

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, October 14, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Perry called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Crouse.

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 Mayor Bloom and Solicitor Korbel.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Valcheff*) to approve the Bill List dated October 14, 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/Valcheff*) to approve the Minutes dated September 23, 2019 as presented.

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

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

7. PRESENTATIONS

FINALISTS FOR ZONING CODE ORDINANCE RE-WRITE RFP

Lydia Herring, 61 Bradford Avenue, Crafton Planning Commission Chair, spoke regarding the interview process for the Zoning Re-Write proposals. Ms. Herring explained how each firm was ranked based off their interview and answers and added that the top two firms are in attendance and will present their proposal.

Environmental Planning & Design

AJ Schwartz, Manager and Principal, gave a brief introduction about EPD noting that this firm has been in business for eighty years and is based in Pittsburgh. He then gave an extensive presentation of a few local zoning projects in their portfolio including Carnegie, Sewickley and Edgewood.

Mr. Schwartz stated that they will focus on real issues, discussion, framework and engagement.

Mr. Valcheff asked how EPD will work with the Port Authority on transit-oriented development.

Mr. Schwartz noted that they have worked with the Port Authority on several occasions, specifically both South Park and Castle Shannon on zoning codes for parking.

Mr. Crouse asked how EPD can help form what the community would like to see in the Crafton Ingram Shopping Center.

Mr. Schwartz noted that EPD worked on similar issues in Edgewood and added that they intend to sit with the property owners and discuss what uses can help market their spaces as well as work to remove obstacles that would broaden possibilities and create flexibility.

Mr. Levasseur inquired how EPD would include Ingram if the decision was made to expand.

Mr. Schwartz suggested first, signing an ICA and second, creating a Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Schwartz stated that they do not suggest going forward with a Joint Zoning and added that there would be no benefit to Crafton for doing so. Mr. Schwartz also noted that EPD has worked on two or three similar joint Zoning Re-Writes of which none have been adopted.

OHM Advisors

Forrest Gibson, Principal, Landscape Architect and Planner, first gave a brief introduction of the company, and the key members that will be working on the project. Mr. Gibson noted that OHM would focus on the “Thrive” vision for the Planning & Zoning update. Mr. Gibson stated that, through the Thrive Vision, OHM Advisors will enhance existing properties, encourage innovative development, transit-oriented development, create enforceable zoning codes, capitalize sustainability, encourage redevelopment and dynamic activities and specific areas within Crafton.

Mr. Gibson presented a few similar projects that OHM Advisors had completed in Rockville Pike, MD and Tallmadge, OH that are comparable to Crafton’s proposed Zoning Re-Write.

Mr. Levasseur asked how OHM would organize responsibility to Council, the Planning Commission and the Manager on the day to day project operations.

Mr. Gibson noted that communication levels will be set by Council and the Planning Commission, or in most instances, a Steering Committee.

Mr. Levasseur inquired about other local Boroughs that OHM Advisors has worked with.

Mr. Gibson noted that OHM Advisors has worked with small communities throughout Western Pennsylvania as well as Eastern Ohio.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about OHM's experience working with the Port Authority along the lines on transit-oriented development.

Mr. Gibson noted that due to community's placement around the busway Crafton has the potential to take development vertical and added that it could help market private investors. Mr. Gibson noted that it will work collectively with Crafton, the TOD and private investors to encourage a code plan to develop a walkable, livable community.

Mr. Levasseur asked how OHM would work with Ingram regarding the Crafton Ingram Shopping Center.

Mr. Gibson reiterated that bringing the private property owners into the discussion early in the planning process would be essential and noted that Crafton will put into place its own set of standards and allow Ingram to follow suit.

Mr. Crouse asked, in OHM's experience working with a small community, how successful redevelopment projects are for small communities like Crafton.

Mr. Gibson noted that projects completed in Manchester and Lebanon, OH have been highly successful.

Mr. Schwartz spoke regarding their successful experience working with Carnegie, Sewickley and Edgewood; however, he noted that there is no guarantee of success. Mr. Schwartz stated that EPD will work to provide a positive environment to make investment and developments more appealing and create a climate to allow change to occur.

Mr. Gibson gave a final statement regarding the variety of experiences working with communities of all sizes and stated that OHM will create an opportunity for private investment.

(Proposals are available for review in the Borough Office under the Right -To-Know act. The full presentations are available on the borough website at www.craftonborough.com/council-meeting-videos)

Ms. Perry thanked both firms for their time and presentations.

Ms. Perry announced that Council will take a five-minute break.

Council reconvened at 8:50 PM.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report presented.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

No report presented.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report presented.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Susko confirmed the Budget Workshop meeting dates as Thursday, October 24th and Thursday, November 7th at 6:30 PM. Manager Susko added that the meetings will be advertised accordingly.

12. BUSINESS AGENDA**A. ADMINISTRATION**

Manager Susko noted that the first motion is to approve a one-year extension with Waste Management for the Borough's residential waste removal contract and added that Crafton has the option to extend for up to five years with minimal increase in fees. Manager Susko recommends that Council approve the one-year extension and added that with all the new recycle regulations, it would be best to wait until next year to go out for bid.

Mr. Valcheff asked why Crafton was not affected by the glass collection restriction and if the extension is approved, will glass continue to be picked up.

Manager Susko noted that Crafton is not part of the joint contract that enforced restrictions this year on other communities and added that any new restrictions will be discussed with Waste Management.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Valcheff*) to exercise Option Year 1 under the current Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services agreement with Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Mr. Levasseur inquired about dropping the E-Waste Collection option.

Mayor Bloom stated that dropping the E-Waste Collection will cause an increase in the dumping of the hard to recycle items within the Borough.

Mr. Valcheff noted that the E-Waste Collection information is not available on the website.

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

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Levasseur*) to approve the Easement Agreement between Annette J. Demor and the Borough of Crafton regarding Block/Lot No. 68-D-265. This easement is necessary to proceed with the Johnston/N Emily Sewer Repair project.

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

Manager Susko added that the construction for this project will commence in the spring due to weather.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Valcheff*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1660 authorizing the Borough to enter into a Temporary License and Cooperation Agreement with the City of Pittsburgh for the purpose of paving Ingram Avenue between Duncan Avenue and Steuben Street and apportioning the cost of same.

Manager Susko noted that this ordinance is a standard procedure to solidify an agreement for payment.

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

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Levasseur*) to approve Pay Application #3 for the 2019 O&M Sewer Repairs – Contract B project to Insight Pipe Contracting, Inc. at an amount of \$9,332.70 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. This will be the final payment for this project.

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

B. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Levasseur*) to accept the resignation of Ashley McCullough from her Planning Commission term ending April 13, 2021.

Mr. Valcheff asked why Ms. McCollough submitted her resignation and questioned if the Borough should implement an exit interview process.

Ms. Perry suggested that exit interviews would most likely be unsuccessful and added that people have the right to their privacy.

Mr. Levasseur noted that he spoke with Ms. McCullough, who stated that competing interests, a busy life and the political climate as her reasons for resigning.

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

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Damits*) to reappoint Mary Luxbacher to the Recreation Board for a new term ending December 31, 2023.

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

C. GRANTS

Manager Susko noted that the next four motions are for pending grant applications and are a standard part of the grant approval process. Manager Susko stated that the last two motions are for the GROW (Green Revitalization of Our Waterways) Grants that Council has discussed at previous meetings. Manager Susko announced that the Crafton Boulevard Separation project received the largest award of grant funds given to any municipality. Manager Susko noted that there will be additional grants in the future available to help with the grant funds match requirements for this project.

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Valcheff/Glaser*) to approve Resolution 2019-14 concurring with the submission of a grant application for the “ADA Handicap Ramps” project to the CDBG Year 46 program, submitted by the Char-West Council of Governments on behalf of the Borough of Crafton.

Mr. Valcheff asked if the ADA Ramp work would begin this construction season and if it includes the ramps on W. Crafton Avenue at W. Steuben Street.

Manager Susko stated that these funds will be awarded around this time next year and added that the ADA Ramps on W. Crafton Avenue are part of a separate project which will be discussed with the Engineers at the next meeting.

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

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Valcheff/Levasseur*) to approve Resolution 2019-15 concurring with the submission of a grant application for the “West Steuben Inlet Replacement – Catch Basin” project to the CDBG Year 46 program, submitted by the Char-West Council of Governments on behalf of the Borough of Crafton.

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

MOTION #11: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to approve Resolution 2019-16 concurring with the submission of a grant application for the “52 Baldwick House Demolition” project to the CDBG Year 46 program, submitted by the Char-West Council of Governments on behalf of the Borough of Crafton.

Mr. Levasseur suggested, when it comes to older homes being demolished, that Council bring in Construction Junction to salvage any valuable materials prior to demolition.

Mr. Valcheff suggested that Council also consider remedies for pest control when discussing the demolition of homes in Crafton.

MOTION #11 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #12: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Valcheff*) to approve Resolution 2019-17 declaring 52 Baldwick Road, located at Block/Lot No. 39-E-207, as a blighted property, for the purpose of applying for CDBG funds for the demolition of vacant and dilapidated structures within the Borough of Crafton.

MOTION #12 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #13: It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Valcheff*) to accept the grant award of \$466,781.50 from ALCOSAN's GROW Program for the South Grandview Avenue Storm Sewer Separation project. * This project has a total cost of \$549,154.70 and the grant award is an 85% (maximum) match.

MOTION #13 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #14: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to accept the grant award of \$2,000,000 from ALCOSAN's GROW Program for the Crafton Boulevard Storm Sewer Separation project. * This project has a total cost of \$3,385,733.63 and the grant award is a 59% match due to ALCOSAN's single project award cap of \$2,000,000.

MOTION #14 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

13. DISCUSSION

Manager Susko advised Mr. Valcheff that the E-Waste Collection (Hazardous Waste Removal) information is available on the website under the Trash/Recycle section and added that steps will be taken to make this information more visible to residents.

Mr. Valcheff spoke regarding the pest infestation problem that occurred after the demolition of the two homes along Crafton Boulevard and asked if there are preliminary steps that can be taken to eliminate this problem in the future.

Manager Susko noted that Public Works can bait the sewers which will help with pest control.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about how to make residents more aware that the Service Request Portal is available online.

Ms. Damits spoke regarding the skunk and raccoon problems within the Borough.

Mr. Levasseur stated that rabid animals should be reported to the Allegheny County Health Department.

Mr. Levasseur spoke to Council regarding the issues with the growing deer population in Crafton and added that it is inhumane to allow the deer herd to grow to an unsustainable size.

Mr. Amendola stated that he does not support the killing of deer as a means of population control.

Solicitor Korbel suggested contacting the Pennsylvania Game Commission and invite them to attend a meeting and help with solutions.

Ms. Glaser asked for an update on the road program.

Manager Susko noted that preliminary road work on the ADA Ramps is scheduled to start tomorrow.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he and Mr. Valcheff had prepared an update on the Church Hill center line discussion.

Ms. Perry stated that the Engineer report was still pending on this issue and suggested that Council wait to discuss until the following meeting where the Engineer will be in attendance.

Mr. Valcheff questioned why the RFP for the Zoning Re-write would fall under the Borough Council and suggests that the Planning Commission should be evaluating and making the decision on which firm to hire.

Ms. Perry noted that it is Council's responsibility to approve the hiring of the Zoning Re-Write firm because it will involve money spent from the Borough's budget. Ms. Perry added that Ms. Herring spoke earlier in the meeting on behalf of the Planning Commission.

Richard Kraemer, Planning Commission Member, noted that he reviewed Ms. Herrings presentation and stated that her remarks were inline with the Planning Commissions position.

Mr. Valcheff questioned the process of the Zoning Re-Write RFP finalist selection.

Solicitor Korbel stated that there are no issues with the process of selection.

Mr. Valcheff suggested using a selection scoring process to help shape the communities view of the board.

Manager Susko added that the RFP was prepared based off the Allegheny County comprehensive plan examples and templates.

Mr. Valcheff suggested the Planning Commission compare and contrast each firm and present their findings to Council.

Solicitor Korbel again stated that there were no legal issues with the process of selection.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that Council should have a more collaborative input into the creation of committees.

Ms. Perry noted that Mr. Levasseur is free to suggest any changes to the responsibilities of the Council President.

Mr. Perry asked the resident signed up to speak to go ahead with their comments.

Audience Comment, inquired about the status of the Athletic Field and added that Council consider having an archery day to help with the deer population.

Solicitor Korbel clarified the property ownership noting that the School District owns the field portion of the property and the Borough owns the Mini-Golf portion of the property and added that there is no restriction on the potential sale.

14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **2020 Census** is seeking applicants for paid Census Taker positions. For more information, call 1-855-JOB-2020.
- **Apprise Event for Medicare Open Enrollment**
October 15, 2019, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM at the Crafton Public Library
Hosted by State Representative Dan Deasy
The library is teaming up with State Rep. Dan Deasy and APPRISE to offer Medicare counseling. Do you have concerns about Medicare or insurance options? If so, sign up for a personalized session with APPRISE. With Medicare Open Enrollment slated for October 15 through December 7, the timing has never been better. Between the hours of 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM, counselors will be on hand to help individuals understand how the Medicare system works and assist them in selecting their most effective options. You must register in advance to set up your time slot by calling Rep. Deasy's district office at 412-928-9514.
- **Spooktacular Mini-Golf**
October 17 – 19 from 7 PM – 9 PM
Join us for a round of Spooktacular mini-golf... if you dare.
Adults & children both \$3 per person/per round. Sponsored by the Crafton Recreation Board & Bishop Canevin High School.
- **Crafton AWAKE Poetry Series** – October 20, 2 PM @ D&O Wine Cellars
- **Low Cost Animal Clinic** – October 20, 10 AM – 2 PM
- **Trick or Treat** will be from 6 PM to 8 PM on Halloween Evening.
- **House Tour tickets on sale** starting November 1st. Contact the Borough Administrative Office for more information.

15. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary