

Borough of Crafton  
Monday, February 24, 2020

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:15 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Alo.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Interim Manager McKibben recorded five (5) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Levasseur, and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel, Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Kaczorowski. Absent were Mr. Crown and Ms. Perry.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST**

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to approve the Bill List dated February 24, 2020, as presented.

**MOTION #1** carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Saba*) to approve the Meeting Minutes dated February 10, 2020, as presented.

**MOTION #2** carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

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

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are no citizens signed up to speak.

**7. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS**

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for January 2020: Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511, Trash Collection, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, Ordinance Officer's Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report, ~~Fire Department Report~~ and Library Report.

**8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Levasseur expressed his condolences to Councilman Alo and family on the recent passing of his father.

**9. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom announced that the Chief of Police has ordered the new police car.

### **10. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Minsterman noted that the monthly report was submitted to Council prior to the meeting and added he had no additional comments. Engineer Minsterman announced going forward, he will be attending the discussion meeting, held on the second Monday of each month, so he is available to answer any questions.

### **11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel, the collective bargaining agreement and pending litigation.

### **12. MANAGERS REPORT**

Interim Manager McKibben gave an update on the pending grants and noted that the pool liner has been delayed and will not be completed this spring.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that Crafton had received word from PEOPLES GAS regarding a pending project to replace the gas main line on Oregon Avenue, Stanwood Street and Cross Street. He added that this is a big project and construction will take approximately three months.

### **13. BUSINESS AGENDA**

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Amendola*) to hire Russell J. McKibben as the Borough Manager and Open Records Officer effective March 1, 2020 and approve the Employment Agreement between Mr. McKibben and the Borough of Crafton.

**MOTION #3:** carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

Interim Manager McKibben thanked Council for the opportunity to serve Crafton.

**MOTION #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Alo*) to approve the negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement for the years 2020 – 2024 between the Crafton Police Wage and Policy Unit and the Borough of Crafton.

**MOTION #4:** carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

**MOTION #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to authorize the advertisement of the bid specifications for the 2020 Road Program as prepared by the Engineer and approved by Council.

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

**MOTION #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Alo*) to accept the immediate resignation of Phillip Levasseur from the Crafton Borough Planning Commission.

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

**MOTION #7:** It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to accept the immediate resignation of Eric Valcheff from the Zoning Board and appoint same to the vacancy on the Crafton Borough Planning Commission to a term that will run until 04/13/2021.

Mr. Amendola inquired about Letters of Interest that had been received prior to this appointment.

Mr. Levasseur noted that all Letters of Interest are available to review on the Council Shared Drive.

Mr. Crouse called for the vote.

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

**MOTION #8:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Amendola*) to adopt the revised 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Funds as prepared by the Borough Actuary.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that the changes in MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) are due to the two new collective bargaining agreements signed for both the Non-Uniform and the Police Association.

**MOTION #8:** carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

**MOTION #9:** It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Saba*) to authorize the Borough Manager to utilize JMI Consultants (no fee) to secure a unified electricity supplier for the Borough.

Interim Manager McKibben stated that this move will unify who the Borough is paying for electric supply across all the Borough's electric accounts and to address the issue of sales tax charges.

**MOTION #9:** carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

## **15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jordan Tax Service will be in the Community Room this Friday (2/28) from 9:00 AM – Noon to collect the garbage fee at a 2% discount.
- Applications for seasonal employment need to be submitted to the Borough by Friday, March 13, 2020.
- The first Senior Dinner will be held on Saturday March 21 at 5:30 PM. Please contact the Borough Office if you plan on attending. Also, personnel from Representative Deasy's office will be in the Community Center from 3:30 – 5:00 to assist in securing a PAAC ConnectCard.

**16. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

*Dan Cindric, 45 Creighton Avenue*, inquired about plans to update and maintain Linwood Park.

*Cody Sheets, 152 Promenade Street*, began his comment by reading selections from the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law. Mr. Sheet accused several members of the Crafton Borough Council for violating the Sunshine Law, those members included Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Alo and Mr. Saba. Mr. Sheets claimed meetings were held privately to discuss certain actions made by Council at a previous meeting. Mr. Sheets announced that he had filed a lawsuit, individually, against each of the mentioned members of Council for violating the Sunshine Law.

Solicitor Korbel stated that he had received a copy and has reviewed the lawsuits that were filed against Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Alo and Mr. Saba. Solicitor Korbel noted that a lawsuit cannot be filed against a Council Member individually and added that they must be filed against their official position, in which the Borough of Crafton will defend. Solicitor Korbel continued by stating that no Member of Council, or group of Members, had violated the Sunshine Law and added that the appointment in question was discussed and voted on at a regularly scheduled and advertised public meeting. Solicitor Korbel also noted that the Borough has already incurred expenses from the lawsuit and going forward these expenses will increase greatly. Lastly, he suggested that Mr. Sheets withdraw his lawsuits to avoid the loss to the Borough's taxpayers.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary