

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023

(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, September 14, 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. Oliverio, and Ms. Pulkownik. Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent were Mr. Marks, Mr. Ridilla, and Mayor Perry.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Meeting Minutes dated August 24, 2023.
2. Bill List dated September 14, 2023, including the July/August Gateway Bills, and excluding the September Gateway Bills.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens signed up to speak on agenda items.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Oliverio gave an update on the following items.

- ***Shade Tree Commission*** – Nathan Henry was appointed as the commission chair, effective immediately. The commission will meet next week to discuss current and new business.
- ***November Meeting Change*** – The November 23, 2023, meeting has been changed and will now be held on November 30, 2023, with the budget workshop meeting beginning at 6:30 PM.

- ***Allegheny County Southwest Tax Authority Meeting*** – Chapter meeting was this afternoon, where they discussed the local earned income tax collection contract with Jordan Tax Service. The decision was made to extend the contract with Jordan Tax Service by two years. The new contract would decrease their commission on delinquent collections from 1.8% to 1.5%. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024, in Carnegie Borough, where they will discuss putting out an RFP.

Ms. Compitello asked for clarification of who the contract involves.

Mr. Oliverio stated that the contract is for the Earned Income Tax collection between the Southwest Tax Authority and Jordan Tax Service and noted that Crafton Borough could seek a new collection agency for all other tax collections.

Manager Price added that Jordan Tax Service currently collects Real Estate, Trash and Sewage Fees for the Borough of Crafton.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry was not in attendance.

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*** – The draft budget will be presented to Council on September 28, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Budget workshops will be held prior to each meeting following this meeting, as needed.
- ***Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium*** – Bids were received from several brokers regarding energy pricing. Crafton Borough would also have the option to go in on a wholesale account with the City of Pittsburgh, as well as other municipal authorities and school districts at a lower cost. With the wholesale energy option, Crafton would be purchasing energy directly from the source. More information will be forthcoming.
- ***Baker's Acres Plaque*** – Still coordinating the date and time for the dedication and placement of the plaque.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Perry was not in attendance.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following projects:

- ***Broadhead Separation Project*** – Bid documents are being prepared. Project continues to move forward.
- ***Crafton Boulevard Streetscape Phase II*** – Testing of the new streetlights on Crafton Boulevard continues. Questions and comments are being received from residents on the placement.
- ***Multi Municipal Zoning Project*** – Public Engagement site is up and available to review on the Borough’s website. The Steering Committee is working on editing the new zoning tables before they are made available to the public for review.
- ***Pool Bathhouse*** – Bids were approved, work is scheduled to begin this month, with completion scheduled before the start of the next pool season.
- ***Brick Street Survey*** – The survey will be open until October 1, 2023. There have been 215 survey responses received so far.
- ***Public Works Building*** – Crafton continues to seek additional grant funding to assist in the next phase of the Public Works Building project.
- ***Stairs Project*** – Cost estimates came in much higher than anticipated and adjustments were discussed to lower the initial cost. Crafton is still waiting to receive the new estimates based off of the adjusted specifications.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Bollenbacher gave an update on the following items.

- ***Upcoming Community Events***
 - **Saturday, September 30, 2023** – Food trucks and vendors, as well as craft and non-craft vendors. Entertainment will include, axe throwing, pumpkin carving, face painting, inflatable obstacle course, live music, roaming magician, balloon artist, photo booth, cornhole competition. There will also be a crafting corner for the kids. **Volunteers are still needed.**
 - **Haunted Halloween** – Still looking for houses to be on the tour. Please reach out to the recreation board if you are interested.
 - **Celebration of Lights** – December 2, 2023 – Hot Cocoa, Letters to Santa and Santa himself.

- **Christmas House Tour** – December 10, 2023 – Homeowners interested in having their house displayed on the tour should go to Crafton Borough’s website.
- **Digital Sign Update** – Post and electrical will begin next week. Sign should be completed within the next few weeks.
- **Newsletter** – Tentatively scheduled for an early December mailing date with articles due on November 1, 2023.
- **Crafton Logo** – No update on the logo.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Mr. Chandler gave the following update.

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

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Ms. Bollenbacher stated that the next meeting is next Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 6:30 PM in Neville.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Oliverio noted that the budget workshop will be held at 6:30 PM, prior to the meeting.

- **Crafton Fall Festival** – Saturday, September 30, at Crafton Park from 12PM to 6PM. The event will include a beer garden, axe throwing, a cornhole tournament, and live music.

Ms. Bollenbacher noted that the beer garden will be hosted by Helltown Brewery.

- **Haunted Crafton Audio Driving Tour** – The tour starts October 21st and will continue through the 31st. We are still looking for additional houses for the tour. Please visit the Crafton Borough website for more information.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional comments.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary