

Borough of Crafton
Monday, July 27, 2020.

(Meeting was held via Zoom Communications Webinar)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, July 27, 2020 at 7:17 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 and Solicitor Korbel.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated July 27, 2020, as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Saba*) to approve the Meeting Minutes dated July 13, 2020, as presented.

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

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

Cody Sheets, 152 Promenade Street, spoke out against the motion regarding the retention Officer Pasqualino for permanent employment and the motion to hire Douglas Sample as Assistant Manager.

Alice Glaser, 10 Belvidere Street, spoke in agreement with Mr. Sheets and stated that the additional Officer was just added last year. Ms. Glaser noted that an Assistant Manager is not needed in the office.

Jason Michael, Walnut Street, also spoke against the motion to not retain Officer Pasqualino for permanent employment and asked if the decision has been made due to budget reasons, or due to the current political climate. Mr. Michael also inquired if the position of Assistant Manager had been advertised.

Mr. Levasseur noted that comments will be addressed when they are presented in the Business Agenda.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for June 2020. Treasurer's Report Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, Engineer Report, EMS Report, Code Enforcement Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report, and Manager Report.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur announced that a few members of Council had met with Rosslyn Farms and Carnegie Boroughs, along with the Carlynton School District, to discuss the re-opening plans, as well as the Health & Safety Plan. He noted that Carlynton will return to school starting with remote learning for at least the first month.

Ms. Perry added that the Carlynton School District plans to have Teachers return to the school and instruct digitally and virtually from the classroom. She also noted that there is a plan in place to cycle the children back into the school when safety permits.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom read a letter that was received from District Chief of Operations, Brandon Rowland, of NorthWest EMS. Mr. Rowland stated that on July 11, Sergeant Harvison responded to a call for a 29-year-old male with unknown wounds. Sgt. Harvison arrived on the scene, assessed the wound, and applied a tourniquet. Mr. Rowland praised Sgt. Harvison for his quick lifesaving response.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Manager McKibben noted that the Engineer was not in attendance.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel did not have anything to report.

12. MANAGERS REPORT

Manager McKibben announced that many of the construction projects that have been approved are underway, including; the ADA Curb Ramp replacement projects, the 2020 Road Program, the Green-Light Go Traffic Signal Replacement project, the South Grandview Sewer Separation project, and added that pool liner replacement work will begin pending tonight's motion to award the bid.

Manager McKibben stated that the office has received several complaints of a sewage smell near the McCormick Street area off Crafton Boulevard. He noted that Public Works Department was able to pinpoint the smell coming from a missing vandalized manhole and the issue has been resolved.

13. BUSINESS AGENDA

MOTION #3 It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to accept the low bid for the Crafton Pool Liner Contract of \$75,000.00 for the base bid and \$8,000.00 for the Add-Alternate lining of the splash pool from Andy's Pool Shop Inc. as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

Mr. Saba spoke to clarify that this project is part of the grant that Crafton had been awarded previously.

Manager McKibben added that it is an 85% match.

MOTION #3 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *Mr. Amendola (NO)*

MOTION #4 It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Alo*) to accept the low bid for the Crafton Borough 2020 Park Improvement Contract of \$283,255.00 for the base bid, \$7,500.00 for Alternate Bid #1, \$2,500.00 for Alternate Bid #2, and \$6,200.00 for Alternate Bid #3 from Sports and Recreation Associates, LLC as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

Ms. Perry asked for some clarification on the project including the alternate bid options.

Manager McKibben noted that the base bid is for the safety surfaces and ADA ramp upgrades at the main park and safety surfaces at the two parklets. He added that the alternate add-on are for items such as benches, trees, and other minor cosmetic upgrades. Manager McKibben stated that the grant is an 80/20 match.

Ms. Perry stated that the Borough will be responsible for approximately \$60,000 of these improvements.

Mr. Crouse asked if these projects include plans to secure the playground to keep children from running onto Afton Avenue as well as the addition of new trees.

Manager McKibben noted that the plans do include security upgrades, but addition of trees would be an outside project.

MOTION #4 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *Mr. Amendola (NO)*

MOTION #5 It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Saba*) to adopt Resolution 2020-10 to commit Crafton Borough to a budget allocation of \$660,000.00 for its 15% matching

share of a GROW grant received from ALCOSAN for the Crafton Borough Storm Sewer Separation Project.

Ms. Perry asked what the total project costs will be and what the plan is for payment.

Mr. Levasseur noted that this is for a re-application as the original plans had changed. He noted that the total cost for both projects, including the Woodlawn/Fountain separation project, will be close to five million dollars. Mr. Levasseur stated that these funds could come from the Sewer Fund or via a Line of Credit, as discussed at a previous meeting.

Ms. Perry noted that the Borough's share of the project costs would be approximately one million dollars. Ms. Perry reminded Council that many residents have concerns of tax increases, as well as economic hardships due to the current economic situation where many are out of work and struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Levasseur stated that the loans are intended to be paid out of the Sewer Fund and will be reimbursed by the sewer usage fee's as well as the grant program itself.

Council continued discussion regarding available funds pertaining to these two projects, Crafton Boulevard and Woodlawn/Fountain, and how Crafton plans to pay for the Borough's share.

MOTION #5 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *Mr. Amendola (NO)*

MOTION #6 It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to adopt Resolution 2020-11 to commit Crafton Borough to a budget allocation of \$400,000.00 for its 15% matching share of a GROW grant received from ALCOSAN for the Woodlawn and Fountain Street Sewer Separation Project.

MOTION #6 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *Mr. Amendola (NO)*

MOTION #7 It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to accept the low (and only bid) from Fire Force Inc of Butler PA. of \$151,035.50 for the MAS G1 SCBA and related equipment as recommended by the Fire Chief.

Mr. Crown noted that in 2014 the Borough began putting \$22,000.00 into the Capital Projects fund annually toward the purchase of this SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment and gave a brief description of the replacement requirements.

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

MOTION #8 It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to authorize the Borough Manager to proceed with the Credit Approval and Documentation with Leasing 2 Inc. for \$535,000.00 for either a ten-year period at 2.19% (\$60,144.84 annually) or a twelve-year period at 2.32% (\$51,584.96 annually).

Manager McKibben noted that these are the lowest rates quoted out of the five financial institutions he spoke with and added that this is based off the financial need as requested by Fire Chief Crown.

Mr. Crown noted that this equipment will replace the current 2005 Rescue Pumper and gave a summary of the on-board equipment. He added that this is inline with the Fire Departments 10-year replacement plan.

Council continued discussion regarding the the option of term years for financing of the new Fire Truck.

MOTION AMENDED #8 It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to authorize the Borough Manager to proceed with the Credit Approval and Documentation with Leasing 2 Inc. for \$535,000.00 for the ten-year period at 2.19% (\$60,144.84 annually).

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

MOTION #9 It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Saba*) to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into an agreement with Municipal Benefits Services Inc. to supply a Short-Term Disability policy for all full-time salaried employees.

Manager McKibben noted that this is just for the three full-time employees in the office.

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

MOTION #10 It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to authorize the Borough Manager to work with the Crafton Heritage Association to help list the War Memorial at the Borough Building onto the American Legion data base and allow a Memory Medallion to be placed upon same.

Mr. Levasseur displayed a letter from the President of the Crafton Heritage Association.

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

MOTION #11 It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Saba*) to advise Officer Pasqualino in writing pursuant to Section 1186 of the Borough Code that he will not receive a permanent appointment to the Crafton Police Department and his appointment as a police officer with the Crafton Borough Police Department shall end immediately.

Mr. Alo noted that personnel matters can only be discussed at an executive session.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification on the section of the Borough Code.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the Section 1186 permits Council to make an up or down vote leaving the officer without the option to appeal.

Mr. Amendola inquired if this motion follows the recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Mayor.

Ms. Perry inquired about the recommendation.

Solicitor Korbel stated that these are both personnel items that would need to be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Alo called for the vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Alo (YES), Mr. Amendola (NO), Mr. Crouse (YES), Mr. Crown (NO), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Ms. Perry (NO), Mr. Saba (YES).

MOTION #11 carries by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

MOTION #12 It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to hire Mr. Douglas Sample as Assistant Borough Manager at a salary of \$62,000 + the normal Borough benefit package effective August 16, 2020 and conditioned upon the execution of a Memorandum of Employment in a form acceptable to the Solicitor and the President of Council.

Ms. Perry spoke to address the lack of transparency stating that there has been no discussion regarding the addition of an Assistant Borough Manager and added that there has been no job description or list of duties made available for Council to review. She stated that this position was not publicly advertised.

Mr. Levasseur noted that there was an Executive Session to speak with Mr. Sample under the P.E. position and added that the position had evolved over the past several weeks.

Council continued discussion of the Assistant Manager position, as well as improving transparency amongst Council Members when a vote is required with little information provided prior to the meetings.

MOTION #12 carries by a Voice Vote (5-2). *Mr. Amendola (NO), Ms. Perry (NO).*

14. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Bloom inquired as to why he is unable to respond to those asking him questions in the Q&A section of the zoom call.

Mr. Alo stated he only removed the function allowing participants to ask questions anonymously.

Mr. Amendola requested that, going forward, the Council Meetings be held outside if they cannot meet in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Levasseur noted that under the current advisories virtual meetings are the best way to address Borough Business during the pandemic.

15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Community Center will remain closed until further notice and all activities and bookings cancelled indefinitely. 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.
- There will be a Crafton / Ingram Blood Drive & Antibody Testing at the Craftonian Hall (next to Schepner-McDermott Funeral Home) on Wednesday, July 29th from Noon until 6 PM. Appointments are strongly recommended and can be made by calling 412-209-7000.
- Crafton Borough will be having its annual fireworks display on Sunday, September 6, 2020 @ 8:15 PM
- The Allegheny County Health Department will be in the Borough from July 31st through August 10th “baiting with packets containing an anti-rabies vaccine specifically targeting racoons in and around the park areas. The ketchup-size packets should be avoided, and all residents are strongly advised to not let their pets run off-leash for at least another additional week. More information can be found at www.achd.net/racoon or on the Crafton Savvy Citizen and Borough websites.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary