

Borough of Crafton
Monday, November 25, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Perry called to order the meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Ms. Perry.

3. ROLL CALL

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to approve the Bill List dated November 25, 2019, as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Glaser*) to approve the Minutes dated November 12, 2019, as presented.

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

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

Ms. Perry announced that, due to an administrative error, the Community Center room was double booked on December 14th, the original date of the Senior Dinner, and added that Council may consider moving the dinner to December 21, 2019. Ms. Perry invited those who were in attendance of the meeting wishing to speak on this matter to come forward with any comments/concerns.

Lori Garland, 44 N. Emily Street, requested that Crafton continue to host the Senior Dinner on December 14th as originally planned.

Evesta Williams, 25 E. Crafton Avenue, stated that the Senior Dinner schedule has been posted since the beginning of the year.

Jeanmarie Osborn, 25 E. Crafton Avenue, also noted that the Senior Dinner schedule has been posted since January and added that many seniors have other holiday engagements that would conflict with the date if it is moved to December 21st.

Norma Tschudi, 25 E. Crafton Avenue, volunteers every month to help with the dinner and will be unable to attend if it is changed to December 21st.

Ms. Perry apologized for the confusion and thanked the residents for attending and commenting on the matter. Ms. Perry asked each Council Member to vote in favor of keeping the Senior Dinner on the 14th or moving the event to the 21st.

Mr. Levasseur asked if it were possible for the Administration to help the other party find a location elsewhere.

Ms. Damits voted to keep the dinner on December 14th and added that the entertainment could not be moved.

Mr. Crouse voted to keep the dinner on December 14th.

Mr. Amendola also inquired about the availability of nearby venues and voted to keep the dinner on December 14th.

Mr. Valcheff voted to keep the dinner on December 14th.

Ms. Glaser voted to keep the dinner on December 14th.

Ms. Perry announced that, by majority vote, the Senior Dinner event will remain on December 14th.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Ms. Perry acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for October 2019: Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection 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

Ms. Perry stated she had no additional report this evening.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom did not submit a report in his absence.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman noted that Gateway attended a meeting with ALCOSAN regarding the status of Crafton's current GROW Grant Projects and stated that the Crafton Boulevard Separation Project would take approximately one year to finalize and obtain all the proper permits for the specifications to be bid ready. He noted that ALCOSAN announced additional funds that will be available for future projects. Engineer Minsterman stated that ALCOSAN has plans to re-review the project list submitted by Crafton and added that ALCOSAN will suggest their most favorable projects.

Mr. Levasseur noted that ALCOSAN has previously suggested separation projects to Crafton Borough to consider.

Engineer Minsterman added that ALCOSAN has presented new projects to Crafton as well and stated that Crafton is one of the most active communities when it comes to seeking grant funds.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss Real Estate and Collective Bargaining Agreement matters.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the Leaf Collection Program will continue, weather permitting, and stated that residents can call into the office if they feel they may have been missed.

Mr. Levasseur read a thank you statement from the Thompson Family residing at 125 Haldane Street.

Ms. Glaser noted that Mr. Thompson had recently passed away.

12. MANAGERS REPORT

AGENDA ITEMS

Manager Susko gave a brief summary of the motions on the agenda for approval including two motions to approve property tax refunds and deduct meter refunds, a resolution to enter into a Grant with H2O PA for the Crafton Boulevard separation project (which could potentially cover most of the Grant match funds), and two pay applications for completed work on the 2019 Road Paving program and the O&M Sewer Repairs – Contract A.

13. BUSINESS AGENDA

A. ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Amendola*) – to approve the Real Estate & Road Tax refunds as requested by Jordan Tax Service at a total amount of \$3,992.54.

MOTION #3: carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Valcheff*) to approve the Deduct Meter refunds from the Sewer Fund as presented at a total amount of \$2,577.

Mr. Levasseur stated that these refunds are for the service fee of water usage that is not directly discharged into the sewer system, for example, from sprinklers or outdoor water faucets and added that residents must have a deduct meter installed on the outdoor water line in order to qualify for a refund.

MOTION #4: carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to approve Resolution 2019-20 requesting a grant from the H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects program for the Crafton Boulevard sewer separation project in the amount of \$1,250,000.

MOTION #5: carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

B. PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Levasseur*) to approve Pay Application #2 for the O&M Sewer Repairs – Contract A – Excavation Repairs project to Roto-Rooter Services Company at an amount of \$34,057.50, as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

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

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Glaser*) to approve Pay Application #1 for the 2019 Road Program to Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. at an amount of \$105,953.08, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. This pay application represents the concrete work including ADA ramp replacements and manhole frame and lid replacements that have been completed by the contractor this year.

Engineer Minsterman spoke to clarify that the payment application is for the concrete work that had been completed by the contractor and added that any penalties for uncompleted work or repairs to defective work can be pursued for up to two years following the completion of the work.

Ms. Perry noted that, after speaking with other COG member communities, these types of weather-related delays are common in these areas of construction.

Manager Susko stated that the contract does allow for penalties to be assessed each day but noted that this would most likely occur if the contractor disappears.

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

14. DISCUSSION ITEMS

JOINT UCC APPEALS BOARD/CHAR-WEST COG

Ms. Perry opened discussion regarding the UCC Joint Appeals Board suggested by the CHAR-West COG. Ms. Perry added that the only costs associated with a joint board would occur when Crafton requested the use of the board members for an appeal hearing.

Mr. Valcheff questioned the range in cost to the Borough to utilize this Joint Appeals Board.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the UCC Appeals Board is typically used once every five years and added that the applicant would bear the cost of these fees.

Manager Susko also added that it can be difficult to find citizens to serve on the board that reside within the community and have the background knowledge to qualify.

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to advertise a UCC Joint Appeals Board Intergovernmental Contract Agreement with the CHAR-West COG.

MOTION #8: carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

Mr. Crouse requested that information regarding the Deduct Meter Refund program be added to the website.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about an update on the service requests stats from the website.

Council discussed the process of resident service requests and how they are tracked through completion.

15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please note the Borough Offices **will be closed** for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 28th-29th.
- **Light Up Crafton** is on November 30th. The Library will be hosting activities from 5pm-8pm and the tree & circle lighting will be at 7:45pm.
- **Gingerbread House Making** has been moved to December 7, from 10am – 12pm. RSVP to the Library by December 4. Cost is \$5 per child.
- The **Christmas in Crafton House Tour** is on December 8th, 1pm – 6pm. Advance tickets are \$15. Please contact the Borough Administrative Office with any questions.
- **Santa Visits Crafton by Fire Truck** with his Elves from the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department on December 14th! The truck will start in Crafton around 9:30am. Listen

for the siren to let you know that Santa is on your street.

NOTE: Date has changed from December 21st.

16. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dan Cindric, 45 Creighton Avenue, asked Council to consider passing a non-discrimination ordinance. Mr. Cindric noted that the ordinance would be designed to protect the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination. Mr. Cindric expressed that by adopting this ordinance it will show that Crafton is an open welcoming community.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that it is within the Boroughs rights to adopt an ordinance such as this and added that doing so will institute a non-discrimination law and an equal opportunity board that will hear any discrimination complaints.

Ms. Perry asked Solicitor Korbelt to prepare information for the next meeting.

Susan Mucha, 269 Clearview Avenue, provided Council with a handout with information on the Clearview Avenue punchlist and noted that there has been no improvement since the September 23rd meeting. Ms. Mucha noted that there are damages in these areas due to the non-completion of these punchlist items.

Engineer Minsterman noted that at times it can be difficult for contractors to follow through on these items specifically at this time of year; however, he noted that a demand letter was sent by the Borough of Crafton to Folino requesting the completion of these items. He added that if there is no response to this letter the Borough can seek other contractors to remedy the items and deduct the cost from the final payment for the project.

Manager Susko noted that it had been fifteen days with no response.

Ms. Perry asked what steps could be taken next to get these items completed.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that Public Works Department could complete these items, weather permitting. Public Works Director Kaczorowski reminded Council that there are other time sensitive inhouse projects underway, as well as, snow removal, that would need be placed at a higher priority than the Clearview punchlist items.

Council continued discussion on how to proceed to get the punchlist items completed and how to deal with future contractors who refuse to complete contracted work within the expected time frame.

Mr. Valcheff asked for an update regarding the social media policy.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that there was no update at this time.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about the outcome of the Budget Workshop playground equipment discussion.

Manager Susko noted that after further review of the parklets, it was found that the parks are too small to add a playground and noted that the Recreation Board will review the size of the parks and discuss the best options for additional playground equipment for both parks and submit their recommendation to Council.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary