitello noted that this should be added to the next infrastructure committee meeting to discuss the multiple intersections discussed tonight.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Perry noted that the finances were discussed during the Budget Meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following projects:

- **Broadhead Separation Project** – Bid documents are being prepared with construction expected to begin in 2024. Total project cost, including Perrine, Barr and Sterrett, is estimated at \$6,124,123. Advertisements are expected to be out by the end of the month with the project being awarded by December.

Mr. Oliverio added that this project will affect N. Emily, Warren, Coulter, and Parke as well.

- **Multi Municipal Zoning Project** – Steering Committee members met on October 11th to discuss and edit the calibration tables. Zoning Updates will go to public review before they are finalized.

- **Pool Bathhouse** – Demolition work began on Monday, October 2nd. The goal is to have the work completed by the 2024 Pool Season.
- **Brick Street Survey** – Survey results have been posted to the Borough’s website which can be viewed on the home page at www.craftonborough.com. Of the 300 survey responses that were received, 53% of surveyors lived on a brick street, 53% stated that brick streets add charm to the community, 53% of surveyors stated that brick street impacted their decision to live in Crafton.
- **Public Works Building** – Crafton is looking into reallocating existing grant funding for this phase of the project.
- **Stairs Project** – Grant funding comes from two different sources. Crafton received six bids for the stairs project. Gateway Engineers has recommended rejecting and re-bidding bids A, B, C, E, and F, and awarding contract bid D, the lowest bidder, to A Merante Contracting, Inc, in the amount of \$34,368.50.

Mr. Oliverio noted that one of the proposed stairways was removed entirely.

Ms. Compitello added that the Emerson stairs to the Bakers Acres property were removed because the area is not accessible, and the stairway is only about ten steps.

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Marks*) to award Contract D for the stair railing replacement on the stairs running from Belvidere St to Afton Ave to the low bidder A Merante Contracting, Inc, in the amount of \$34,368.50.

Engineer Minsterman clarified that this is only for the railing replacement.

Council discussed the project options that were put out for bid and the construction detail for the railing system.

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

- **DCNR Trail Grant** – Crafton was awarded a grant from DCNR of \$39,100 to conduct a development study of the Chartiers Creek Trail, Busway Trail, and Switchback Trail.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Bollenbacher gave an update on the following items.

- **Upcoming Community Events**
 - **Haunted Crafton Tour** – Beginning October 21st through the 31st from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. No formal cost, participants are asked to make a donation. Food Bank donations will be collected on opening night.
 - **Spooktacular Mini Golf** – Fridays & Saturdays in October, 7:00 PM to 9:00 P M

- **Celebration of Lights** – December 2, 2023 – 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Santa, Ms. Clause and a Snow Princess will be there. The event will include Hot Cocoa, Cookies and Letters to Santa.
- **Trick or Treat** – Will be observed on October 31st, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- **Christmas House Tour** – December 10, 2023 – 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Homeowners interested in having their house displayed on the tour should go to Crafton Borough's website.

Ms. Bollenbacher added that anyone who wishes to volunteer for any of the events can contact the recreation board on the Borough's website.

- **Digital Sign Update** – Installation is complete, and display is active.
- **Newsletter** – Tentatively scheduled for a late November mailing date with articles due on October 16, 2023.

Mr. Oliverio thanked the Recreation Board, and everyone involved with the Fall Festival.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Mr. Chandler had one appointment.

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Bollenbacher*) to appoint Megan Winters to the Recreation Board for the remainder of a 4-year term to expire on September 30, 2024.

MOTION #8 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

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

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Ms. Bollenbacher stated that the next COG meeting is on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM in Stowe Township. She added that she cannot attend this meeting and asked if anyone would be able to attend in her absence.

Mr. Marks noted that he may be able to arrange his schedule so that he can attend the meeting.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, October 26, 2023, budget workshop will start at 6:30 pm and the regular Council Meeting will start at 7:15 pm.

- ***Haunted Crafton Audio Driving Tour*** – The tour starts on October 21st and will continue through the 31st. On Saturday, October 21st, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, we will be accepting donations of non-perishable food for the Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry. The tour will begin at Crafton Elementary. Please visit the Crafton Borough website for more information.
- ***Spooktacular Mini-Golf*** – Mini-Golf will be open Fridays and Saturdays in October – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm for \$2.00.
- ***Halloween*** – The annual tradition of Trick or Treating will be observed on October 31st between 6 PM and 8 PM. The Police and Volunteer Fire Department will be on patrol to ensure the safety of those participating.
- ***Election Day*** – Tuesday, November 7th from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please confirm your polling location.
- ***Celebration of Lights*** – Join the Rec Board for Holiday Festivities on Saturday, December 2, 2023, in Crafton Park.
- ***Holiday House Tour*** – December 10, 1 PM – 6 PM. \$20 advance tix, \$25 day of. Stop at the Box Office to pick up your tour booklet. At your own pace, you will tour Crafton’s beautifully decorated homes. The Rec Board is still looking for a few houses to tour. Please contact the Borough Office if you are interested.

Mr. Oliverio added that Santa on the Fire Truck will be happening in December.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Greiner, 91 N. Emily Street, inquired about the hiring of a civil engineer.

Manager Price explained that Gateway Engineers will continue to be under contract with Crafton for liability and other reasons.

Ms. Compitello noted that Mr. Keenan will take on much of the daily engineering work and Gateway Engineers will continue working on the larger projects.

Jim Schriver, 39 Bradford Avenue, spoke regarding the brick roads and asked if Council would consider looking at the history of the brick roads in Crafton when deciding to keep or reconstruct brick roads.

Manager Price noted that there is not enough information to do a historical survey on the brick road and added that this would be geared more toward the work of a Historian.

Engineer Minsterman stated that the documents would be hard to find as many of the roads were built without plans.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary