

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday, August 10, 2020

( Meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and can be viewed by going to [www.craftonborough.com/council-meeting-videos](http://www.craftonborough.com/council-meeting-videos) )

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:15 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Manager McKibben recorded seven (7) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry, and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST**

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to approve the Bill List dated August 10, 2020, as presented.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to approve the Minutes dated July 27, 2020, as presented.

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

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The following citizens spoke in opposition of proposed Get-Go development on the Mini-Golf/Athletic Field property and asked Council to consider other options for developments.

Ingram Borough (1): *Jeff Taylor, 209 Ingram Avenue.*

Solicitor Korbel stated that comments should be kept to three minutes and added that the opportunity to speak is for tax paying residents only.

Crafton Borough (9): *Leslie Tarlo of 96 S. Linwood Avenue, Mary Luxbacher of 71 Dinsmore Avenue, Sharon Gaitens of 60 S. Grandview Avenue, Kathryn Olexa of 20 Elmwood Street, Alice Pescuric of 75 Bradford Avenue, Alice Glaser of 10 Belvidere Street, Richard Sobocinski*

*of 37 Station Street, Richard Gaitens of 60 S. Grandview Avenue, and Karen Kennedy of 45 McMunn Avenue.*

Mr. Amendola requested that the two citizen comments received by Council via email be read aloud for the record.

Council discussed the current process of reading letters/statements submitted by residents of the Borough.

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Saba*) to change past practices and allow the reading of the citizen comments.

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

Mr. Crouse read the statement submitted by *Tom Byers, 136 Fountain Street, Crafton Borough*. Mr. Byers commented on recent decisions made by Council, and expressed his disagreement, with these decisions including the termination of the Public Works Director Position and hiring of an Assistant Manager. He also inquired about changes in the Building Inspection and Permitting contract.

Mr. Crouse read the statement submitted by *Megan Grabowski, 11 Emerson Street, Crafton Borough*. Ms. Grabowski commented on the proposed Get-Go development and asked Council to consider other options to better the community and its youth.

**MOTION #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Saba*) to suspend the rules of Council and allow the letter to be read in full.

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

Mr. Amendola stated that he would like to publicly accept Mr. Alo's apology regarding the unintentional muting of his comments at a previous Council Meeting.

*Richard Kraemer, 26 S. Grandview Avenue, Crafton Borough*, stated that he was not happy with the communication regarding the shutdown of the roads due to the construction on S. Grandview Avenue at Ewing Road and added that his wife had to park several blocks away from their home.

Mr. Levasseur thanked everyone for their comments and stated that they will be addressed when the discussion items are presented later in the meeting.

## **7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom noted he had nothing to report.

## **8. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Minsterman announced that the monthly report was submitted prior to the meeting for Council review and stated that he had nothing additional to report.

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

Solicitor Korbel noted he had nothing to report.

### **10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Levasseur had nothing to report.

### **11. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager McKibben apologized to Mr. Kraemer regarding his earlier comment and added that he will work with the two construction companies to coordinate closures going forward. Manager McKibben noted that he will comment on the discussion items as they come up in the meeting.

### **12. BUSINESS AGENDA**

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are no business agenda items for this evening.

### **13. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### ***RESOLUTIONS***

Manager McKibben brought up for discussion, three resolutions that will be on the agenda for the next voting meeting; first, is a resolution to approve the financing and to move forward with securing the funds for the new fire truck, second, is the resolution required by Allegheny County for Crafton to take advantage of the \$125,000 reimbursement for federal funds for COVID expenses; third, is a resolution for the MAP (Municipal Assistance Program) Grant that Crafton Planning Commission and the Ingram Planning Commission have pursued for assistance with rezoning, at a fund match of fifty percent.

Mr. Saba asked for clarification on the Fire Truck financing and what it will cover overall.

Ms. Perry also asked for clarification on the type of financing and if the Borough will own the equipment at the end of the loan or if there will be a final payment required.

Manager McKibben stated that the new Fire Truck and the new SCBA equipment purchase will be financed by the \$535,000 10-Year loan in conjunction with the SCBA fund reserve and the proceeds from the sale of the KME Truck. Manager McKibben noted that the Borough will own the equipment outright at the end of the loan and added that no final payment will be due at the end of the loan.

Mr. Saba noted that the MAP grant was a recommendation from the Crafton Ingram Thrive comprehensive plan.

Ms. Perry also noted that a company has not been appointed for the rezoning project and added that the resolution is the next step to go forward with the grant application process.

### ***PAYMENT APPLICATIONS***

Manager McKibben announced that the office had received several pay applications, as recommended by the engineer, including two applications for the completed Green-Light-Go construction for the Bradford Avenue/Noble Avenue and the Crennell Avenue/N. Linwood Avenue intersections, and the final pay application for the 2019 Road Program.

### ***VACANT PROPERTY RECOVER PROGRAM***

Manager McKibben stated that Allegheny County has extended the invitation for the annual low-cost Vacant Property Recovery Program and inquired if Council is interested in participating in the program again this year. He added that the Borough will help direct any residents through the application process and help answer any questions.

Mr. Saba and Ms. Perry both agreed that the program has been received well in the past as several residents have taken advantage of the program.

Manager McKibben gave a summary of the process and the steps needed to move forward with accepting the invitation.

Solicitor Korbel announced that there will be two agreements on the agenda for the upcoming voting meeting regarding the Crafton Boulevard Sewer Separation project easements: one with the Carlynton School District and one with the Chartiers Conservancy.

Manager McKibben noted that the final easement agreement with the City of Pittsburgh was received for the Fountain Street/Chartiers Sewer project.

### ***UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ORDINANCE ADOPTION***

Solicitor Korbel followed up on the Code Enforcement officers concern regarding how the Borough Code addresses the enforcement of the UCC. Solicitor Korbel stated that there will be an advertisement on the agenda at the next meeting to approve advertisement of the ordinance amendment to allow for adoption of the UCC as updates are published. Solicitor Korbel added that this amendment will be broad enough to cover all forms and types of international codes.

### ***CONSIDERATION OF I.G.C.A. WITH CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT***

Solicitor Korbel noted that the agreement is similar to the agreement proposed last year with exception of the proceed percentage. Solicitor Korbel explained that the agreement would give the Mini-Golf portion of the property back to the School District. Solicitor Korbel noted that there would be several steps and public meetings going forward to discuss zoning, planning, etc.

Mr. Levasseur gave some background information regarding the potential sale of the property on W. Steuben Street and noted that the process began several years ago during discussions with the School Board Members. He also spoke of current financial hardships that the Carlynton School District Board Members are currently managing.

Council Members continued a lengthy discussion regarding the cooperative agreement, the possibility of holding a joint public meeting with both the Crafton Council and the Carlynton School Board, using the sale of the property in conjunction with the master parks plan, the opposition of the Borough Residents and how to proceed with the best interest for the community in mind.

### ***PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS IMPROVEMENT PLAN***

Gateway Engineers presented to Council, several conceptual cite plans and drawings for a variety of Recreational Facility upgrades and Public Works Facility upgrades that would be funded through different Grant applications.

### ***OREGON AND S. GRANDVIEW ROADWORK***

Manager McKibben brought to Council's attention the deteriorating condition of the Borough's brick roads, specifically the issues with S. Grandview Avenue near the sewer separation project.

Council discussed the possibility and cost comparisons of replacing the brick with new brick or paving with concrete or asphalt.

### ***BOARD VACANCIES/CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION***

Ms. Perry reminded Council of the various board and commission vacancies and added that there are also few seats approaching expiration. Ms. Perry also stated that it is time for the Civil Service Commission to begin the certification process for a new list of candidates.

Council continued discussing the rules of the Civil Service Commission and possible consideration of hiring another officer.

### ***ASSISTANT MANAGER POSITION***

Mr. Amendola asked each Member of Council individually if they were aware that the new Assistant Manager would be working less than 40 hours per week prior to voting at the last meeting, of the seven members, five Members of Council responded yes, they were aware.

Ms. Perry noted that it was not made clear to all of Council and added that Mr. Amendola and herself were not aware of that information and it was not discussed in the executive session.

Council continued discussing the requirements and standards of full-time employment.

## **14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Borough parks are open and shelters available for Crafton residents to rent. The Borough strongly advises that social distancing should be maintained, and all rules and regulations set forth by either the Commonwealth or the County be followed. The Borough Office will remain closed to the public; however, staff is available during normal business hours and can be reached via telephone or e-mail. There is a drop-box in the rear of the building for any written correspondence. Any changes to this action will be posted on the Borough website and Savvy Citizen.
- The Crafton Library will continue with limited hours for curbside-only service. Please visit their website for further details.
- Crafton Borough will be having its annual fireworks display on Sunday, September 6, 2020 @ 8:30 PM.
- A representative from Jordan Tax Service will be in the downstairs lobby of the Community Center on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9A – Noon and August 31<sup>st</sup> from 1P – 4P. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing.
- The Crafton Planning Commission will be hosting a Community Visionary Workshop on August 26, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- Carissima requests all submittals for the Fall Newsletter be in by this Wednesday.

## **15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary