

Borough of Crafton  
Thursday, September 28, 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 first Budget Workshop meeting prior to the September 28, 2023, Council Meeting. The Budget Workshop can be viewed on Youtube.com at the following link: <https://youtu.be/lajTgNcAPB8?si=B0bnbLhDo2Q6kinz>.**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Oliverio called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

### **2. FLAG SALUTE**

Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

Manager Price recorded six (6) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler (Via Zoom), Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, Ms. Pulkownik and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Mayor Perry. Absent was Ms. Compitello.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda for September 28, 2023, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2023,
2. Bill List – September 28, 2023 (except the September Gateway Bills).
3. August Reports - Act 511 and Trash Collection Report, Budget vs. Actual through August 2023, Bond Fund Breakdown – Committed Projects, Police Report, NorthWest EMS Report, and Library Report.

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Marks*) to approve the September 28, 2023, Consent Agenda, except for the September Gateway Bills.

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

### **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 an Ice Cream Social, with Magistrate Jack Kobistek, at the Crafton Towers.

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

Solicitor Korbelt had nothing to report.

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

Engineer Minsterman was not in attendance.

## **10. MANAGERS 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 next four Council Meetings. Council will vote to adopt the budget at the December 14, 2023, meeting.
- **Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium** – Crafton can join the City of Pittsburgh, along with a dozen other municipal entities, as a member of a wholesale energy account that will help save funds, lower energy costs, and lessen the Borough's overall carbon footprint.

**MOTION: #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Ridilla*) to permit the Borough Manager to enter into an agreement with Enel X Advisory Services USA LLC on behalf of the Borough and join the City of Pittsburgh's wholesale energy account for electricity needs.

Mr. Marks noted that the Borough would be moving from a fixed rate to a variable rate.

Manager Price stated that it would be a variable rate. He added that the larger the group, the lower the rates are offered. Manager Price noted that the purchase of the wind and solar farm project would lock in lower rates.

**MOTION #2** carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

- **1960 Crafton Boulevard Variance** – A zoning variance request was received from the owners of 1960 Crafton Boulevard regarding the removal of hedges at the intersection of Johnston Street and Crafton Boulevard.

**Matt Greiner, 1960 Crafton Boulevard**, thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to discuss the options presented by Council that could grant a variance and allow him to keep the hedges on his property. He spoke about the privacy and sense of security that the hedges provide for his family and his property. Mr. Greiner also brought up the option of adding a stop sign on

Crafton Boulevard opposite Johnston Street and gave a visual presentation of several intersections in the Borough where the visibility is questionable.

Mr. Oliverio gave a quick history of the discussion. He stated that a violation notice was issued for the overgrown hedges, Mr. Greiner had applied for a Zoning Variance Hearing, which at that time the Zoning Board Members turned the decision over to Council, at a previous meeting Council had a lengthy discussion and decided on a list of recommendations for Mr. Greiner that could potentially make Johnston a one-way street and allow him to preserve the hedges. He stated that those recommendations included the following: Mr. Greiner would need to pay for and submit a traffic study for Gateway to review by the end of September, if the study was approved then Mr. Greiner would need to get approval by petition from 90% of the residents on N. Emily, Morton, Harrison, Johnston by the end of October.

Council Members continued discussion with Mr. Greiner and Solicitor Korbel, the reason for the variance, requirements of adding a stop sign, alternative options, such as moving or planting new hedges to create the 30-degree triangle sight requirement and having Gateway complete a traffic study to add a stop sign on Crafton Boulevard.

Mr. Greiner stated that he will not be meeting the September 30, deadline for the traffic study and added that he would not be able to get the 90% support signatures from the affected residents. He added that he would ultimately need to cut the hedges either way.

Solicitor Korbel announced that if the deadline passes without Mr. Greiner completing the requirements set forth by Council, then the Zoning Hearing Board would need to schedule a hearing ASAP to make their final decision.

- ***Baker's Acres Update*** – Plaque will be installed on the Woodlawn side of the property. Date and time have yet to be announced.
- ***2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation*** – Pension State Aid was received for 2023 and the MMO's for the police and non-uniform have been paid as budgeted, with an approximate \$40,000 additional going into the non-uniform plan.

**MOTION: #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Marks*) to approve Resolution 2023-20 adopting the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation, as required by Act 205 for the Police Pension Fund and Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Fund.

**MOTION #3** carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

## **11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mayor Perry had nothing additional to report.

### ***COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE***

Manager Price gave an update on the following projects.

- ***Broadhead Separation Project*** – Documents are being prepared to go out for bid.
- ***Crafton Boulevard Streetscape Phase II*** – Testing continues for the positioning of the new streetlights. Due to the projection of the lights Crafton may consider replacing the internal fixtures.

***\*Mr. Ridilla exited the council meeting at 8:21 PM***

- ***Multi-Municipal Zoning Project*** – Public Engagement website is now live. The Steering Committee will be meeting again on October 11, 2023, to continue working through the calibration tables.
- ***Pool Bathhouse*** – Bids were approved at the August 24, 2023, meeting. Work is scheduled to start on Monday, October 2, 2023.
- ***Brick Street Survey*** – Crafton has received close to 300 responses. The survey will remain open until October 1, 2023. Preliminary results are that most people like brick streets but do not want to pay for them. A report will be issued at the next council meeting.
- ***Public Works Building*** – Pending grant fund approval, there is still a significant amount of work that needs to be completed, such as the garage doors, interior structure, and insulation.
- ***Stairs Replacement Project*** – Engineering Committee will continue to review and assess the best options for moving forward.

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

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

- ***Upcoming Events – Save the Date***
  - Fall Festival – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 12PM to 6PM
    - Beer garden hosted by Helltown Brewery. Lots of free family events including, Axe Throwing, Pumpkin Carving Demo, Face Painting, Inflatable Obstacle Course, Live Polka Band, Magician, Balloon Artist, Photobooth Props, and a Cornhole Competition.
    - The event was featured on KDKA.
    - Mini-Golf will be open during the event.
  - Haunted Crafton Tour – October 21<sup>st</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Volunteers Needed
    - Audio Guided Vehicle Tour
    - Sign up to have your house on the tour via the Borough’s website.
  - Haunted Mini-Golf
    - Fridays & Saturdays in October – 7PM to 9PM.
  - Christmas House Tour
    - Partnered with Crafton Heritage

- Houses needed, sign up on the website.
- *Newsletter* – Planning for a late November mail date. Articles due October 16, 2023.
- *Crafton Park Digital Sign* – Installation of the sign has been completed.

### **COMMISSION VACANCY**

Mr. Chandler gave an update on the list of vacancies.

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

Mr. Chandler announced that he has two interviews scheduled for the open recreation board positions.

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

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

Ms. Bollenbacher reported that there was a spokesperson from The Pittsburgh Airport who gave an update on the renovations which should be completed by March 2023.

She added that the next meeting will be held on October 18, 2023, in Stowe Township.

### **12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, October 12, 2023, budget workshop will start at 6:30 pm and the regular Council Meeting will start at 7:15 pm.

Mr. Oliverio also noted that State Representative Dan Deasy will be at the Community Center for a vaccination clinic that day until 6PM.

- **Crafton Fall Festival** – Saturday, September 30 at Crafton Park from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event was featured on KDKA news this week and will include a beer garden, pumpkin carving, axe throwing, a cornhole tournament, and live music.
- **Haunted Crafton Audio Driving Tour** – The tour starts on October 21<sup>st</sup> and will continue through the 31<sup>st</sup>. We are still looking for additional houses for the tour. 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 31<sup>st</sup> between 6 PM and 8 PM. The Police and Volunteer Fire Department will be on patrol to enforce the safety of those participating.
- **Holiday House Tour** – December 10, 2023 – 1PM to 6PM. Tickets will be \$20 in advance, and \$25 on the day of the event.

Mayor Perry asked if a senior discount could be considered.

### **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no additional citizen comments.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary