

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 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, April 8, 2021 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded six (6) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Chandler, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Oliverio and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent was Mr. Amendola.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Crown*) to approve the April 8, 2021 Consent Agenda (including the Meeting Minutes dated March 25, 2021 and the Bill List dated April 8, 2021).

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom had nothing to report.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman spoke regarding the Crafton Boulevard Separation project which includes the Sterrett Street Reconstruction project and the Barr Avenue Reconstruction project. He added that there will be a groundbreaking celebration for the project kickoff.

Mr. Crouse stated that the Crafton Boulevard project bid came in approximately one million under the estimated construction cost.

Engineer Minsterman noted that there were several aggressive bids for the Crafton Boulevard project and added that the cost estimate was based off pre-COVID pricing.

Engineer Minsterman stated that Gateway Engineers is finalizing the construction documents for the Woodlawn GROW project which is scheduled to go to bid on May 19, 2021 at an estimated cost of 2.44 million and added that the Boroughs share will be \$365,000. He noted that construction is expected to begin in July.

Engineer Minsterman also added that Gateway Engineers is preparing the Letters of Interest for the ALCOSAN GROW Grant Cycle 6. He stated that these will include the Broadhead/Busway and Crafton Park projects.

Engineer Minsterman gave an update on the Fountain Street/Chartiers Avenue Separation project and noted that the Contractors are back on site and will finish the remaining punch list items in the next few weeks.

9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss contract and personnel matters.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Sample gave a quick update on a few items. He stated that the Contractor for the Barr Avenue demolition is working with Allegheny County to acquire the proper permits and is expected to begin working around April 16th.

Interim Manager Sample stated that the 2020 Financial Audit is complete, and the Financial Statements are available on the OneDrive for Council to review. He added that the Auditors will be scheduling a presentation at an upcoming meeting to report the findings to Council.

Interim Manager Sample also noted that the Planning Commission has requested to make a presentation at the next meeting regarding a few items they would like Council to act on.

Interim Manager Sample also gave a follow up on the street opening repairs and noted that a meeting is expected to be scheduled with the Water Company and the Private Contractor.

11. BUSINESS AGENDA

Mr. Levasseur announced that the Borough is applying for the Act 152 Demolition Grant through the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program. He noted that 11 Fountain Street and 64 S. Grandview Avenue will both be included in the grant application.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to adopt Resolution 2021-07 requesting a grant of \$25,000.00 from the Act for the demolition of 11 Fountain Street and 64 South Grandview Avenue.

Mr. Oliverio asked if the grant will cover the cost of both demolitions.

Interim Manager Sample noted that depending on the bid results, the cost is expected to be fully funded by the grant money.

Mr. Crouse inquired about the possibility of placing 64 S. Grandview Avenue for sheriff sale rather than demolition.

Interim Manager Sample noted that the property was identified by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Inspector as a condemned property.

Mayor Bloom noted that the property owners are deceased.

Mr. Levasseur stated that Council could look at other properties that could be included in the application if the 64 S. Grandview Avenue property was removed, such as the structure on Rodgers Avenue.

Engineer Minsterman noted that the grant application process will take approximately a year. He added that there will be plenty of time for Council to do research and decide whether to add or remove properties before the grant is awarded.

AMENDED MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to adopt Resolution 2021- 07 requesting a grant of \$25,000.00 from the Act for the demolition of 11 Fountain Street, 64 South Grandview Avenue, and 52 Rodgers Avenue.

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

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Perry*) to adopt Resolution 2021- 08 identifying 11 Fountain Street, 64 South Grandview Avenue, and 52 Rodgers Avenue as blighted properties.

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

Mr. Levasseur announced that Crafton Borough was awarded the \$200,000 CITF Grant for the Public Works Garage at 300 Chartiers Avenue. He thanked Senator Fontana and State Representative Deasy for their continued support of the Borough and the help in securing the grant funds.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Perry*) to accept \$200,000 CITF Grant Award for the Public Works Garage Project.

Mr. Levasseur stated that there will be an Ad HOC committee including Mr. Chandler, Mr. Crown and Interim Manager Sample who will be working with the Engineers on this project.

MOTION #4 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Crouse*) to award the 2021 Crafton Borough Paving Program to Independent Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$213,633.75.

Mr. Levasseur asked if Crafton Borough could make additions to remediate the current street opening repairs that have yet to be completed.

Engineer Minsterman stated that these additions could be made but noted they it could be costly for the Contractor to bring the equipment in and out.

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

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Oliverio*) to award the Crafton Blvd GROW Separation Project to Base Bid and Additional Bids No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 to Independent Enterprises, Inc. for a Total Bid Amount of \$3,273,899.75 for the Crafton Blvd GROW Separation Project to Independent Enterprises, Inc.

Mr. Levasseur thanked everyone involved with moving this project forward.

Ms. Perry noted that a significant amount of the construction costs will be paid by the Grow Grant funds.

Engineer Minsterman added that the construction is expected to start in May and will take approximate one to one and a half years to complete. He added that there will be a traffic plan completed by the Contractor and noted that there will not be a complete shutdown without reasonable re-routs.

Interim Manager Sample stated that there will be plenty of advance communication with the residents.

Mr. Levasseur also noted that there will be communication with the school district as well.

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

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Levasseur gave a brief description of the Council Committees and announced which Members of Council will lead each committee.

Finance/Administration - Mr. Levasseur & Ms. Perry, Community Services and Infrastructure – Mr. Chandler, Communication, Recreation and Community Events – Mr. Oliverio, and Emergency Preparedness – Mr. Amendola.

Ms. Perry noted that she has been working with Interim Manager Sample to create the description for these committees and is available for Council review on the OneDrive. She added that each committee will have an Ad HOC Committee that will oversee a specific project.

Interim Manager Sample stated, for example, one of these Ad HOC committees will also serve as the Steering Committee for the Parks & Recreation Master Site Plan and will consist of a member from both the Planning Commission and the Recreation Board, as well as two Council Members and three members of the public.

Ms. Perry noted that up to three Members of Council may elect to be a part of any committee. She added that the Committee Meeting schedule will be advertised for public attendance. Ms. Perry stated that these committees will bring recommendations to Council for action.

Mr. Levasseur stated that Council will continue to research technology resources that will allow the continuation of digital or hybrid meetings once the emergency declaration has been lifted.

Solicitor Korbel noted that many communities are moving to this style of meeting and there are many options for technology to allow this.

Mayor Bloom asked for an update on the Union Avenue repairs.

Engineer Minsterman noted that the project has been delayed for one year and added that the Gas Company has plans to replace the main line on Union Avenue which will determine the extent of the restoration needed and what portion the Borough could be responsible for. He added that there are plans to do a permanent fix on Union Avenue by cutting and replacing the concrete slabs.

Council held a lengthy discussion regarding the 64 S. Grandview Avenue property, the list of tax delinquent properties in the Borough, working with the school district on sheriff sale of tax delinquent properties, and the process of how properties go to sheriff sale.

Solicitor Korbel gave a summarization of the sheriff sale process and noted that this can be very costly and may end up unprofitable for the Borough in the end.

13. 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 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.
- Crafton Public Library has reopened to the public on March 22, 2021. They are so excited to be able to welcome you back into our building. Please visit the Library's website for details concerning more details.
- Crafton Pool will operate daily starting on Saturday, June 12th to August 22nd, August 28th and 29th, and September 4th to 6th. Daily Hours will be Monday thru Saturday 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM till 6:00 PM. All CDC, State, and County guidelines will be followed.
- Extension of Local Income Tax Deadline has been extended to May 17th, 2021.

- Crafton Community Clean Up will be held April 24th, 2021 at Crafton Park from 9AM to 12PM. Items being collected include the following: building materials, bulk items, household clutter, yard debris, and small appliances. Items not being collected are tires/rims, auto-parts, refrigerators/AC units, paint, and electronic waste.
- Document Shredding & Medicine Take Back Event, Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM (or until trucks are full). Located at Crafton Park, W. Steuben Street. All participants and staff are required to wear masks, socially distance, and follow all CDC COVID Regulations and Guidelines. This event is sponsored by Representative Dan Deasy, Senator Wayne Fontana, along with Crafton Borough. Residents can bring documents for ONSITE shredding as well as expired prescription medications.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional public comments.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary