

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, May 25, 2023

(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 Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 7:19 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Price recorded seven (7) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler (Via Zoom), Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, Ms. Pulkownik and Mr. Ridilla. Also present was Solicitor Korbel. Absent was Mayor Perry.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda for May 25, 2023, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2023,
2. Bill List– May 25, 2023,
3. Written Reports for:
 - April – Northwest EMS Report, Managers Report, Financial Dashboard, Bond Fund Report (May 15, 2023), Budget vs Actual, Treasurers Report, Act 511, Trash and Property Collection Reports, Crafton Police Report, Code Enforcement Report, Building Inspection Report.

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to approve the May 25, 2023, Consent Agenda.

MOTION #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Andrea Marquis, 38 Marion St, gave a report of upcoming announcements for the Crafton Library, including the following: Introduction of a Seed Library, Staff CPR Training, Election of New Officers to the Board of Trustees, a \$5000 grant was awarded, and the Summer Reading Program kicks off on 6/9/2023 in Crafton Park. She gave a quick Financial Report regarding the Food Bank, Ms. Marquis also reported on the statistics for the Community Garden.

Liam Carlin, 219 W. Steuben Street, inquired about the hiring of the Full-Time Public Works Position and gave a few words on behalf of William Francis.

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 Council Members held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

9. MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Price announced that the pool will be opening this weekend and thanked Public Works for their hard work. He added that Public Works will be prioritizing the overgrowth issues and the other items that have been delayed due to the lack of staffing.

Manager Price gave an update on the new Pool Pass membership software and the pending repairs to the stage roof.

Manager Price noted that the Civil Service is active and will be meeting on June 12, 2023.

Manager Price gave an update on the following items:

- ***Decorative Street Lights*** – requesting permission to test moving the decorative lights in response to a resident complaint regarding illumination of the sidewalks.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to authorize the Borough Manager to have Public Works or the Contractor test turning a few of the lights around and adjusting the bulbs so they illuminate the sidewalks.

Ms. Compitello noted that there may be legal concerns about the lights shining on private property. She asked that the residents that could be affected by these tests are notified prior to any changes.

MOTION #2 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

- ***Noble & Linwood Park GTRP Grant*** – administrative item required for submission of the GTRP Grant with a \$38K to \$40K match, the match will be paid through the DCED grant.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to approve Resolution 2023-12 authorizing the Borough Manager to apply for a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant from DCED for the rehabilitation of Noble and Linwood Parks in the amount of \$250,000.

MOTION #3 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *RIDILLA (NO)*

- **Public Works Hiring** – a comprehensive process was used for the hiring, 65 applications were received, and selection was completed anonymously. Matthew Schaldenbrand and William Francis as the candidates for hire.

Manager Price noted for seniority purposes that Matthew Schaldenbrand is the first hire, and William Francis is the second Hire.

Manager Price announced that Richard Devlin is retiring after 30 plus years and thanked him for his many years of service.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to approve hiring new public works staff as recommended by the Borough Manager.

Ms. Compitello inquired about the new hire start date.

Manager Price noted that each candidate will be giving their notice of two weeks.

MOTION #4 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

10. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Manager Price gave a quick update on the Borough Financials and the Capital Bond Fund.

- **April 2023 Financial Report** – everything is on track at this time, there are a few areas where the budget may be over as well as areas that may be under budget.

Mr. Oliverio noted that all the information is available for the public to review.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following ongoing projects.

- **Broadhead Separation Project** – a presentation will be held at the June 8, 2023, meeting by the Engineers.

- **2023 Road Paving** – paving will take place on portions of Station Street, Johnston Street, Chartiers Avenue, Kingston Avenue, Crafton Boulevard, Chess Street. The full details are available on the website.
- **Union Avenue Reconstruction** – Phase II began last week, curbs are installed and work should be completed by the end of next week.
- **Crafton Boulevard Streetscape Phase II** – the Borough is working with the Contractor to fix the issue with the lights turning on.
- **Multi-Municipal Zoning Project** – the project is moving forward, and discussions will continue between the Consultant, the Steering Committee and both Boroughs.
- **Pool Bathhouse** – preliminary design review will be at the meeting on June 8, 2023. Project costs will be presented. Construction will begin in the fall after the end of the 2023 Pool Season.

Ms. Compitello noted that with the warm weather coming, high grass is one of the biggest code enforcement complaints.

Council continued discussion regarding eco-friendly lawn options.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms. Bollenbacher gave a quick update on the following:

- **Upcoming Community Events** –
 - **Vendors and Food Trucks** – the Recreation Board is still looking for vendors and food trucks for the Car Cruise and Vendor Fair and the 4th of July Celebration.
 - **Community Table** – board members have discussed having a community table with information available to the attendees.
- **Crafton Park Digital Sign** – no update at this time.
- **Newsletter** – Mail Date of August 1st, articles due by July 1st.

Manager Price spoke regarding the analysis that was done on the current Military Banners and presented suggestions for improvement of the Military Banner Program.

- **Military Banner Program** – Replacement program would introduce a price increase, as the current price does not include the administrative and public works labor and a maximum length of time that each veteran will remain on display. This will encourage the replacement of old weathered banners.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Compitello*) to Approve Resolution 2023-13 updating the General Fee Schedule to adopt the new pricing structure for the Crafton Borough Military Banner Program.

Mr. Marks inquired about the feedback of the veterans' families.

Mr. Ridilla spoke in favor of the Borough subsidizing some funds for the replacement program.

Manager Price noted that there has been no feedback from the families. He also noted that there is only enough space for about 8 more banners due to pole availability.

Ms. Bollenbacher added that the increased fees would bring the cost to a breakeven point.

Council continued discussion of the costs and labor involved in the Banner Program and if possible, grant funding may be available.

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Marks/Ridilla*) to table the motion to update the General Fees for the Crafton Borough Military Banner Program.

MOTION #6 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *OLIVERIO (NO)*

COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Chandler announced a new appointment and gave an update on the current vacancies.

- ***Appointments***

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Bollenbacher*) Appoint Donald Reese (Donnie) to the Crafton Planning Commission for a 4- year term to expire on April 13, 2027.

MOTION #7 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

Mr. Chandler noted that interested candidates should apply on the Borough's website at www.craftonborough.com/commissions.

- ***Current Open Vacancies***

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

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Ms. Bollenbacher noted that ALCOSAN did a Clean Water presentation at the past meeting and added that the Annual ALCOSAN Open House will be held on 9/16/2023.

Ms. Bollenbacher stated that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Carnegie Borough Building.

11. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 7:15 PM. Presentation of the Broadhead Separation Project and the Bathhouse Renovation Project will be held.
- **Crafton Pool Season Pass** – Sales are underway, and the pool opens this Saturday, May 27, 2023. Please visit craftonborough.com/crafton-pool for more information.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony** – Monday, May 29th at 12:00 pm on the Borough Building Lawn at 100 Stotz Ave. Each year since 2005, the Borough has honored those that gave their lives while serving in the United States Military.
- **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. Please join us. Stop by the Community Garden. Mini-Golf will be open.
- **Fourth of July Celebration** – The Bands and Food will start at 3:00 pm in Crafton Park and this year we have expanded the length of the Fireworks show. Fireworks will begin at dusk.

Manager Price noted that Crafton will be hosting the next CONNECT meeting on June 29th, 2023, starting at 4:00 PM in the Crafton Community Room. All Council Members are welcome.

- **Pride in Crafton will be held, Sunday, June 25, 2023**, starting with the annual parade, events in the park to follow.

Ms. Compitello also reminded everyone that the spotted lantern flies are back and can be reported through the state portal online.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Marquis, 38 Marion Street, spoke to clarify financial information from her report earlier.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary