

Borough of Crafton  
Thursday, October 26, 2023

*(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ))*

**Council Members held their third Budget Workshop meeting prior to the October 26, 2023, Council Meeting. The Budget Workshop can be viewed on Youtube.com at the above link.**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Oliverio called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 7:16 PM.

### **2. FLAG SALUTE**

Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

Manager Price recorded six (6) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler (Via Zoom), Ms. Compitello, Mr. Oliverio, Ms. Pulkownik and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Mayor Perry. Absent was Mr. Marks.

Manager Price stated that there was one additional motion for tonight's agenda.

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Pulkownik*) to add a motion to the agenda for Council to consider the CRCE's proposed logo.

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

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda for October 26, 2023, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2023,
2. Bill List – October 26, 2023.
3. September Reports – JTS Tax Collection Reports, Engineers Report, Police Report, EMS Report, and Code Enforcement Report.

**MOTION #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Bollenbacher*) to approve the October 26, 2023, Consent Agenda.

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

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no citizens requesting to speak on agenda items.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Oliverio had nothing to report.

## **7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perry announced that the dedication of Baker's Acres took place over the weekend. She noted that this is the property along the busway that was purchased by the Borough with intension of adding this property to the Crafton's trailways. Mayor Perry added that the Baker family, who are longtime residents, were very appreciative and honored.

Mr. Oliverio added that there is a dedication plaque on a large rock marking the property.

## **8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel had nothing to report.

## **9. MANAGERS REPORT**

Manager Price gave an update on the following items:

- ***2024 Budget Workshops*** – Budget Workshops will be held at 6:30 PM prior to the November 9, November 30, and December 14 meetings. Council plans to consider adoption of the budget at the December 14, 2023, Council Meeting.

Manager Price noted that he met with Theresa Kail Smith to discuss potential joint projects connecting the surrounding walking trails. He added that the City of Pittsburgh secured funding to continue the Pittway trail from Crafton Boulevard down to the West End Bridge.

- ***Jordan Tax Service Refunds*** – Real Estate and Road Tax Refunds prepared and requested by Jordan Tax Service. These refunds are for taxes paid by the homeowner who has reassessed their property.

**MOTION: #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to approve the JTS Tax Refunds in the amount of \$6,273.38.

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

- ***Traffic Study for Crafton Boulevard*** – Engineering Committee has requested a traffic study of the stop signs along Crafton Blvd.

**MOTION: 4#:** It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Pulkownik*) to direct the Borough Engineer to conduct a traffic study of Crafton Boulevard at the cross streets with Noble, Johnston, and North and South Emily.

Ms. Compitello noted that the motion was not a suggestion by the Engineering Committee as they have not met since the previous Council Meeting. She added that there are grant funds available through Safe Streets for America.

Manager Price stated that Council could table the motion to a later meeting and allow the Engineer Committee to discuss it further.

Mr. Ridilla asked if this should be an expense of the homeowner seeking a variance for their hedges.

**MOTION: #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Pulkownik*) to table the motion to direct the Borough Engineer to conduct a study of Crafton Boulevard at the cross streets with Noble, Johnston, and North and South Emily.

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

Ms. Pulkownik asked for clarification on the status of the hedges, as it was discussed previously that the hedges were going to be cut as there were no other options available.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the Property Owner was granted an extension until the end of the year. He added that they had not yet complied with the requirements set by Council. Solicitor Korbel stated that the Property Owner has three options; 1) Comply with the ordinance, 2) Request to push the decision back to the Zoning Hearing Board, or 3) Work out a different agreement with Council.

Council continued discussing the process forward and consideration of doing a larger study of the stop signs.

Solicitor Korbel recommended that at this time Council should take no action and reconvene on the topic after Thanksgiving break. He stated that at that time, if the hedges have not been trimmed, the Borough can advertise for a Zoning Hearing Meeting and see where it goes from there.

Manager Price added that he would communicate to the Property Owner the recommendations discussed at this meeting.

## **10. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION***

Mayor Perry stated that the September Budget to Actual had not been reviewed by the Finance Committee yet. She noted that there were no significant variants from the 2023 budget.

## ***COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE***

Ms. Compitello gave an update on the following projects.

- ***Broadhead Separation Project*** – Bids are expected to go out before the end of the year, construction is anticipated to start next year.
- ***Multi-Municipal Zoning Project*** – Steering Committee met on October 25, 2023, to work through the calibration tables.
- ***Pool Bathhouse*** – Gateway is working with the Contractors on an issue with the existing support poles for the bathhouse roof. Contractors found rust on these poles during the demolition phase of this project.
- ***Public Works Building*** – Working with the County on a CTIF grant for the construction costs.
- ***Stairs Replacement Project*** – Belvidere Street railing approved at the previous meeting. The four other stair sets will be rebid in the coming weeks.
- ***Trail Planning*** – Crafton received a grant of \$39,100 to prepare an RFP for the trail development study.

Manager Price stated that the County has notified Crafton that the \$180,000 grant funds awarded for the Borough Building Repairs project will not be able to be reallocated to the Public Works Building project.

## ***COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS***

Ms. Bollenbacher gave a quick update on the following events.

- ***Upcoming Events – Save the Date***
  - Haunted Crafton Tour
    - October 21<sup>st</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>
    - 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM,
      - Self-Guided Audio Tour
      - Donations can be made at [www.craftonborough.com/haunted-crafton-tour](http://www.craftonborough.com/haunted-crafton-tour).
  - Haunted Mini-Golf
    - Fridays & Saturdays in October
    - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
  - Trick or Treat
    - October 31, 2023
    - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
  - Celebration of Lights

- December 2, 2023
- 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM,
  - Santa, Snow Princess, and more
- Christmas House Tour
  - December 10, 2023
  - 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
    - Partnered with Crafton Heritage
    - \$20.00 Advance Sale Tickets available November 1, 2023
    - Available at Crafton Administrative Office, Crafton Public Library, Blue Snail Gift Shop and [www.craftonborough.com/christmas-house-tour](http://www.craftonborough.com/christmas-house-tour).
    - \$25.00 on Tour Day at Box Office
      - Box Office: Crafton Public Library
      - 140 Bradford Avenue
      - 12:45 PM to 3:45 PM
- *Newsletter* – Final edits in process, expected in mailbox before Thanksgiving.
- *Crafton Logo* – A new Crafton Borough logo has been selected.

**MOTION: #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to approve the logo presented to Council as recommended by the Communication, Recreation and Community Events Committee.

Ms. Compitello inquired if the logo had been shared with the public for feedback.

Mr. Oliverio noted that currently there is no official logo for the Borough and added that there are various images being used for different purposes.

Mayor Perry stated that the company that Crafton used for custom apparel had created a new logo with the CB and leaves.

Council discussed having the public review the logo options, the origin of the current proposed logo, and hiring a graphic designer to design a new logo.

**MOTION: #7:** It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Compitello*) to table the motion to approve the logo presented to Council as recommended by the Communication, Recreation and Community Events Committee.

**MOTION #7** carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

Council continued discussion regarding moving forward with the selection of a new logo, hiring a graphic designer, and putting a survey out to the public to review.

### **COMMISSION VACANCY**

Mr. Pulkownik noted that there are a few new candidates as well as sitting appointed officials looking to reapply for seats expiring at the end of the year.

- ***Current Open Vacancies***

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

*\* Interested candidates should apply on the Borough's website at [www.craftonborough.com/commissions](http://www.craftonborough.com/commissions).*

### ***COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)***

Ms. Bollenbacher stated that the next GOG meeting will be held November 16, 2023, in Crescent Township.

Manager Price attended the previous meeting and noted that the main topic of discussion was Airbnb's.

Solicitor Korbel added that the Governor signed a law yesterday updating the dog laws that Council may need to review in the future.

### **11. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, November 9, 2023, budget workshop will start at 6:30 pm and the regular Council Meeting will start at 7:15 pm.
- **Haunted Crafton Audio Driving Tour** – The tour starts on October 21<sup>st</sup> and will continue through the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Spooktacular Mini-Golf** – Mini-Golf will be open Fridays and Saturdays in October – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm for \$2.00.
- **Halloween** – The annual tradition of Trick or Treating will be observed on October 31<sup>st</sup> between 6 PM and 8 PM. The Police and Volunteer Fire Department will be on patrol to enforce the safety of those participating.
- **Election Day** – Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please confirm your polling location.
- **Celebration of Lights** – Join the Rec Board for Holiday Festivities on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, in Crafton Park.

- **Holiday House Tour** – December 10, 2023 – 1PM to 6PM. Tickets will be \$20 in advance, and \$25 on the day of the event.

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Greg Wozniak, 1773 Barr Avenue*, congratulated the Recreation Board on the Fall Fest and stated it was a fantastic event. He asked if the Contractors would be notified to keep off the brick streets when construction begins for the separation project.

Manager Price stated that it will be in the bid documents with alternate routes to keep the Contractors from damaging the brick streets.

Mayor Perry added that if there are issues with the Contractor to please communicate that with the Borough Office or to contact the Police Department if after hours.

Ms. Compitello stated that the Crafton-Ingram Food Bank is struggling and urged residents to make donations.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary