

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday, May 13, 2019

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, May 13, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Rosario.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST**

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to approve the Bill List dated May 13, 2019 as presented.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Damits*) to approve the Minutes dated April 22, 2019 as presented.

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

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

*Nancy Voelker, 44 Thomas Street*, spoke to Council regarding two issues on Thomas Street; first, the installation of the ADA Ramp at Thomas Street and Hewitt Street that was never completed and two, an incomplete repair by the water company from a previous water main break. Ms. Voelker also inquired about the state of Hawthorne Avenue repairs/paving.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that Hawthorne Avenue was to be included in the 2018 Road Paving program and stated that, due to gas line repairs in the fall, Peoples Gas Company will be working with the Road Paving Contractor from last fall to complete the paving this spring.

**7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Levasseur announced that the COG Dinner will be held this Thursday, May 16, 2019 and added if any Council Members are interested in attending.

Mr. Levasseur spoke regarding the motion to amend the Shade Tree Ordinance and reminds Council of the importance of the succession plan for the Shade Trees. Mr. Levasseur added that the proposed amendment will bring the Boroughs Shade Tree Ordinance concurrent with the Borough Code.

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom spoke regarding the memorial dedication that was held on May 5, 2019 at the Borough Building in honor of Henry L. Hufnagel who served as a Crafton Police Officer and was killed in the line of duty in 1919. Mayor Bloom thanked Sergeant Timothy Harvison for all his hard work and dedication.

Mayor Bloom asked about the status of the Johnston Street parking restriction he requested at a previous meeting.

Manager Susko noted that the Johnston Street parking restriction has been advertised for consideration at the next meeting, Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

Solicitor Korbel stated that Gateway determined that E. Crafton Avenue is not wide enough to implement the one-way restriction with angled parking as proposed which held up the ordinance amendment process.

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

Solicitor Korbel noted he had no other items to report on.

## **10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Susko gave a brief description of the two ordinance amendments on the agenda for consideration. First, Manager Susko noted that the Recreation Board ordinance amendment will increase the Board Members from seven to nine and realign the term expirations to the end of the year; and second, the Shade Tree Ordinance will address the grey areas in the Borough's current ordinance regarding hazardous trees and the responsibility of maintenance. Manager Susko added that the Shade Tree Commission has been working on a tree inventory as well as comprehensive planning.

Manager Susko spoke regarding the Resolution on the agenda adding that it is required to be submitted with the grant application for the Safety Surface, the Grant application is for both the main park and the pocket parks.

Manager Susko noted that the 2019 Road Program bids came in slightly higher than expected; however, the Engineer noted that the costs were an accurate reflection of the current market and did not recommend rebidding.

Manager Susko added that the 1664 Crafton Boulevard demo bid award is on the agenda for this evening at a cost of \$19,000.00. Manager Susko also noted that the neighboring structure will be

demolished by the new owners who acquired the property from the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski gave a brief announcement regarding the two used pavers that will be put out for bid and expects to sell for approximately \$6,000.00.

Manager Susko discussed the Crafton Blvd GROW Grant motion noting that it will authorize the design and surveying necessary for timely submission of the application by Gateway.

Manager Susko reminded Council that a Public Hearing needs to be schedule in regards to the Verizon Franchise contract renewal and suggested that Council consider a public meeting to discuss the brick street restoration for the South Grandview Sewer Separation project. Mr. Levasseur asked that the community attend the meeting and give their opinion/feedback regarding the brick restoration.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Levasseur and Manager Susko recommended the Public Hearing be held May 29, 2019 prior to the regularly scheduled Council Meeting starting with the Verizon Franchise public hearing at 6PM and the street restoration immediately following.

Manager Susko gave a brief update on some of the Park improvement concepts including the Safety Surface grant, pursuit of a grant for the new pool liner that will be budgeted for the 2020 season, as well as, the conceptual idea of adding a Rotary Shelter in the location of the lower ballfield and to use permeable paving as a resolution for flooding adding that the Crafton/Ingram Rotary would also help financially.

Manager Susko announced that the Spring/Summer Newsletter should have arrived in the mail last week and added that it is available on the website or in the office if you did not receive it. Manager Susko thanked everyone who submitted requests for information and contributed.

## **11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***A. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE***

Ms. Perry noted that Jordan Tax Service, Inc. has been getting updated information through the turnKey Taxes software real time.

### ***B. PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE***

Ms. Damits stated that she had been looking into costs to put a new piece of park equipment in each of the smaller parks.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Public Works Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee should work together on the few areas that have overlapped from Recreation into Public Works, including the new Safety surface.

Manager Susko stated that the volunteers who run the House Tour requested that the proceeds go toward the purchase of a new piece of play equipment for both of smaller parks.

**C. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Amendola asked for a moment of silence in honor of the students killed in the North Carolina school shooting. Mr. Amendola stated that two students were killed and four wounded including a student by the name of Riley Howell, who stepped in front of the shooter to protect the lives of others.

**D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Levasseur spoke in detail about the Crafton Boulevard GROW grant project. Mr. Levasseur noted that he has been in touch with the School Board President, Jim Shriver, and added that the School District is interested in working with the Municipality on a green infrastructure project in conjunction with the Crafton Boulevard Sewer Separation project. Mr. Levasseur explained to Council that as a part of the sewer project, oversized lines would be placed under Crafton Boulevard and lead into holding tanks that would be placed under the new proposed parking lot, which will include some park benches and other amenities. Mr. Levasseur explained that the separation project will help restrict the flow storm water during peak times.

Mayor Bloom questioned about the proposed work noting that will be done in the City of Pittsburgh, and not in the Borough of Crafton.

Mr. Levasseur stated that it is Crafton's water therefore it is Crafton's responsibility.

Manager Susko noted that this project could be discussed at the next meeting in more detail with the Engineer.

Council continued discussion regarding the Crafton Boulevard GROW project and the motion item to approve the engineer work authorization for the study and design of the project.

**12. BUSINESS AGENDA****A. ADMINISTRATION**

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to approve Ordinance No. 1656 amending Chapter 50 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Recreation Board, to increase the Recreation Board to nine members and to amend the date of expiration of terms.

Mr. Amendola made note that he is in favor of amending the expiration of terms; however, disagrees with adding additional members.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Amendola (NO), Mr. Crouse (YES) Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES) Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Rosario (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).*

**MOTION #3** carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-1).

**MOTION #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to approve Ordinance No. 1657 amending Chapter 29, Park and Shade Tree Commission, to establish the duties and responsibilities of the Shade Tree Commission and to provide for the regulation, protection and maintenance of certain plants, shrubs, and trees in the Borough of Crafton.

Ms. Damits asked if there could be a clause added in the ordinance stating that the Borough will no longer plant trees in the curb lines due to the damage of sidewalks.

Manager Susko noted that if the Borough would stop planting Shade Tree's, Crafton will no longer be a Tree City. Manager Susko noted that this ordinance will allow for Crafton to take on some of the homeowner's financial responsibility when it comes to the Shade Trees in Crafton.

Council continued discussion on the shade trees within the Borough in regards to the new ordinance amendment, application and permit process, and financial responsibility.

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

**MOTION #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to approve Resolution 2019-05 requesting a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

Manager Susko noted that this is for the playground safety surface grant.

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

## **B. PUBLIC WORKS**

**MOTION #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Damits*) to award the bid for the 2019 Road Program to Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. at an amount of \$315,234.50 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

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

**MOTION #7:** It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Crouse*) to award the 1654 Crafton Blvd Demolition project to Deller Professional Services, Inc. at an amount of 19,000.00 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

Ms. Glaser asked if this Company has done any work in the area.

Mr. Levasseur noted that they have done several demolition projects for the City of Pittsburgh.

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

**MOTION: #8:** It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Rosario*) to authorize the sale of Crafton Public Works Department's 1998 Pucket Asphalt Paver and BlawKnox Paver on Municibid.

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

**MOTION: #9:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to approve Work Authorization #2 for the Crafton Boulevard GROW Grant project, Exiting Conditions Survey and 60% ALCOSAN GROW Grant Submission, at an amount not to exceed \$68,000.00 (\$23,000.00 for existing conditions survey and \$45,000.00 for ALCOSAN submission).

Ms. Glaser expressed her concern with approving the work authorization without seeing the plans or drawings for the project.

Mr. Amendola stated he does not feel comfortable voting on this motion with out the input from the Engineer and added that this is the first time he has heard about doing work in the City of Pittsburgh.

Ms. Perry noted that although the property is in the City of Pittsburgh it is owned by the School District. Ms. Perry also added that there is a deadline for the Engineer to submit the grant application for the project.

**MOTION #10:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Perry*) to table **MOTION #9**.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (NO) Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES) Ms. Damits (NO), Mr. Rosario (NO), Mr. Levasseur (NO).*

**MOTION #10** failed to table **MOTION #9** by a Roll Call Vote (3-4).

Mr. Rosario asked if the motion requires immediate payment.

Manager Susko noted that this motion will obligate Crafton to pay for the engineering work that is completed pertaining to the work authorization.

Ms. Perry stated that this is work that Crafton is required to do at some point and the School Board is ready and willing to work with the Borough.

Mr. Levasseur added that this project is a net zero project and explained that type of project will not add any additional storm water into the system during peak flow. Mr. Levasseur also added that this is an opportunity to help the School District plans to put a parking lot on this property.

Mr. Crouse noted that this motion is for the engineering work and not toward any construction.

Mr. Amendola asked if the Engineers had any other alternative projects planned noting that the Borough is not in violation of the Consent Decree.

Mr. Levasseur stated that the Borough is in violation of the Consent Decree by the EPA and DEP and added that ALCOSAN is incentivized to get communities into compliance. Mr. Levasseur

added that the Crafton Boulevard project will take the flow from the Clearview Avenue project out of Crafton's storm water system.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the Crafton Borough and ALCOSAN are in violation of the Consent Decree.

Council continued discussion regarding the requirements of the Consent Decree.

**MOTION #9** carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-1).

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (NO) Ms. Perry (NO), Ms. Glaser (NO) Ms. Damits (NO), Mr. Rosario (NO), Mr. Levasseur (NO).*

### **13. DISCUSSION**

Manager Susko reminded Council of the Letters of Interest that are on the One Drive adding that there are several open seats. Manager Susko asked Council to take the time to review and plan to take action.

### **14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Crafton Pool Information
  - Season Passes are on sale between 9AM – 4PM, Monday through Friday at the Borough Administrative Office
  - Swim Lesson Information is available on the website ([www.craftonborough.com](http://www.craftonborough.com)).
- Memorial Day Parade
  - Begins at 11 AM in Ingram and concludes at the Crafton Borough Building with a memorial service.

### **15. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

***Mike Suehr, 250 Lincoln Street,*** expressed his anger and concern that Council would consider approving the cost of the Crafton Boulevard work authorization. Mr. Suehr stated that twenty years ago the Borough Council acquired three-million dollars of landlocked property near the Chartiers Creek to do storm water management and added that the property has sat unused since that time.

***Dan Cindric, 45 Creighton Avenue,*** stated that residents can stop by and see the memorial for Officer Hufnagel and added that there is a medallion with a QR code for those who wish to read his story. Mr. Cindric also inquired about the paving of Hawthorne Avenue and why the utility company is not responsible for the full curb to curb restoration.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that the work that was completed does not fall under the full curb to curb restoration requirement under the street opening ordinance; however, he added that Crafton will be sharing the cost with the utility company so that Hawthorne Avenue will be paved the full width of the street.

Mr. Cindric asked for clarification on the proposed storm water project on Crafton Boulevard as far as where the water will be discharged.

Mr. Levasseur explained to Mr. Cindric how the Clearview Phase projects one through five will tie into the Crafton Boulevard project by retaining water during peak flow.

***Dorothy Kraemer, St. Phillips Church Secretary, 26 S. Grandview Avenue***, expressed her concern about the proposed traffic amendments on Crennell and W. Crafton Avenue and the hardship that will be put on the parishioners attending mass and special events at the Church. Ms. Kraemer inquired if Council would consider a variance for church parking on Sundays only.

***Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue***, explained that he asked Council to consider the parking restrictions on W. Crafton Avenue due to the safety concerns and hazardous visibility for vehicles and pedestrians. Mr. Saba also added that the parking lot near the W. Crafton Avenue & W. Steuben Street intersection is not being utilized for church parking. Mr. Saba noted that the sidewalks and ramps throughout the Borough need to be evaluated for repair.

Manager Susko noted that the Borough did apply for a summer intern through the LGA to complete a sidewalk and ADA curb/ramp inventory; however, Crafton was not chosen.

Mr. Levasseur asked to keep the Public Comment to three minutes.

***Patty Donovan, 18 Lyons Street***, asked for clarification regarding the amendment of the Shade Tree ordinance in regards to responsibility and authority of entering private property. Ms. Donovan also asked that Council consider leniency when it comes to demanding costly repairs and maintenance work required by a homeowner.

Solicitor Korbel stated that any resident will be notified prior to anyone entering their property and altering a tree in anyway. Solicitor Korbel also noted that the current Code Enforcement Officer will work with any homeowner on violations and time extensions.

Manger Susko also added that the Code Enforcement Officer Season is extremely considerate to residents noting it is rare for a resident to receive a written notice before an attempt is made in person.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary