

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021.

(Meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and can be viewed by going to www.craftonborough.com/council-meeting-videos)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded five (5) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Levasseur, and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent was Mr. Crown.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

6. COUNCIL RESIGNATION

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to accept Edward Alo's resignation from Crafton Borough's Council effective March 11, 2021.

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

7. COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council will vote to fill the open vacancy following the Candidates presentations.

Vincent Ridilla, 75 McMunn Avenue, spoke regarding his educational and professional background in public and non-profit management and government budgeting, as well as planning and zoning. Mr. Ridilla stated that he moved to Crafton for the historical homes, sense of community, and accessibility to downtown and the airport.

Justin Marks, 165 Promenade Street, discussed his involvement in many community organizations and educational events in Crafton and surrounding communities. Mr. Marks also spoke about his educational background as well as his experience working with several non-profit organizations.

Peter Linko, spoke regarding his professional experiences including safety and operational management. Mr. Linko noted that he worked with a group of activists to save the Tree of Lights at Point State Park.

Mr. Levasseur thanked the candidates who presented this evening, as well as at the previous meeting. Mr. Levasseur reminded Council of the candidates that spoke at the previous meeting, including Mr. Thomas Phillips, Mr. Michael Zuhl, Mr. John Oliverio and Ms. Nancy Voelker.

Mr. Amendola suggested that Council Members vote in reverse order.

Solicitor Korbel reminded Council that a candidate must receive four votes to be appointed.

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

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Chandler*) to adopt Resolution 2021-04 appointing John Oliverio, Crafton Borough Council to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Edward Alo which expires on December 31, 2021.

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

Solicitor Korbel noted that Mr. Oliverio must complete the residency affidavit and oath of office prior to conducting any official Borough business.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Chandler*) to appoint Council Member Ms. Coletta Perry as Vice President of Crafton Borough Council.

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

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted that he will hold his comments until the discussion section of the agenda.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman announced that the CTIF Grant application for the Public Works Building additions and site improvements was submitted on February 11, 2021, the cost of the project is approximately \$940,000. He added that the maximum grant funds available for this project is \$250,000.

Engineer Minsterman gave an update on the Union Avenue concrete repairs and noted that Peoples Natural Gas has planned a line replacement in the area where repairs are being discussed. He added that although this would be a cost saving for the Borough it could also push the timeline for repairs into next year.

Mayor Bloom asked the Engineer to clarify which section of Union Avenue would be included in these repairs.

Engineer Minsterman noted that it is the section between Steuben Street and the Borough line and added that the repairs will be made in whole by Crafton, depending on the planned restoration by Peoples Gas.

Ms. Perry asked Engineer Minsterman to give a summary of the pending Letters of Intent that were submitted to ALCOSAN and where they will be constructed.

Engineer Minsterman noted that the Crafton Boulevard and the Broadhead Busway are designed, not to separate the combined system, but solely to reroute and remove storm water from the combined system.

Mr. Levasseur stated the Broadhead/Busway project will begin on Belvidere and continue down Broadhead Avenue where it will discharge off Crafton Boulevard into the Creek. He noted that this project will also encompass inlets on N. Emily and areas around the Busway. Mr. Levasseur added that the Crafton Park project will tie in with the Broadhead/Busway project to maximize flow reduction. He added that it is early in the process for these projects and noted that construction would not be expected until 2022.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel noted that he had nothing to report on this evening. He congratulated Mr. Chandler and Mr. Oliverio on their appointments.

12. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Sample announced that Crafton Borough was selected as a Banner Community in 2021.

Interim Manager Sample noted that there will be a motion on the next agenda to renew an agreement between Crafton Borough and Pennsylvania American Water Company for the non-payment terminations. He added that this is an administrative housekeeping item required by the State. Interim Manager Sample also noted that the shut-off procedure follows the PUC (Public Utility Commission) guidelines and that he will communicate any changes within the agreement to Council prior to the vote at the next meeting,

13. BUSINESS AGENDA

A) SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to direct the Interim Manager to advertise and hire the Pool Manager and Staff for the 2021 Pool Season.

Mr. Levasseur spoke to clarify the process of hiring and noted that the Interim Manager will hire the Pool Manager, who which in turn will then hire the pool staff.

Council discussed the potential time constraints for paperwork and finding adequate staffing for the pool.

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

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to direct the Interim Manager to advertise and hire the Public Works Summer Help.

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

Mr. Amendola inquired about the status of the Full-Time Public Works hiring.

Interim Manager Sample noted that interviews are scheduled for next Tuesday and stated that he will supply a list of recommended Candidates for hire for Council to discuss before the next meeting.

14. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Levasseur inquired about planning a 2021 Borough spring cleanup, like the event hosted in past years.

A) 2021 POOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Interim Manager Sample introduced a list of recommendations for rules and regulations on the opening the Community Swimming Pool for the 2021 Season including, attendance capacity, limited general admission entrance, attendance tracking, mask requirements, elimination of chair rentals, limiting concessions to prepackaged items only, restrictions to showers and changing stations. He noted that these recommendations are uniform with many of the surrounding community pools.

Mr. Amendola inquired about the restrictions of changing stations and showers.

Ms. Perry asked, with the restriction on lawn chair rentals, if residents would be allowed to bring in their own chairs.

Interim Manager Sample noted that this was a common restriction with surrounding pools to limit close interactions between bathers. He added that use of these facilities would require additional costs of cleaning, cleaning supplies and man hours. Interim Manager Sample stated that residents would be allowed to bring their own chairs.

Mr. Levasseur noted that these regulations would be subject to change as well as at the Pool Managers discretion.

B) DCNR GRANT – POOL HOUSE RENOVATIONS

Interim Manager Sample stated that there is a \$500,000 DCNR Grant available for a complete pool house renovation with a grant match of 50%. He noted the Borough's share would be \$250,000.

Mr. Amendola noted that there were funds put into the budget for 2020 for the bath house renovations.

Ms. Perry stated that due to COVID-19 there were many restrictions within Public Works and lack of materials making these repairs difficult to complete. She added that it would be a better fiscal decision to hold off on repairs and apply for the grant which would allow for a full renovation of the Bathhouse.

C) DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE

Interim Manager Sample noted that he is working with Jordan Tax Service, Inc to compile a listing of delinquent properties within the Borough.

Council Members continued discussion regarding the delinquent properties, the abundance of abandoned vacant properties and the importance of finding these properties before they become blighted and unable to be rehabilitated.

15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Borough Administrative Office is now open to the public. Administrative Staff is available during normal business hours (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM) to address all Borough business. Residents wishing to conduct business in person are asked to come to the door adjacent to the parking lot at the rear of the building. Please press the intercom/buzzer and the staff will assist you. No one will be granted access into the building without a proper mask. In addition, there is a drop-box in the rear of the building for any written correspondence. Administrative Staff can be reached by phone at (412) 921-0752 x 10. Non-Emergency Police Matters can be directed to the Police Secretary at (412) 921-2016.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional public comments.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary