

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, March 24, 2022.

(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Oliverio called to order the Council Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL

President Oliverio recorded six (6) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, Mr. Ridilla, and himself. Also present were Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Flynn. Absent was Mr. Levasseur. *Interim Manager Sample joined later in the meeting.*

4. PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Oliverio opened the Public Hearing for the Master Parks Plan.

Ms. Compitello stated that the presentation will cover the Parks Master Site Development draft plan which encompasses all Borough owned properties. She noted that this document will provide the framework for planning of future investments over the coming years. Ms. Compitello added that the Parks Master Site Plan is guided by the Steering Committee, comprised of Planning Commission Members, Council Members and Public Residents. She added that there will be a discussion later in the meeting regarding a grant opportunity.

Mr. AJ Schwartz of Environmental Planning and Design presented the Master Parks Site Plan to the Borough Council (*Presentation slides attached following these minutes*). He presented the draft Master Parks Site Plan of improvements and upgrades to Crafton Park, Noble Park, Linwood Park, Clearview Trail and the Public Works Facility and Creekside Properties. He noted that this plan is a fifteen-to-twenty-year vision supporting the ongoing public use of the properties. Mr. Schwartz discussed the current conditions, accessibility, and safety concerns surrounding these properties and noted that the plan was drafted from recommendations from the Steering Committee, public surveys, and workshops held for this purpose. He gave an outline of the process for securing the DCNR Grant.

Ms. Compitello thanked Mr. Schwartz for attending and for his time and efforts preparing the presentation. She also thanked everyone for the overwhelming response to the public survey completed last fall.

Ms. Compitello closed the Public Hearing for the Master Parks Plan.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Ridilla*) to approve the March 24, 2022, Consent Agenda (including the Meeting Minutes dated March 10, 2022, and the Bill List dated March 24, 2022).

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Robin Anthony, 1715 Crafton Boulevard, spoke regarding the possibility of connecting the Streetscape project to the Clearview Trail.

Interim Manager Sample stated that he has a meeting scheduled with Ms. Anthony and the Engineer tomorrow and noted that they will discuss those items then.

Jacquelyn Levasseur, 401 Clearview Avenue, noted that the Steering Committee did not have an opportunity to comment on the final plan or priority of these projects for the grant.

Ms. Bollenbacher asked why the Steering Committee was not included in the final decisions.

Ms. Compitello noted that the draft plan was not shared in advance. She stated that the funding decisions are solely the responsibility of the Borough Council and not a decision of the Steering Committee. She noted that the Finance Committee had discussed the funding opportunities for these projects.

Mr. Ridilla stated that he has attended the Finance Committee meetings and did not recall this discussion.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Oliverio acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for February 2022, including the Financial Statement (January), Act 511 and Trash Collection and Property Tax Collection, Police, EMS, Building Inspection, and Code Enforcement.

8. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Oliverio had nothing to report.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry announced that the Kickoff Meeting was held on the DCED Operations Study of the Police Department. She noted that the study will review the Police Department and provide a report and recommendations.

Mayor Perry also noted that there is a resolution on the agenda to bring the Crafton Civil Service physical testing requirements in line with the Allegheny County requirements.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel had nothing to report.

11. MANAGERS REPORT

Interim Manager Sample stated that, in addition to his written report on the OneDrive, he had nothing additional to report.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

MOTION: #2: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Marks*) to adopt Resolution 2022-007 amending the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission to update the current physical testing requirements.

Interim Manager Sample stated that the Civil Service Commission has reviewed and approved the recommended changes to this resolution.

Mr. Chandler also noted that the resolution was available on the website along with the agenda.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MASTER PARKS SITE PLAN DCNR GRANT

Ms. Compitello noted that the DCNR Grant application, for the Linwood and Noble Parks projects, is due by April 6th and has a 50% match. She noted that the Finance Committee discussed the priority and funding of the Site Plan projects. Ms. Compitello added that there may be flexibility on what these funds can cover, however, to submit the grant application there must be clear intentions of where the funds will be used.

Council Members held a lengthy discussion regarding funding and priority of the improvements, how these projects were chosen and if other projects could be considered, where the funding is

going to come from, what the length of the grant terms will be and the possibility of widening the scope of the grant intentions.

Mayor Perry stated that this was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting at which time they discussed using the funds saved by the Public Works Facility upgrade changes toward the \$250,000 grant match.

Ms. Compitello stated that essential upgrades has been the focus of the Master Site Plan based on the values of accessibility and safety. She added that Walkability of the parks was the priority throughout the planning process. Ms. Compitello noted that this grant has been up for discussion for months.

Engineer Flynn noted that a typical grant term is three years and added that the grant application requires specific needs and how they will be addressed as well as proof of ownership of the property.

Ms. Compitello noted that the plan will be open to public review and comment. She added that the resolution is to confirm the Borough's intent to budget these matching funds for the project.

Ms. Levasseur noted that the Steering Committee did discuss the needs of Noble and Linwood Parks but stated there was a lack of communication between the Council Members and the Committee Members prior to this presentation. She noted that the decision to pursue this grant based off the Noble and Linwood projects intended was unclear to the the Steering Committee.

Mr. Chandler inquired if the the grant intentions could be broader to include items that could be from other Borough properties.

Engineer Flynn stated that the grant application requires specific needs and how they will be addressed as well as proof of ownership of the property.

Council Members continued to discuss the specific cost of the Master Parks Site Plan projects, the flexibility of the DCNR Grant funding and what can be paid for with the Bond funds.

MOTION: #3: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Chandler*) to adopt Resolution 2022-008 requesting a grant of \$250,000.00 from the DCNR for Phase I of Linwood and Noble Park Renovation Projects.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bollenbacher (NO), Chandler (YES), Compitello (YES), Marks (YES), Oliverio (NO), Ridilla (NO).

Solicitor Korbel stated that Mayor Perry can choose to break a tie or direct that the matter be tabled for further discussion at a special meeting.

MOTION #3: Mayor Perry tabled the motion for further discussion at a Special Meeting.

Mr. Oliverio stated that Council will hold a Special Meeting at 6:30 PM, on Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

ZONING RFP's

Ms. Compitello stated that there were three proposals received for the Zoning Update which are available to review on Council Drive. She added that the Planning Commission intends to interview all three firms.

GTRP GRANT

Ms. Compitello added that the Planning Commission recommends that Council Members consider the Greenway Trails Recreation and Program Grant through DCED with a 15% match for a Dog Park.

VACANT PROPERTY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Ms. Compitello noted that this was approved by a previous Council, however the applicant had to resubmit his application.

MOTION: #4: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Bollenbacher*) to adopt Resolution 2022-009 authorizing the acquisition and subsequent disposition of parcel(s) 69-F-184 and would be in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan of Crafton Borough.

MOTION #4 carries by a Voice Vote (5-1). (*NO- RIDILLA*)

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mr. Marks noted that the committee discussed a variety of items.

Interim Manager Sample stated that the Pool Hours were discussed as follows; Opening Day – June 11, 2022, Closing Day August 21, 2022 with additional weekends prior to Labor Day.

Mr. Marks stated that the committee will be going through and discussing the survey responses from the newsletter at their next meeting.

Mr. Marks added that the committee discussed the possibility of a digital sign at Crafton Park near the exit including design options, location, and branding.

Interim Manager Sample stated that the Crafton-Ingram Rotary expressed interest in assisting with the funding of this project.

COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Chandler noted that the commission received approximately eight applications for vacant seats and hopes to begin interviews next week.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Mr. Ridilla noted that there was a presentation from the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program that will provide lead testing and remediation based on income and family status.

Mr. Ridilla also announced that the Act 152 Blight Removal Program applications are due April 22, 2022.

Interim Manager Sample stated that he has been collaborating with the Engineers regarding other blight properties to consider.

Mr. Ridilla mentioned that House Bill 955 is under review, allowing Boroughs to post legal advertisements on websites or digital webpages.

Mr. Ridilla announced that the next meeting is April 24th, 2022, in Crescent Township and stated that any Council Members who wish to attend with him are welcome.

Mr. Marks spoke regarding items in the Code Enforcement Report that should be addressed.

Mr. Oliverio noted that these items have been under discussion.

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Upcoming Council Meeting – Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 7:15 PM.
- Special Meeting – Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:30 PM.
- PA State Representative Dan Deasy will be holding a mobile event in Council Chambers on Thursday, April 28th from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM to meet with constituents.
- The Crafton Volunteer Fire Department will be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at promptly 2 PM at Crafton Park.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Wozniak, 1773 Barr Avenue, asked if the final design for the digital sign at the park will be shared with the public prior to completion.

Mr. Marks stated that it can be shared with the public and added that the timeline would be around fall.

Mayor Perry stated that it would be like the digital sign at the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary