

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, February 25, 2021.

(Meeting was held via Zoom Communications Webinar)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:16 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Alo.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded six (6) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom and Solicitor Korbel.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve the February 25, 2021 Consent Agenda (Including the Meeting Minutes dated February 11, 2021 and the Bill List dated February 25, 2021).

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

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for January 2021. Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511, Trash and Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, EMS Report, Code Enforcement Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report and Library Report.

Mr. Amendola noted that there was no report from the Fire Department.

6. CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items Only:

Michael Hoff, 48 Lincoln Avenue, spoke regarding the pending closure of St. Philips School and expressed his concerns of the negative impact it will have on the community. He stated that those who want to get involved should go to www.savesps2021.com for information and updates.

Mayor Bloom announced that he will be meeting with Bishop Zubik on Monday to discuss the decision made by the Diocese of Pittsburgh as well as the impact on the community.

Mr. Crouse inquired about the position of Council and how/if they may get involved.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Council, if agreed upon, may open a dialog with the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Crown suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of Council expressing support of keeping St. Philip School open.

Ms. Perry stated that Council should continue this conversation after the business agenda.

8. INTERVIEWS FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL VACANCY (5 Minutes)

The following Candidates, *Mr. Thomas Phillips of 85 Union Avenue, Mr. Colton Chandler of 114 Union Avenue, Mr. Michael Zuhl of 604 Broadhead Avenue, and Mr. John Oliverio of 39 N. Emily Street* presented to Council summarizing their connection to Crafton, education and employment history, skills, and qualifications, as well as why they believe they would be the best Candidate to be appointed and serve the remainder of the vacant Council seat. **Nancy Voelker was not able to present due to technical difficulties.*

Council agreed to hold off on the appointment until the end of the meeting to allow Nancy Voelker time to connect to the Zoom Webinar to present.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur had nothing to report.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom spoke in honor of the late Ivan Hull, retired Crafton Borough Police Captain who passed away on February 13, 2021 at the age of eighty-four. Mayor Bloom stated that Ivan Hull was a member of the Crafton Borough Police Department for thirty-three years from 1964 to 1997. Mayor Bloom added that Mr. Hull was elected Mayor of Crafton and served from 2002 to 2005. Mayor Bloom requested a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Hull.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minstermen was not in attendance.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel had nothing to report.

11. MANAGERS REPORT

Interim Manager Sample announced that the bid opening for the Barr Avenue demolition and the 2021 Paving Program will be held on March 25, 2021 and added that the bid opening for the Crafton Boulevard Sewer Separation project will be held on March 30, 2021.

Interim Manager Sample stated that he had two requests from the Recreation Board. He asked Council for their recommendation on the following; first, Brownie Troop 7708 would like to host a drive thru cookie booth at Crafton Park on Sunday, March 7, 2021 from 10 AM to 1 PM and second, Stage 62 Theater Company from Carnegie has requested use of the Stage in the Crafton

Park, for a play "Forever Plaid." Interim Manager Sample added that tickets will be sold for the dates of May 8, 2021 through May 23, 2021.

Mr. Levasseur stated that the use of this facility would be contingent upon any state regulations and guidelines.

Mr. Alo also noted that it should be discussed and agreed upon by Interim Manager Sample and Solicitor Korbel.

Interim Manager Sample noted that, with no objection from Council, he will communicate the approval to both organizations.

12. BUSINESS AGENDA

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Perry*) to accept the proposal from Jordan Tax Service, Inc. for preparation of current Borough Real Estate Tax bill and the collection of current Borough Real Estate Taxes for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025 at the cost of \$3.25 per tax bill.

Ms. Perry noted that there is no price increase over previous years.

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

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Alo*) to approve the agreement between the Borough of Crafton and Basic Business Concepts for an amount not to exceed \$4000.00/month without prior approval given by the Interim Manager.

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

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Perry*) to authorize the Interim Borough Manager to execute the Lease-Purchase Agreement with Huntington Public Capital Corporation to provide financing for the purchase of a 2020 Ford F-550 Dump Truck for a cost of \$69,840.00.

Mr. Amendola inquired about the selection processes for the truck and the leasing company.

Mr. Sample noted that Huntington had offered a significantly lower rate than Ford Leasing.

Mr. Levasseur also noted that Huntington Bank had recently taken over the Borough's current leases from PNC Bank.

Mr. Amendola asked Solicitor Korbel if this should have been put out to bid.

Solicitor Korbel noted that it is not required in this instance.

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

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crown*) to appoint Douglas Sample as the primary delegate and Coletta Perry as the alternate delegate to the Allegheny County Southwest Tax Collection District.

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

Council continued to attempt to get Nancy Voelker on the Zoom call to allow her to present to Council.

14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Borough Office will remain closed to the public; however, staff is available during normal business hours and can be reached via telephone or e-mail. There is a drop-box in the rear of the building for any written correspondence. Any changes to this action will be posted on the Borough website and Savvy Citizen.

Council continued discussion regarding the closing of St. Philip School.

Solicitor Korbel noted that it would not be considered a legal matter and Council may draft and send a letter of support as they see fit.

Mr. Levasseur noted He and Mr. Sample will draft the letter and circulate to Council.

Mr. Levasseur read aloud Ms. Nancy Volker's Letter of Interest to Council.

(All Candidate presentations can be viewed on YouTube. Letters of Interest can be requested via the Right to Know Officer.)

Mr. Levasseur suggested that Council continue with the appointment of the new Council Member.

Solicitor Korbel suggested that Council appoint by roll call vote where each Council Member states the last name of whom they wish to vote for. He stated that once any candidate receives four votes they will be appointed, if no candidate received four votes Council must then drop the lowest vote getter and revote, continuing until one candidate gets four votes. Solicitor Korbel added that immediately following the vote Council must adopt a resolution appointing the candidate to the vacant seat.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (CHANDLER); AMENDOLA (OLIVERIO); CROUSE (CHANDLER); CROWN (CHANDLER); LEVASSEUR (CHANDLER); PERRY (ABSTAIN).

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to adopt Resolution 2021-03 appointing Colton Chandler to Crafton Borough Council to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Anthony Saba which expires on December 31, 2021.

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

Solicitor Korbel noted that the Mayor can swear in Mr. Chandler any time after the residency affidavit is completed.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Norma McGinnis, 7 Bradford Avenue, thanked the Administrative Office over the past year as well as, the help this week getting her registered for the meeting. She also inquired about the opening of the Crafton Swimming Pool.

Interim Manager Sample noted that contrary to some rumors, the pool is in excellent shape and added that Council will discuss the opening of the pool at the March 11, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Alo announced his resignation from Borough Council and as Vice President due to family illnesses and hardships. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the community and to be the change they want in Crafton.

Council discussed the process of filling Mr. Alo's vacant seat.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council will follow the same process as announced at the previous meeting and stated that those who spoke at the meeting this evening will not have to submit and present again.

Solicitor Korbel noted that if any Candidate no longer wishes to be considered they should notify Council.

Mr. Levasseur requested the Interim Manager see that the SavvyCitizen account and Website, as well as the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department marquee be updated with the new vacant seat appointment announcement.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary