

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Perry called to order the Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:24 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST**

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated November 12, 2019 as presented.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Levasseur*) to approve the Minutes dated October 28, 2019 as presented.

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

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

No citizens signed up to speak.

**7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Perry welcomed the three newly elected Council Members, present in the audience. Anthony Saba, Ed Alo and Roy Niemann each stood up and introduced themselves by name. Ms. Perry congratulated the newly elected members and noted that the current Council will be working with the new Council Members to help transition them into their new role come January.

Ms. Perry announced the new developments pertaining to the Ball Field property on W. Steuben Street. Ms. Perry stated that the Crafton Borough Council did receive a proposed Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement regarding a possible sale the property by the Carlynton School District. She added that the agreement could mean the development of a Get-Go with additional amenities, which included a verbal commitment to relocate the ballfields. Ms.

Perry added that Council will invite Armstrong, Giant Eagle and the members of the School Board to take part in a public hearing where the developers will present to the Community. Ms. Perry also added that, at that time, any resident will be able to speak on the matter. She noted that there will be a vote at the end of the Business Agenda to approve the advertisement of the agreement.

### **8. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom did not submit a report in his absence.

### **9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel announced that, prior to this evenings meeting, Council held an executive session to discuss real estate matters.

Ms. Perry also announced that Council will continue the Budget Workshop #2 discussion from November 7, 2019, following the business agenda.

### **10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Susko gave a brief summary of the motions on the agenda for approval, including the Green Light Go Grant advertisement, Crafton Volunteer Fire Department Engine Repairs, a resolution establishing an official listing of Certified Arborists for the Shade Tree Commission, two Pay Applications for completed work contracts and a Vacant Property Recovery Side Yard application for 52 Rodgers Avenue.

Manager Susko noted that any information or suggestions for the Winter Newsletter should be submitted to the office by the end of the month so the office can stay on track for an early January delivery.

Manager Susko announced that a letter of interest for the Planning Commission was received and is available on the Council Drive.

Manager Susko stated that the Planning Commission had requested additional follow up information from the two finalist that presented to council for the Zoning Re-Write, E.P.D and O.H.M., and added that the responses from each firm are available for Council review on the Drive as well. Manager Susko announced that the majority recommendation from the Planning Commission was three-to-one for O.H.M. Advisors.

Manager Susko gave an update on the Clearview Phase V punchlist items and noted that there are a few items on the punchlist that Folino has refused to complete.

Solicitor Korbel suggested that Gateway send an official letter and added that Council should discuss disciplinary actions for the uncompleted items by the end of the year.

### **11. BUSINESS AGENDA**

**A. ADMINISTRATION**

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Levasseur*) to ratify the advertisement of the notice to bidders for the construction of traffic signal upgrades as awarded in 2018 under the Green-Light Go grant program and presented by the Borough Engineer. Bids will be accepted at the Borough Administrative Office through December 4, 10:00 AM prevailing time.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about a resident question raised at a previous meeting regarding downgrading the Traffic Light at N. Linwood Avenue and Crennell Avenue to a stop sign.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that the intersection is part of a State Route, therefore, a traffic study would need to be conducted and results must show a significant decrease in traffic in order to downgrade to a stop sign.

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

**MOTION #3** carries by a Roll Call (5-0-1). (*Valcheff – ABSTAINED*)

**MOTION #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to approve payment to Cummins Bridgeway for the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department's Rescue Engine vehicle repairs at an amount of \$12,127.46.

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

**MOTION #4** carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0).

**MOTION #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to approve Resolution 2019-18 adopting a list of certified arborists preferred by the Crafton Park & Shade Tree Commission for consulting services and activities regarding public trees.

Mr. Levasseur spoke to clarify that the list of Arborists is for evaluations and general healthcare/maintenance of the shade trees and any removals would be completed under a separate contract.

Ms. Damits inquired about an update on the Hawthorne Church tree issue.

Ms. Perry noted that a recommendation was given to the Church to make application for removal.

Manager Susko added that an application has yet to be received and noted that the tree inventory did recommend removal of one of the shade trees at this location.

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

**B. PUBLIC WORKS**

**MOTION #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to approve Pay Application #3 for the SHACOG Joint O&M Point Repair Project – Year 7 contract to SHACOG at an amount of \$22,059.39 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. This will be the final payment for this project.

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

**MOTION #7:** It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Levasseur*) to approve payment for the 1654 Crafton Boulevard House Demolition contract to Deller Professional Services, Inc. at an amount of \$19,000 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

Manager Susko noted that the contractor completed the demolition work.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about an update on the neighboring rat complaints.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the Public Works Department had cleaned out the nearby catch basins and baited the sewers and added that there have been no complaints since this was completed.

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

**C. PLANNING & ZONING**

**MOTION #8:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Valcheff*) to approve Resolution 2019-19 confirming that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of the parcel of vacant property known as Block and Lot 40-F-224 (52 Rodgers Ave) would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the Borough, at the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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

**MOTION #8** carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0).

**MOTION #9:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to approve the advertisement of the Intergovernmental Contract Agreement between the Carlynton School District and the Borough of Crafton.

Ms. Perry opened the floor for public comment.

*Edward Alo, 568 Broadhead Avenue*, requested that the documents be made available online on the Borough's website.

*Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street*, asked if the residents near the property had been notified.

Ms. Perry noted that this is part of the process to notify the community and added that the adjacent property owners had been notified.

Ms. Perry stated again that this is to advertise the agreement which will lead to a formal public hearing with the Developers, the School Board, Borough Council and any resident who wishes to attend.

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

Manager Susko noted that all legal notices for ordinances are sent out via SavvyCitizen and posted to the website.

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

Mr. Levasseur asked about the requirements for advertising the Budget discussion meetings.

Solicitor Korbel stated that all advertisement requirements were met, and Council is free to discuss the Budget as planned.

Mr. Valcheff asked about the status of the Library Lease.

Solicitor Korbel noted that it had been reviewed and comments were submitted to the Library Board.

Manager Susko added that through discussions with the Library Director, the consensus was to wait until the new Council Members are on board.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about the status of a social media policy.

Solicitor Korbel stated that at the direction of Council he can draft a policy for Council to review.

Mr. Levasseur added that the LGA could potentially have some information and/or sample policies.

Ms. Perry noted that the Administrative Office would reach out to the LGA and see if there are any resources available to assist with this.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about an update on bringing back the Junior Council Member Program.

Manager Susko noted that she had reached out to the School District but had not heard back from anyone.

Mr. Levasseur asked Manager Susko and Public Works Director Kaczorowski to get together with Gateway to explore options for potential additional on street parking.

Manager Susko stated that she will reach out and continue the conversation.

Ms. Perry announced that Council will now hear any additional citizens comments.

**Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street**, asked Council if anyone had connected with Thornburg or Ingram regarding contributions to the Library as they had discussed at the budget meeting.

Ms. Perry asked Mr. Niemann to hold his comments until later in the meeting during the budget discussion.

**Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue**, stated that the Library is a key part of the community and should be a top priority. Mr. Saba also inquired about how the office tracks the service requests.

Manager Susko noted that the new TRAISSER software will have a map-based system in place to track calls and requests.

## **12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **November Senior Dinner** – November 16, doors open at 5 PM, \$7 per person. RSVP with the Administrative Office.
- **Crafton AWAKE! Poetry Series** – November 17, 2 PM at D & O Wine Cellars.
- The **Borough Administrative Office will be closed** on November 28 – 29 for Thanksgiving.
- **Light Up Crafton** – November 30, 5 – 8 PM at the Borough Building/Library complex.
- **Gingerbread House Making** – December 7, 10 AM – 12 PM at the Community Center. RSVP to the Library by December 4. \$5 per child. ▪ **\*\*NOTE\*\*** This date is different from the last newsletter's calendar, which had this event scheduled for December 1.
- **House Tour** – December 8 – advance tickets may be purchased for \$15 at the Borough Administrative Office, Crafton Library, or online at [www.craftonborough.com](http://www.craftonborough.com). Day-of tickets are \$20. Call the office for more info at 412-921-0752.

## **13. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Council continued the Budget Workshop #2 discussion from the Budget meeting of November 7, 2019 regarding brick road repairs and upgrades to the community parks.

**MOTION #10:** It was moved and seconded (*Valcheff/Levasseur*) to advertise the 2020 Budgets as presented.

**MOTION #10** carries by a Voice Vote (4-1). (*Damits-NO*)

## **14. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary