

Borough of Crafton
Wednesday, May 29, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 7:59 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Amendola.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Susko recorded seven (7) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Kaczorowski. Absent was Solicitor Korbel.

Mr. Levasseur announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting and noted that no action was taken. Mr. Levasseur also announced that an executive session was held prior to the previous Council Meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to approve the Bill List dated May 29, 2019, as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Damits*) to approve the Minutes dated May 13, 2019, as presented.

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

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

David Bloom, 48 Maplewood Avenue, inquired about the Crafton Boulevard sewer projects, NPDES permits, overall compliance and project cost/alternatives.

Engineer Minsterman briefly explained the consent order requirements of the Borough. Engineer Minsterman noted that ALCOSAN and the Borough of Crafton continue to work on different projects to keep the Borough compliant with the new regulation set by the consent decree. Engineer Minsterman added that there could be PENNVEST funds available to the Borough.

Mr. Amendola noted that the Borough could look into helping residents with flooding by installing a back-water valve.

Engineer Minsterman noted that, although this would be helpful for residents, it does not help with the overall consent order requirements.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked Council to consider passing the parking ordinance amendment that is on the agenda for adoption.

Terri Muth, 17 Johnston Street, expressed her concern with the proposed parking changes on Johnston Street and asked Council to also consider making Johnston Street one way toward Crafton Boulevard.

Edward Alo, 568 Broadhead Avenue, noted that the proposed parking restriction on W. Crafton Avenue was brought to Council a year ago and asked Council to consider passing the parking ordinance amendment. Mr. Alo inquired about the Borough working with St. Philip Parish to place a traffic director at the intersection if the amendment does not pass. Mr. Alo also inquired about the open vacancies on several of Crafton's Boards & Commissions.

Tom Gerlowski, 23 Lincoln Avenue, inquired about parking that is prohibited in different areas of the Borough. Mr. Gerlowski noted that St. Philips Parish has been in the same location for over 100 years and noted that he is not aware of any accidents due to the parking on W. Crafton Avenue.

Mona Rush, 794 Clearview Avenue, noted that many homes in Crafton are rental properties and/or property owners own more than one vehicle and street parking has become difficult. Ms. Rush asked Council to consider permit parking.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for April 2019: Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511, Trash Collection and Property Tax Report, Police Report, ~~E.M.S. Report~~, Ordinance Officer's Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report, ~~Fire Department Report~~ and Library Report.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur noted he had no additional comments.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bloom stated he had no report this evening.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman gave a brief presentation on the S. Grandview Avenue and Crafton Boulevard sewer separation projects and a general preliminary idea of how much water can be reduced by these projects and what areas will benefit. Engineer Minsterman noted that

ALCOSAN announced the preliminary Consent Order requirements for storm water. Engineer Minsterman added that these projects should get Crafton close to that requirement in this area. Engineer Minsterman stated that these projects could cost somewhere around three-million dollars.

Engineer Jarquin gave a brief update on the plans to work with the City of Pittsburgh and the Carlynton School District regarding the use of the property purchased by the school district along Crafton Boulevard where there would be a potential to place retaining tanks for the Crafton Boulevard sewer project.

Mr. Levasseur noted that he has only had verbal communications with the Mr. Schriver and he stated that due to the School District financial hardships they cannot at this time commit to the financial burden of this project; therefore, Crafton will bear the financial burden of the improvements if the school district allows the use of the land.

Engineer Minsterman added that among the ten projects presented to the ALCOSAN committee this Crafton Boulevard/S. Grandview Avenue projects were among the favored of the projects proposed.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Solicitor was unable to attend this evening.

12. MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Susko gave a summary of the agenda noting that the Ordinance up for adoption is to limit Johnston Street parking to one side, limit street parking on Church hill and at the Auto Body shop on Crennell Avenue and the Harris Street/Clearview Avenue stop sign. Manager Susko noted that the Johnston Street parking restriction request was a direct request by the Mayor due to safety hazards, similarly the W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue parking restriction request was also due to potential safety and visibility hazards.

Manager Susko stated that permit parking could cause a burden on the workload in the administrative office and would need to be enforced by the Police Department, who could not take on the burden as well. Manager Susko stated that it can be kept on file to be reconsidered at a later date.

Manager Susko noted that the two O&M contracts on the agenda are related to the first phase of the Consent Order and are recommended by the Engineer. These contracts were bid by Crafton rather than jointly with SHACOG.

Manager Susko stated that the available letters of interest for the various open boards and commission seats were provided in a packet to all Council Members.

Manager Susko noted that the DCED grant paperwork will be submitted for the Crafton Park Playground Safety Surface and thanked Gateway for their help with the application process.

Manager Susko announced that the Crafton Pool opened this weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, and noted that the pool will be open weekdays on a limited schedule due to staff availability. Manager Susko relayed to Council that the office had received a few complaints from residents of Carnegie who are not allowed to purchase a seasonal membership even though Crafton and Carnegie share a School District. Manager Susko asked that Council possibly consider adding Carnegie as an eligible Non-Resident noting that Carnegie and Crafton have become similar in many areas and it could help to build a stronger connection between the two areas.

Manager Susko informed the Members of Council that there will be a Presentation by Fair Districts PA at the next meeting adding that the group advocates for redistricting without gerrymandering.

Manager Susko reminded everyone that she will be out of the office on Friday, June 7, and the following week June 10 through June 14, returning Monday, June 17, 2019.

Manager Susko spoke regarding the cancellation of the Firecracker 5K noting that Crafton Celebrates made this decision due to the change in dates, number of registrants, and the lack of having volunteers and a director, adding that any registrants will be refunded their fee.

Manager Susko announced that Season Ciechanowski has resigned from the Shade Tree Commission noting that she would like to concentrate her time solely on her position as Code Enforcement Officer.

13. BUSINESS AGENDA

A. ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Perry*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1658 amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Vehicles and Traffic, to establish stop intersections and prohibit parking at certain locations.

Ms. Glaser stated that she feels the ordinance amendment is too encompassing noting that she agrees with the addition of the stop sign on Clearview and the no parking at the corner of Crennell Avenue and Broadhead Avenue and suggest the possibility of a no right turn at that intersection. Ms. Glaser added that the parking issue on W. Crafton Avenue is only for a short time and due to Church parking and asked if the ordinance can be broken down to be more specific in each area.

Mr. Amendola noted that he feels that due to concerns of the residents, Johnston Street should be studied and considered for one-way traffic. Mr. Amendola added that the W. Crafton Avenue parking has not been a problem in the many years the church has operated in this location and suggest tabling the motion until the Solicitor can take a closer look into the ordinance changes.

Manager Susko reminded Council that the ordinance amendments were bundled at Councils request, as all of these requests were brought to light at the same time.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that according to the PennDOT specifications the width of both Johnston Street and W. Crafton Avenue do not allow for parking on both sides of the street.

Ms. Perry stated that these traffic concerns have been discussed at prior Council meetings and there are resident concerns.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Glaser*) to table Motion #3.

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

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

Mr. Levasseur noted that there will be further discussion regarding the ordinance amendment.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Amendola*) to hire James Pasqualino as a police officer, per the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, conditional upon completing a successful mental health evaluation.

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to table Motion #5.

MOTION #6: fails to carry by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

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

Mr. Crouse noted that it was discussed in a previous meeting that Council would wait until the completion of the Police Contract negotiations to hire an additional officer.

Ms. Perry stated that the police negotiations are separate from the need to hire an additional officer and to ensure the safety of our officers and added that this is a direct request from the Mayor.

Mr. Rosario noted that the Chief of Police stated to Manager Susko, Mr. Levasseur and himself that he preferred to wait until the contract negotiations are complete to consider hiring an additional officer.

Manager Susko clarified by stating she was not present for this conversation.

Mr. Amendola stated that the Chief of Police denies making any statement regarding his preference.

Ms. Perry reminded everyone that it is the Mayors job to make these recommendations and going directly to the Chief of Police is going around the Mayor and his responsibilities to Council and to the Community.

Mr. Amendola noted that the hiring of an additional officer was discussed in October and it was included in the budget.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor to public comment regarding the motion on the floor.

Ed Alo, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked if a Member of Council who was for the defeated motion can make the motion again.

Manager Susko contacted Solicitor Korbelt via telephone to clarify the question regarding who can make the motion. Solicitor Korbelt stated that the motion can be made by any Council Member.

Pat Shaw, 57 Noble Avenue, spoke in favor of the hiring of a new officer and noted that local businesses are in support as well.

Mona Rush, 794 Clearview Avenue, stated that she has seen an increase in individuals in the community acting suspiciously and added that she is in support of hiring a new officer if the Borough can afford it.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked Council to make sure they are considering the comprehensive wealth of the Borough regarding the Police Department and Fire Department and to ensure that they have the proper equipment.

Dave Bloom, 48 Maplewood Avenue, stated that adding an additional officer would add support and take some of the burden of overtime on the existing officers.

Mr. Crouse asked Manager Susko how adding a new officer would affect the budgeting a new truck for the Fire Department.

Manager Susko reminded everyone that the Borough does provide financial support to the Fire Department; however, they are not paid employees of the Borough. Manager Susko noted that the new fire truck was presented by the Fire Chief as budget neutral and a new officer would not prevent the Fire Department from continuing as planned.

Mr. Levasseur asked Manager Susko if there are plans to use the road tax funds in order to finance the officer in future years.

Manager Susko discussed that the 2020 budget could potentially have a slight shortfall if the Borough spends every dollar expected in the budget and added that there were discussions at the 2019 budget workshops to consider the idea of changing future allocations of the real estate tax

funds for future budging purposes. Manager Susko added that, due to efforts to control costs and after having more time to evaluate potential revenue sources, she did not expect the hiring of a new officer to require that change.

Ms. Perry inquired if this was a decision that the Manager could make on her own and noted that potential increases in income from the turnKey Taxes findings had not been considered at the time of the discussions.

Manager Susko stated that these budget decisions could not be made by the Manager alone and that it is voted on by council annually.

Mr. Amendola called for the vote.

MOTION #5 carries by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

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

Mr. Crouse took a moment to congratulate the opposition and extends his wishes to the new officer. Mr. Crouse stated that he reviewed the Greentree Borough meetings and notes that they have the Chief of Police provide a report at their Council Meetings and suggest this as a new practice for Crafton to follow.

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Rosario*) to require attendance of the Chief of Police to provide a report for the first meeting of each month.

Ms. Perry again stated that by Borough Code the Mayor oversees the Police Department and asked his opinion.

Mayor Bloom announced his strong objection to the motion and added that any questions or concerns Council Members may have can be taken directly to the Chief of Police and himself.

Mr. Levasseur reminds Council that there are other immediate decisions that Council needs to make for the better of the community and asks that Council work together going forward.

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Amendola*) to table Motion #7.

MOTION #8: carries by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

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

B. PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to award the bid for the 2019 O&M Sewer Repairs, Contract A - Excavation Repairs project to Roto Rooter Services Company at an amount of \$184,545 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

MOTION #9 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Amendola*) to award the bid for the 2019 O&M Sewer Repairs, Contract B – Lining Repairs project to Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC at an amount of \$122,640 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

MOTION #10 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Crafton Celebrates – is only a month away! 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.
- Recycling information.
 - Please note that the original calendar sent out for regular recycling pick-up was incorrect for June, July and August. The updated schedule is available on the Borough website, latest Borough newsletter, and SavvyCitizen calendar.
 - Correct dates are: June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13 and August 27.
- The first day of regular operating hours for weekdays at Crafton Pool will be June 4.
- Senior Dinner on June 15, RSVP by June 11.

14. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Breanne Cleary, 92 E. Steuben Street, spoke regarding the vehicles cutting down Union Avenue to avoid the light on E. Steuben Street noting that recently there was a vehicle accident that caused a vehicle to overturn. Ms. Cleary asks Council to consider a discussion to resolve the concern with speeding vehicles.

Mayor Bloom noted that he will speak with the Chief of Police regarding the traffic concern.

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, asked that Council work with the church when considering any changes to the pending ordinance amendments. Mr. Saba also asked for more detail from the separate departments at the meetings to provide up-to-date information.

Manager Susko noted that the monthly reports are available on the Borough's websites.

Ms. Glaser noted that St. Philip Parish has sent out memos asking parishioners not to park on the section of W. Crafton Avenue that is in question.

Mr. Rosario announced his resignation and thanked everyone for the support and wished Crafton the best of luck.

Manager Susko noted that Council will vote to accept Mr. Rosario's resignation once it has been received in writing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary