

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 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, June 8, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Price recorded five (5) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Ms. Compitello*, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent were Mr. Chandler, Ms. Pulkownik and Mayor Perry. *Ms. Compitello joined the meeting following the Roll Call attendance.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Marks*) to approve the June 8, 2023, Consent Agenda (including the Meeting Minutes dated May 25, 2023, and the Bill List dated June 8, 2023).

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Eric Valcheff, 78 Belvidere Street, spoke regarding the Act 152 Resolution for the demolition of 64 S. Grandview that is on the agenda for council to consider. He stated that the deceased owners of the property have descendants that still live locally and that developers have shown interest in the property. Mr. Valcheff added that there are other properties, such as 82 Belvidere, that may be a more economical choice for demolition as the owners are from the west coast and show no interest in the upkeep of the property.

**Ms. Compitello entered the meeting at 7:20 PM.*

Phyllis Barber, 17 Belvidere Street, inquired about the process of how the Borough determines which brick streets are reconstructed to asphalt. She also asked if there will be a moment for questions regarding the Broadhead Separation Project as Belvidere Street is listed as one of the affected streets.

Mr. Marks noted that any comments or questions on the project presentations can be heard during the comments section at the end of the meeting.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Oliverio had nothing to report.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry was not in attendance.

8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel announced that the Borough Council will hold a brief executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel matters, collective bargaining matters and real estate matters.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman had nothing in addition to the written Engineer's Report.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Price reported on the following items.

- *Speeding on Crafton Boulevard* – Crafton is working with Gateway on a solution for the speeding complaints on Crafton Boulevard. The speed detector has been posted on Crafton Boulevard to collect data of the vehicles that travel along this section of the road.
- *Recreational Burning* – Crafton Borough requires residents to obtain a permit for recreational burning. Please note that burning is restricted when advisories are issued for Air Quality Days. Additionally, if burning becomes a nuisance, the Police Department can order you to put the fire out whether you have a permit or not.
- *Pool Pass Memberships* – Currently the Borough has sold 240 memberships or 895 individual passes. Of those memberships 204 are residents.
- *CONNECT Delegates* – a request for Council to approve an updated resolution appointing the CONNECT delegates due to a numbering error.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Bollenbacher*) to pass Resolution 2023-14 amending the incorrectly numbered resolution from May 11th committing Crafton Borough to participate as a member of CONNECT, the Congress of Neighboring Communities.

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

- *Act 152 Slums & Blight Resolutions* – a request for Council to approve two resolutions declaring 64 S. Grandview as blighted property and to confirm that Crafton Borough is requesting grant funds for the demolition.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Bollenbacher*) to pass Resolution 2023-15 declaring that blighted structures as defined by the Urban Redevelopment Law of 1945 in the Borough are first condemned before being demolished.

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

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to pass Resolution 2023-16 Confirming that Crafton Borough is formally requesting ACT 152 funds in the amount of \$75,000 from Allegheny County Economic Development in order to demolish the property at 64 S. Grandview.

Manager Price noted that the foundation of 64 S. Grandview Ave was determined to be unstable and not repairable. He added that this property was chosen for the grant opportunity due to the cost to demolish being much higher than most other properties.

Council discussed how the property was chosen for demolition and the complaints received from members of the community.

Mr. Oliverio stated that this property has been up for discussion for three to four years.

Manager Price also stated that if the grant is not awarded the structure will not be demolished.

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

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Perry was not in attendance.

Manager Price noted that the Finance and Administration Committee will report at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following projects:

- *Broadhead Separation Project*

Engineer Alberto Jarquin of Gateway Engineers gave an in-depth presentation on the upcoming project. He stated that this is the fifth separation project Gateway has worked on with Crafton Borough. The presentation has been attached at the end of these minutes and can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/USZriiJgZWY>.

Council discussed the financial obligations of the project, the grant opportunities the Borough has been awarded, potential additional grants that Crafton can apply for, and the cost difference for full brick or asphalt restoration.

Manager Price noted that the only hard deadline would be the Grant Application date.

- *2023 Road Paving Program* – The paving list is available on the Borough Website. El Grande Industries was awarded the bid and a Prebid meeting will be held on June 15, 2023.
- *Union Avenue Reconstruction* – The project was completed on schedule and the speed detection sign has been placed to monitor vehicular behavior.

Manager Price noted that the Water Company has sent letters to homeowners to survey their private water lines to determine what types of material they are made of. He stated that the survey is easy to complete and asked the Borough residents to comply with the water company's request.

- *Crafton Blvd Streetscape Phase II* – Installation of the final lamp posts is pending. The Borough has not started testing the existing lamp posts to determine the best direction for the lights.
- *Multi Municipal Zoning Project* – A Steering Committee meeting was held on June 6, 2023. The upcoming Planning Commission meeting on June 27, 2023, will be held jointly with both Crafton and Ingram's Commissions.
- *Pool Bath House*

Engineer Minsterman of Gateway Engineers gave the presentation on the Bathhouse Renovation drawings and design that reflect the most recent change requests from the feedback received. Construction will begin after the 2023 Pool Season closes and end before the 2024 Pool Season opens. The presentation drawings have been attached at the end of the meeting and the discussion is available to view at <https://youtu.be/USZriiJgZWY>.

Mr. Oliverio noted that additional grant opportunities may become available.

Council discussed with the Engineer about the citizen concern regarding the planned exit strategy for the renovation.

Ms. Compitello asked the Council Members if anyone had objections, taking the exit concerns into consideration, and going forward with the project as designed. She noted that there were no objections.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Bollenbacher gave an update on the following items.

- *Upcoming Community Events*
 - Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Crafton Park
 - *Community Garden Planting* – 10 AM to 1 PM – Volunteers are welcome.
 - *Car Cruise & Vendor Fair* – 11 AM to 6 PM – Entertainment, Food Trucks, Vintage Cars, Vendors. Applications are still being accepted through tomorrow.
 - *Mini-Golf Summer Operations* – Friday's & Saturday's – 7 PM to 9 PM. Runs through August 26, 2023, \$2 per person. Weather permitting.

- Crafton Pool – Open Now for regular season hours of operations.
 - Aqua-Robics Classes – Monday and Thursday – 7 PM to 7:45 PM - \$5 per class.
- Fireworks in the Park – Vendor applications are being accepted now.
- *Newsletter* – Articles Due July 1st, 2023.
- *Digital Sign Update* – Final design is about 10 weeks out.
- *Military Banner Program* – Manager Price continues to research similar programs in the surrounding communities. More information will be forthcoming.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Mr. Price spoke on behalf of Mr. Chandler.

- *Appointments*

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to appoint Benjamin Valimont to the Zoning Hearing Board for the remainder of a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2025.

Manager Price clarified that this is the regular open seat, not the alternate.

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

- *Vacancies*
 1. Civil Service (2 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 announced that the next meeting is Thursday, June 15, 2023, in the Carnegie Borough Building.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 7:15 PM.
- b. **Crafton Pool Season Pass** - The opening of the pool and new season pass system is working very well. Please visit craftonborough.com/crafton-pool if you would still like to buy a season pass.
- c. **Car Cruise and Vendor Fair** – Saturday, June 10th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at Crafton Park. Vendors and food trucks will be stationed behind the Stage and Afton will be lined with classic cars.

- d. **Mini Golf Opening** – Starting Friday, June 9th, the Mini Golf Course on Steuben will be open on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 pm to 9 pm.
- e. **Fourth of July Celebration** – The bands and food will start at 3:00 pm in Crafton Park and this year the Borough has extended the length of the Fire Works show. Fireworks are scheduled to start about 30 to 40 minutes after sunset (9:30 pm).

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Luxbacher, 71 Dinsmore Avenue, announced that the Boy Scouts will be running the Mini-Golf as a fundraiser, the hours will be Friday, 7PM to 9PM and Saturday, 1PM to 8PM. She also asked if the Borough had considered adding solar panels to the roof of the new bathhouse.

Manager Price stated that he could investigate the option of installing solar panels but added that with the pool being open for only 3 months the savings may not be significant.

Benjamin Valimont, 270 W. Steuben Street, also suggested the option of a Green Roof.

Manager Price noted that a Green Roof would not be an option for a slanted roof, such as the Bathhouse Roof.

Phyllis Barber, 17 Belvidere Avenue, asked about the Belvidere Street reconstruction, specifically what sections would remain brick and what section would be paved with asphalt. She inquired about the reconstruction of sidewalks and what areas would be replaced. Ms. Barber also expressed her concerns regarding the urban heat island effect, safety of the residents with speeding, and the type of brick that was included in the estimates.

Manager Price stated that the asphalt reconstruction will stop at the Richmond Street steps and noted that the intersection at W. Crafton would remain brick.

Engineer Minsterman stated that the existing bricks would be reused if salvageable.

Engineer Jarquin also noted that there is a reserve of bricks at the Public Works Facility.

Council continued discussion regarding the maintenance and cost difference between brick and asphalt.

Mr. Oliverio noted that residents will have the opportunity to request tree planting.

Manager Price added that temporary bump outs can be explored to help with the slowing of traffic on brick roads that have been newly paved with asphalt.

Greg Wozniak, 1773 Barr Avenue, spoke in favor of having life cycle analyses performed on upcoming projects and inquired about the preservation of the existing brick streets specifically concerning the heavy equipment being parked on the brick streets.

Ms. Compitello noted that use of brick streets by heavy equipment and trucks will be discussed and considered during the estimate phase.

Manager Price stated that the Planning Commission has considered implementing the life cycle analysis practices.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary