

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2020

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:18 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. Amendola, Mr. Alo, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman. Absent was Public Works Director Kaczorowski.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated May 11, 2020 as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

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

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

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Luxbacher, 71 Dinsmore Avenue, spoke regarding the motion to suspend opening the Swimming Pool for the 2020 season and requested that Council make use of the down time to ensure the completion of pending maintenance and repair projects and the pending grant projects during the summer, rather than waiting until the fall. Ms. Luxbacher added that the Recreation Board hopes to purchase some new playground equipment for the parklets, as well as, a new sunshade for the main park with the remaining funds from their 2019 fundraisers. She urged Council to make the parks a priority, as part of the Boroughs infrastructure, noting that over the past several years there has been little done to upgrade the parks due to lack of follow through.

Sharon Gaitens, 60 S. Grandview Avenue, also spoke, on behalf of the community and the Crafton Crocodiles Swim Team, regarding the motion to suspend the opening of the Swimming

Pool for the 2020 season and urged Council to table the vote until a later time. Ms. Gaitens gave several suggestions to implement, that would follow social distancing guidelines and still allow the pool to open, possibly at a lower capacity.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur announced that Council continues to hold meetings with the Emergency Management Coordinator and the Mayor, Mondays and Thursdays to discuss the needs of the Borough.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom announced that the Crafton-Ingram Rotary Club is sponsoring another food collection drive to benefit several food pantries in the area at three locations throughout the Borough on Saturday, May 30, 2020 from 9:00 AM until Noon. Locations are the First Baptist Church lot on Oregon Avenue, the Dollar General parking lot on Bradford Avenue and the Giant Eagle in the Crafton-Ingram Shopping Center.

Mayor Bloom also noted that the Crafton Elementary Staff and Teachers will hold a parade throughout the Borough starting at 1PM on May 14, 2020, and added that the Crafton Police Department will be assisting with the route to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman announced that the monthly report had been submitted for Council review prior to the meeting.

Engineer Minsterman noted that the South Grandview Separation project construction is scheduled to start in June. Engineer Minsterman added that, regarding the 2019 Road Paving Program, Mele & Mele will be in the Borough this week to mill and pave the remaining streets that did not get completed last year. He added that Gateway will be working closely with Mele & Mele and monitoring the weather for proper conditions.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel stated that there are several motions on the agenda, one ordinance for the approval of the drop pension amendment, as well as, one ordinance and one resolution for the regulation of the 5G wireless communication facilities. Solicitor Korbel added that the suggestions made by the members of the Planning Commission were reviewed and incorporated in the amendments.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager McKibben spoke in response to Ms. Luxbacher's concerns regarding the pool liner and safety surface and stated that these projects will go out to bid as soon as the grant process allows and added that the Park and Pool maintenance and upgrades are high on the priority list for this summer.

Manager McKibben gave a quick update on happenings around the Borough, including the following; Building Inspection Underwriters are back in service completing permitting and inspections, Sale of the KME Fire Truck has been posted on the Fire Department Facebook page and will be advertised accordingly, Mele & Mele are scheduled to be in Crafton starting Wednesday to finish up the 2019 Road Program and A. Folino is working on the ADA Ramps.

12. BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to suspend opening the Crafton swimming pool for the 2020 season due to concerns of the health and welfare of the patrons and staff during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Levasseur shared a document from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society (PRPS) regarding the Recreation and Park Facility reopening guidelines and noted that pools remain under the closed status in the yellow phase according to the recommendation. He stated that there has been no official statement from the County or State governments and added that the Manager continues to discuss the situation with surrounding community managers.

Mr. Alo inquired about the status of neighboring community pools.

Ms. Perry asked if it would be possible to postpone the decision to suspend opening.

Manager McKibben stated that Dormont has already announced the seasonal closure of their community pool and added that other neighboring communities will ultimately have to vote accordingly, depending on their own communities need and situation. He noted that according to the PRPS guidelines, even under the green phase, it would be difficult to implement the required safety measures, enforce the social distancing rules, obtain lifeguard certifications and administer the sale of pool passes, all while keeping residents and pool staff safe. Manager McKibben added that when considering a delayed opening schedule, and including all these factors, in addition to the hiring and screening process, it would be increasingly harder to implement and open the pool.

Mr. Crouse asked who would be responsible for enforcing the safety measures required to open the pool, such as, taking temperatures, requiring everyone to wear face masks, limiting patrons and adhering to social distancing.

Manager McKibben stated that ultimately that would fall on himself, the Pool Manager and Lifeguards who are already entrusted with enough responsibilities under normal circumstances.

Mr. Alo thanked Manager McKibben for being proactive during this difficult situation.

Solicitor Korbel added that on a legal standpoint there would be a significant liability to the Borough if COVID-19 were to be contracted by patrons or staff at the pool.

Mr. Crouse called for the vote.

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

MOTION #4: was moved and seconded (*Crown/Saba*) to execute a Contract Amendment with Cargill Inc. that waives the requirement for the Borough to receive 80% of the road salt purchase requirement before July 1, 2020 and extends same to December 31, 2020.

Manager McKibben noted that many Municipalities do not have room to store the salt required to meet the minimum contract purchase.

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

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crown*) to concur with the joint O&M CCTV contract coordinated by SHACOG and awarded to Robinson Pipe Cleaning Co. in the amount of \$139,476.50. Crafton Borough's share will be \$34,903.00 and Gateway Engineers have recommended approval.

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

MOTION #6 was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to approve the final payment of \$23,793.29 to A. Folino Construction Inc. for completion of the Phase V. punch list items for the Clearview Avenue Road Reconstruction Project and as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

Mr. Levasseur clarified that this is for the remaining Clearview Phase V project punch list items only.

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

MOTION #7 was moved and seconded (*Saba/Amendola*) to approve Resolution 2020-04 and Resolution 2020-05 relating to accepting the terms and conditions of the grants being awarded by the PA- DCNR and titled Crafton Borough Trail Planning and Crafton Borough Parks Master Plan, respectively.

Ms. Perry spoke to clarify that this is an application process requirement noting that these grants have not been awarded.

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

MOTION #8 was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to approve Ordinance # 1661 amending Chapter 33 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances – Pensions and Retirements – to add a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) retroactively effective January 1, 2020.

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

MOTION #9 was moved and seconded (*Crown/Saba*) to approve Ordinance # 1662 amending Chapter 193 of the Crafton Code of Ordinances - Streets and Sidewalks – to regulate Wireless Communication Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way.

Solicitor Korbel noted that this ordinance amendment will regulate the design, construction and locations of the 5G cell sites within the Borough's Right-Of-Ways.

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

MOTION #10 was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to adopt Resolution 2020-06 resolving that at a future meeting, the Borough Council will consider an amendment to Chapter 225 of the Borough Code of Ordinances – Zoning – as amended, to regulate Wireless Communication Facilities located outside the public Right-of-Way and Wireless Communication Facilities taller than 50 feet and to invoke the pending ordinance doctrine.

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

MOTION #11 was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to authorize the Manager to advertise for a position of an in-house Borough Engineer after the required qualifications are reviewed and approved by Council.

Manager McKibben made the recommendation to help oversee the smaller daily projects throughout the Borough and adding that Gateway Engineers would continue to oversee the bigger projects.

Ms. Perry noted that this was suggested by the Public Works Director in the past.

Engineer Minsterman stated that he works with other communities who have hired in-house Engineers and added that he has also helped other communities during the hiring process, as well as, bringing the new Engineer up to speed on current projects.

Mr. Saba asked if having an in-house Engineer will eliminate the communication gaps and delays in project completion.

Mr. Levasseur stated that bringing an in-house Engineer will streamline all the current and impending construction projects, as well as, help the facilitate better communication between the Manager, the Borough Council and the Contractors.

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

MOTION #12 was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to re-adopt a Concurring Resolution 2020-07 with the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County designating Russell J. McKibben as the Authorized Official to file and execute all documents with same.

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

Mr. Levasseur read a statement from the Crafton Public Library Director regarding the continued closure of the Crafton Library and their continued efforts to help the community during these difficult times. Mr. Levasseur added that the Library is following the direction of the Commonwealth Libraries regarding the COVID-19 reopening guidelines.

Mr. Crouse announced that, due to the format of the meeting, Council will open the floor for additional citizen comments.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sharon Gaitens, 60 S. Grandview Avenue, again expressed her wish to Council that the motion to suspend the pool season could have been tabled; however, she stated that, she does agree and understands the decision regarding the health and safety of the community.

Ginger Hites, 25 McMunn Avenue, Crafton Crocodiles, inquired about availability, of the Crocodiles Board Members, to get access into the pool to make some highly needed upgrades and to clean out the storage area during the summer closure.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Manager McKibben will work with her to obtain access for the Crocodiles Board.

Mary Luxbacher, 71 Dinsmore Avenue, requested that the pool applicants be notified of the closure, as many of them have been patiently awaiting word of their summer job status.

Manager McKibben stated that the Administrative Office has drafted a memo to be mailed and e-mailed out to the pool applicants once a final decision had been voted on by Council and added that there are intentions to bring in a few seasonal public works applicants.

Manager McKibben announced that a workshop was held with a highly trained Safety Professional to address the safety requirements, regarding COVID-19, with Public Works Department and himself.

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Community Center and Borough parks 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.
- All polling places have been combined to the American Legion located at the corner of Crennell and N. Linwood Avenue for the June 2nd primary elections. Also, absentee ballots can be obtained on-line at Alleghenycounty.us/election/absentee.

- Senior dinner originally scheduled for May 16th is cancelled.
- The annual Shred Event sponsored by Rep. Deasy will be re-scheduled in August or September.
- The Memorial Day parade has been cancelled and the Borough offices will be closed on May 25th. The Council meeting scheduled for the same day has been moved to Wednesday, May 27th at normal time.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary