

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Crouse.

3. ROLL CALL

Public Works Director Kaczorowski recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits and Mr. Levasseur. Also present were Mayor Bloom and Solicitor Korbel. Absent was Manager Susko.

Mr. Levasseur announced that he would like to motion to reorganize.

Mr. Crouse asked if the resignation of Mr. Rosario should be accepted prior to reorganization.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the officers of council may decide to reorganize at any time.

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Amendola*) to reorganize the officers of the Crafton Borough Council.

Mr. Amendola also asked if Mr. Rosario's resignation should be accepted first.

Ms. Perry noted that without the acceptance of Mr. Rosario's resignation he is still on Council and could be called via phone to vote on the current motion.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Mr. Rosario could be contacted and included in the vote.

Mr. Amendola withdraws his move to second the motion.

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to reorganize the officers of the Crafton Borough Council.

Mr. Levasseur notes that reorganization would be for the positions of President, Vice-President and President Pro-Tem.

Mr. Amendola again asked why the call for reorganize prior to the acceptance of Mr. Rosario's resignation.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he prefers to conduct business in this order.

Ms. Perry called for the vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (NO), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (NO), Ms. Glaser (NO), Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Mayor Bloom (YES).

Mayor Bloom stated that when Mr. Levasseur decided that he wished to reorganize he should have updated the agenda and put it after Mr. Rosario's resignation.

MOTION #1 carries by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

REORGANIZATION

President of Council

Solicitor Korbelt announced that the floor is open for nominations for President of Council.

Mr. Amendola nominated Ms. Perry.
Mr. Crouse nominated Mr. Amendola.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Crouse*) to close the nominations for President of Council.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (PERRY), Mr. Crouse (AMENDOLA), Ms. Perry (PERRY), Ms. Glaser (PERRY), Ms. Damits (PERRY), Mr. Levasseur (PERRY).

Ms. Perry was elected President of Council by a Roll Call Vote (5-1).

Mr. Levasseur handed the gavel over to Ms. Perry, President of Council.

Vice President of Council

Solicitor Korbelt announced that the floor is open for nominations for Vice President of Council.

Ms. Glaser nominated Mr. Amendola.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Glaser*) to close the nominations for Vice President of Council.

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

Mr. Amendola was elected Vice President of Council by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

President Pro-Tem

Solicitor Korbelt announced that the floor is open for nominations for President Pro-Tem.

Mr. Amendola nominated Ms. Glaser. Ms. Glaser declined the nomination.

Mr. Amendola nominated Ms. Damits.

Ms. Perry nominated Mr. Levasseur.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Amendola*) to close the nominations for President Pro-Tem.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (DAMITS), Mr. Crouse (DAMITS), Ms. Perry (LEVASSEUR), Ms. Glaser (LEVASSEUR), Ms. Damits (LEVASSEUR), Mr. Levasseur (LEVASSEUR).

Mr. Levasseur was elected President Pro-Tem by a Roll Call Vote (4-2).

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Amendola*) to approve the Bill List dated June 10, 2019 as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to approve the Minutes dated May 29, 2019 as presented.

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

6. CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items Only:

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked Council about filling Mr. Rosario's vacant seat. Mr. Saba asked Council and the Solicitor to provide a clear process of requirements for citizens to follow in order to be selected.

Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street, also asked Council what the process will be to fill Mr. Rosario's vacant seat. Mr. Niemann added that he had contacted the Allegheny County Elections Office who referred him back to the Crafton Council Members.

President Perry stated that there are two pieces of information that Council will make clear once the process is in place. First, how Council will fill the vacant seat until the end of this year, and second, how residents can be included in the General Election for the two-year seat.

7. PRESENTATIONS

FAIR DISTRICTS PA

Robert Herring, 61 Bradford Avenue, gave a brief presentation by Fair Districts PA and their efforts to put an end to gerrymandering, the practice of moving/changing district boundaries for the purpose of a party's political gain. Mr. Herring asked Council to review the sample resolution and to consider taking action by preparing and signing a Resolution showing support for Fair Districts PA.

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to prepare and consider a resolution in support of Fair Districts PA and the efforts to end gerrymandering.

Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street, spoke in favor of the Fair District PA's efforts and asks Council to pass the resolution.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, noted that he was surprised to discover that Broadhead Avenue is split into two different districts. Mr. Saba also urged Council to pass the resolution in support.

Matt Megyesy, 617 Broadhead Avenue, also spoke in support of the resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).

MOTION #7 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0).

CRAFTON CELEBRATES

Angela Palchowski, Crafton Celebrates Chair, spoke regarding the Beer Garden and asked Council for approval for Crafton Celebrates Committee to appoint a Non-Profit organization the opportunity to host the beer garden, at Crafton Celebrates, under the same conditions as the previous year. Ms. Palchowski noted that the beer garden was mildly successful, with a few complaints concerning parents who were unable to go into the beer garden because of their young children. Ms. Palchowski also added there were no incidents involving any patrons consuming the beer at the festival.

Ms. Perry stated that Crafton Celebrates Committee is an organization that falls under the Borough of Crafton, and whom provides an opportunity for local Non-Profit Organizations to raise needed funds by running the booths at the festival and added that last year the Carlynton Football Boosters hosted the beer garden under the liquor license and insurance of the Circle Inn.

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Amendola*) to allow Crafton Celebrates to host a Beer Garden under the same conditions granted last year.

Ms. Perry opened the floor to public comments.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked Council to consider making the beer garden more family friendly and reducing some of the restrictions.

Ms. Palchowski noted that Crafton Celebrates Committee had originally asked Council for permission to have open beer sales at Crafton Celebrates and it was under compromise that Council approved the fenced in beer garden.

Mr. Crouse asked Council to consider removing the fenced in requirement for the beer garden.

Ms. Glaser also asked to make it more family friendly to families with younger children.

Ms. Perry noted that the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (P.L.C.B.) and the Insurance provider will have very specific guidelines and regulations that must be followed by the Non-Profit organization.

Ms. Damits expressed her concern that patrons will hand alcohol to minors if the beer is in an open consumption setting.

Ms. Palchowski noted that, just like last year, each purchaser of beer will be given a wristband and can be identified by the wristband within the boundaries of the park.

AMENDED MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Amendola*) to authorize Crafton Celebrates the authority to delegate a Non-Profit organization to host a Beer Garden under the same conditions granted last year with provisional approval to lessen restriction within the guidelines of the P.L.C.B. and the General Liability Insurance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (NO), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Ms. Damits (NO), Mr. Levasseur (NO), Mayor Bloom (YES).

MOTION #8 carries by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur noted that he did not have a Presidents report prepared.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted that he will wait to give his report until the next meeting.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel noted that Manager Susko requested he discuss with Council how they wish to move forward with the traffic ordinance.

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to take the Traffic Ordinance off the table.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).

MOTION #9 carries by Roll Call Vote (6-0)

Solicitor Korbel outlined the options Council may decide to take, first, anyone can make a motion to approve the ordinance as prepared, second, Council can discuss it further without making any motion, or third, Council may direct the Solicitor to advertise the proposed ordinance as separate ordinances.

Mr. Levasseur stated that the Managers recommendation was to approve the motion as advertised.

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Crouse*) to amend the proposed ordinance changes by separating the Harris/Clearview Stop Signs from the Parking issues on Crennell/W. Crafton and Johnston.

Mr. Levasseur questioned whether the less controversial topics, the stop signs and the Johnston parking could be put together and the W. Crafton Avenue parking issue by itself to allow for more discussion.

Mr. Amendola noted that the motion was tabled at the last meeting because they did not like how the ordinance changes were all lumped together to save money adding that further discussion is needed on the Parking issues for both W. Crafton Avenue and Johnston Street.

Solicitor Korbel reminded Council members that these traffic issues all came about at the same time and Council voted to advertise these ordinance amendments together as one combined ordinance amendment.

Mayor Bloom stated that he requested the parking restriction on Johnston Street for a public safety reason and urged Council to pass the Johnston Street parking restriction as its own ordinance. Mayor Bloom added that any concerns regarding the request to make Johnston Street one way can be discussed in more detail. Mayor Bloom noted that all the traffic/parking concerns should be considered separately rather than all together.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the width of the street by State specification does not allow for parking on both sides adding that his recommendation is to make the change to have Johnston Street parking on one side only and then consider making it one way once the parking changes are established.

AMENDED MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Crouse*) to amend the proposed ordinance changes by separating the Harris/Clearview Stop Signs from the Parking issues on Crennell/W. Crafton and Johnston.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked if the motion passes, would it delay the passing of the Johnson Street parking or the Harris/Clearview stop signs. Mr. Saba reminded Council that the W. Crafton Avenue parking issue has been in discussion for over a year and encourages Council to address the traffic issues tonight.

Ms. Perry noted that whether the current motion is passed or not there could be a subsequent motion passed regarding any of the other traffic ordinance changes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).

MOTION #10 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0).

Solicitor Korbel asked Council to confirm that they approve of the advertisement of the ordinance addressing the Stop Signs on Harris/Clearview and asked for guidance on how Council would prefer him to advertise the three parking issues.

Mr. Crouse noted he would be in favor of advertising the Stop Signs in one advertisement and the Parking issues in a separate advertisement.

Mr. Levasseur stated that Johnston Street should be advertised separate from the Crennell parking so there can be further discussion.

Mr. Amendola noted that there are definite safety issues with the W. Crafton Avenue parking stating that Fire Trucks would have to access the Church or School through the parking lot because they cannot navigate W. Crafton Avenue with parking on both sides.

MOTION #11: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to authorize to advertise the ordinance amendments pertaining to the Stop Signs at Harris and Clearview Avenue and the Johnston Street parking on the westerly side only.

Mr. Crouse noted that the parking on W. Crafton Avenue needs addressed as it is nearly impassable during Church events.

Mr. Amendola noted that it is currently no parking except Saturdays and Sundays.

Ms. Perry addressed a question from the audience and confirmed that Council will pursue further study of the Johnston Street one-way request.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).

MOTION #11 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0)

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council will hold an executive session after the meeting to discuss contract matters and to seek legal advice from the Solicitor.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Susko provided a report that will be read as part of the Administrative Committee Report.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS***A. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE***

Ms. Perry read the Managers Report from Manager Susko.

Manager Susko reported that Crafton was approved for the CDBG grant for ADA/Handicap Ramps in the amount of \$28,000 with Crafton's share at \$16,000 noting that construction should begin in the Spring. Manager Susko added that funds will be included in the 2020 Road Fund Budget.

B. PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Damits did not have anything to report.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Amendola noted that the new police officer has begun the prescreening process required prior to employment.

Mr. Amendola stated that the Fire Chief is requesting a meeting with the President of Council, Manager Susko, Solicitor Korbel and himself, to discuss the new fire truck.

Ms. Perry noted that this is a part of the Fire Departments 10-Year equipment replacement plan.

D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Levasseur spoke regarding the Shade Tree ordinance that Council passed at a previous meeting and noted that there are several trees on Clearview/Harris Avenues that had become hazardous and were removed by the Borough adding that Council will work diligently with the Shade Tree Commission and the Borough Manager to compile an inventory of the Shade Trees in the Borough.

Mr. Levasseur gave a brief update on the grant application process for the Crafton Boulevard Sewer Separation Project noting that the School District had been in touch with the Conservancy District who agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding to be included with the grant application.

13. BUSINESS AGENDA***A. ADMINISTRATION***

MOTION #12: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Amendola*) to accept the resignation of Councilman Abbie Rosario, effective June 10, 2019, from his Borough Council term ending December 31, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES) Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES) Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Rosario (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).

MOTION #12 carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0).

Mr. Crouse inquired about the process Council will need to take in order to fill the vacant seat.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that the Borough Code requires Council to fill the vacancy within thirty days. Solicitor Korbelt added that if Council does not make a decision within the thirty days the decision will go to the Vacancy Board, consisting of the remaining Members of Council and the Vacancy Board Chair, David O'Brien, whom will have fifteen days to appoint a new Council Member.

Mr. Crouse noted that there is a wealth of prospective candidates within the Borough who have a lot to offer the community and urged Council to be transparent in regards to the process of filling the open vacancy and suggested taking applications or considering those who ran in the primary.

Ms. Glaser agrees with accepting Letters of Interest and reminds Council of the limited time to receive these letters.

Mr. Perry clarified that Council will be accepting letters for the remaining term ending December 31, 2019. Ms. Perry added that there will be a separate process for those who would like to run for the of the two-year seat in the General Elections and once that information is available Council will share it.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that the County Elections Office does have a process to get on the ballot and residents are encouraged to contact the Elections Office.

Mayor Bloom asked if there is a requirement to advertise.

Ms. Perry stated there is no requirement to advertise.

Mr. Levasseur noted he would like to motion to advertise the open Council seat due prior to the next meeting in the Post-Gazette West and the Gazette 2.0, as well as the website and SavvyCitizen app.

Mr. Amendola noted that this will take some time to get the advertisements in place.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that deadline restrictions for the Gazette 2.0 would not work with the limited timeline Council has to advertise and could string the process along if included in the motion.

Mr. Crouse urged Council to consider a robust form of advertisement, including using the website, SavvyCitizen, posting the Municipal Building, as well as in print.

Mr. Levasseur spoke in favor of the importance of advertising in some form of a print publication.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that Council must decide at the next meeting or at last resort at the July 8 meeting.

Council continued discussion on the advertisement of the acceptance of Letters of Interest and the best forms and places of publication as well as the application deadline.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that Council should make sure they have the time to review and discuss the applicants.

Mr. Amendola asked the Solicitor if Council could appoint someone at this time rather than wait until a future meeting.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that Council can appoint at their will.

Mr. Crouse spoke in regards to transparency and addressed the tension amongst those in attendance at the meeting and urged Council to approve the advertisement regardless of what any local paper may write.

MOTION #13: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to authorize the advertisement for the position of Council Person in digital form and in print, specifically the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, with applications due to Council by June 24, 2019 at noon.

Ms. Glaser expressed her concern that a Monday due date will not give Council enough time to review and discuss the applicants.

AMEND MOTION #13: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to authorize the advertisement that Letters of Interest will be accepted for the position of Council Person in digital form and in print, specifically the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, with applications due to Council by June 21, 2019 at noon.

Ms. Perry opened the floor to citizens comments.

Solicitor Korbelt responded to an audience question regarding the cost of the proposed advertisement noting that this advertisement in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette could cost approximately \$1000.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, spoke against the motion to advertisement and noted that the word will get out via social media and added that a Monday due date will give residents more time to get letters in.

Mr. Crouse spoke regarding the diversity in the room and added that if Council wanted to appoint someone at this time there are plenty of interested residents in the audience and suggests appointing the candidate with the most primary votes.

Ms. Glaser spoke to clarify that the candidates who submit a letter of interest must be available and ready to present why they want to be considered and what they have to offer the community at the next meeting.

Solicitor Korbel noted he has done similar ads for other communities.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES) Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES) Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Rosario (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).

MOTION #13 carries by Roll Call Vote (6-0).

MOTION #14: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to accept the resignation of Season Ciechanowski from the Shade Tree Commission term ending March 31, 2020.

MOTION #14 carries by Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Perry noted that Ms. Ciechanowski would like to use her time to concentrate more on her position of Code Enforcement Officer.

MOTION #15: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to appoint Kate Gaglio to the Shade Tree Commission for the remainder of the five-year term ending March 31, 2023.

AMEND MOTION #15: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to appoint Kate Gaglio to the Shade Tree Commission for the five-year term ending March 31, 2023.

MOTION #15 carries by Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

14. DISCUSSION

Ms. Perry opened discussion regarding various Boards and Commission vacancies and the pending letters of interest.

MOTION #16: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to advertise the remainder of the vacant Shade Tree Commission term ending March 31, 2020.

Mr. Crouse pointed out that these candidates will be accepted in the same manor as the open Council seat.

MOTION #16 carries by Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Perry asked for input from Council on suggestions for filling the open vacancies.

Mr. Levasseur noted there are a few positions on the Recreation Board that need to be filled.

Ms. Perry noted that there are vacancies open for the Civil Service Commission, Parks & Shade Tree Commission, Recreation Board, Zoning Hearing Board and added that the letters of interest are on the Council One Drive in the respective folders.

Council continued discussion regarding the open Building Appeals Board seat and the applicant letters of interest that have been received to date.

Solicitor Korbel suggested that Council review the applicant letters and have the Manager prepare the proper motions for the next meeting agenda.

Council continued discussion regarding the open Civil Service Commission seat and the applicant letters of interest that have been received.

Ms. Perry noted that there are two vacancies on the Recreation Board and Council is accepting letters of interest for those positions as well.

Mr. Crouse asked if those seats will be advertised.

Ms. Perry noted that she will direct Manager Susko to compile a list of all the vacant seats to be advertised together and to have the proper motions on the agenda to appoint the pending applicants to the various seats.

Ms. Damits asked if the intersection of Crafton Boulevard and N. Emily Street could be studied for the potential addition of a stop sign due to limited sight visibility.

Mayor Bloom noted that there are already several stop signs along Crafton Boulevard.

Mr. Crouse asked for clarification as to which direction of traffic would be affected by this stop sign.

Mr. Amendola noted it would be traffic traveling east on Crafton Boulevard.

Mr. Crouse asked if there have been any accidents that would warrant the installation of a stop sign.

Mayor Bloom noted he will discuss with the Chief of Police and report back to Council.

15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Crafton Celebrates
 - Will be held June 28 - June 30 at Crafton Park. Visit the Crafton Celebrates Facebook page or check the Borough's Summer 2019 newsletter for more information on individual fundraising events, activities, and opportunities to volunteer.
 - Volunteer time spots can be viewed at <https://signup.com/go/QjXUoOX>.

16. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Pam Palchowski, Crafton Celebrates, noted that the festival will begin with the Parade on June 28, 2019 at 6:30 and ending with Fireworks on June 30, 2019 at 9:45 PM. Ms. Palchowski added that the committee is still looking for sponsorships, volunteers, parade entertainment and Mr./Ms. Firecracker contestants. This year the festival will feature climbing walls, games, food and drinks, hot dog eating contest, petting zoo, bounce house, beer and much more, stop by and see the vendors, crafters, and auction baskets. Ms. Palchowski thanked Ms. Angela Palchowski for all her hard work and commitment she has put towards the Crafton Celebrates festival.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, spoke regarding the overgrown vegetation in various areas of the Borough that need to be attended to, or have the property owner held responsible. Mr. Saba commented on the W. Crafton Avenue parking issue noting that insignificant accidents are not always called into the police or reported and added that the road itself does not sustain parking according to PennDOT specifications. Mr. Saba added that there are parishioners of the Church parking on W. Crafton Avenue, on both Saturdays and Sundays, including on the yellow line and in front of the fire hydrants and are not utilizing the parking lot on W. Steuben Street.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary