

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, August 12, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Perry called to order the Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Bloom.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Susko recorded seven (7) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Crouse, Ms. Damits, Ms. Glaser, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Valcheff, Mr. Amendola and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom and Solicitor Korbelt.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated August 12, 2019 as presented.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about the repair bill for Truck 109.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

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

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

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICER

Mayor Bloom and Police Chief Mark Sumpter introduced the newest member of the Crafton Police Department, Officer James Pasqualino, who was sworn in on August 1, 2019.

Officer Pasqualino expressed his gratitude and thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the Borough of Crafton.

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

John Guay, 11 Dakota Street, inquired about the traffic study conducted on W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue which resulted in the proposed ordinance as a solution for the traffic and parking concern that had been raised by residents. Mr. Guay noted that the driving lanes do accommodate for traffic to safely navigate the roadway with parking on W. Crafton Avenue but

also noted that there are sight restrictions for traffic coming out of Broadhead Avenue whether there are cars parked on W. Crafton Avenue or not.

Dorothy Kraemer, 26 S. Grandview Avenue, stated that, in the years she has worked for and served the Church, there have been no issues and no accidents due to the parking on W. Crafton Avenue and added that parking only affects passing traffic for four hours weekly. Ms. Kraemer also suggested that a better solution could be to make Broadhead Avenue one way toward Crafton Boulevard.

Joe Rynn, 45 S. Grandview Avenue, spoke against the proposed parking ordinance changes for W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue and inquired about the reasoning behind these proposed ordinances considering there are no records of any vehicle accidents due to the parking on W. Crafton Avenue.

Manager Susko read a written statement submitted by ***Rev. John B. Gizler, III, St. Philip Parish Pastor*** regarding the parking restrictions and the negative affects it will have on the Church Parishioners.

Christin Sciulli, 25 N. Emily Street, stated that she had been involved in a near accident that occurred during noon mass that was directly caused by the parking issue on W. Crafton Avenue.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Perry announced that Council held an executive session on Wednesday, August 5th, as well as, this evening, prior to the meeting, to discuss personnel and real estate matters, no actions were taken.

Ms. Perry asked that anyone wishing to attend the 21st Annual 3 Rivers Wet Weather Conference scheduled for November 13th and November 14th in Monroeville should reach out to Manager Susko to confirm attendance.

Ms. Perry congratulated D & O Wine Cellars on their anniversary event and a successful first year of business in Crafton.

Ms. Perry noted that one of her goals over the next few Council meetings will be to discuss and review key directives from the Comprehensive Plan.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom noted he will hold his comments until later in the meeting.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel stated that he had nothing to report on this evening.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Susko gave a brief summary of the agenda items for this evening, including the Road Salt Contract, an ordinance adopting a Backflow Prevention Device shared cost mini-grant program, two ordinances proposing parking restrictions in the area of W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue and the Public Works Labor Contract.

Manager Susko announced that the Crafton Borough ClearGov.org project platform has been launched and the 2019 Road Paving bid documents and information are available for public view. Manager Susko noted that residents can access this information via a new page on the Borough Website under the Current Capital Projects link in the Government section. Manager Susko added that the platform will expand in detail and information in the coming months as the 2020 budgeting season gets underway.

Manager Susko stated that the Crafton Public Works began the Alley Paving program with milling starting on the alleys near McMunn Avenue including, Pine Alley, Nancy Alley and Orange Way. Manager Susko also added that the old paver was successfully sold on Municibid for just over \$4000.00.

Manager Susko spoke regarding the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department's request for Council to consider an ordinance giving the Fire Department the ability to bill insurance companies for calls involving motor vehicle hazardous spill cleanup.

Solicitor Korbel stated that he will research neighboring community ordinances and provide information in the coming weeks.

Manager Susko announced that the Borough will hold a Blood Drive through the American Red Cross on August 28, 2019 in the Community Room and noted that flyers are available near the sign in table.

Manager Susko congratulated the Borough on the Monarch Waystation award and certification designating the Circle Garden as an official monarch waystation by MonarchWatch.org. Manager Susko gave a brief background of how the Waystation came to life and thanked the Code Enforcement Officer and the Shade Tree Commission on their hard work.

Manager Susko stated that the website information requests from the previous meeting had been added to the website under the Tax Information page under the Government tab, as well as, the newly added page called Additional Resources under the Community tab.

Manager Susko announced that the Planning Commission provided a recap report that was included in the Council Packets.

12. BUSINESS AGENDA

A. ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Damits*) to accept the bid from Cargill, Inc. via the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance for the purchase and the bulk delivery

of rock salt at \$82.24 per ton for the 2019-2020 winter season, with the option to extend for up to two (2) additional years.

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

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Crouse*) to approve Ordinance No. 1659 amending Chapter 177 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Sewers and Sewage Disposal, for the purpose of establishing a shared cost Backflow Prevention Device Installation Mini-Grant Program.

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

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Vehicles and Traffic, to prohibit parking on the westerly side of Crennell Avenue between Broadhead Avenue and 55 Crennell Avenue.

Mr. Valcheff asked if this section of the roadway was already no parking due to the close proximity of the intersection and questioned what actions qualify as a traffic study.

Manager Susko explained that there is no substantial ordinance that satisfies the no parking standard and added that, due to this, the painted yellow line is not enforceable.

Mr. Crouse stated that the proposed ordinance would give legal perspective on enforcement.

Manager Susko noted that when vehicles are exiting Broadhead Avenue onto W. Crafton Avenue or Crennell Avenue there are two main concerns; first, the visibility limitations and second, that vehicles are unable to stay within the proper lanes.

Mayor Bloom stated that according to PA law, vehicles must park within twelve inches of the curb and thirty feet from any intersection and added that a sign is not needed for these laws to be enforced by the Police Department. Mayor Bloom noted that the existing yellow line was painted by the Borough in years past as a reminder to drivers.

Mr. Valcheff noted that there are other solutions that Council can discuss and consider that will also support St. Philip Parish and its parishioners.

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Valcheff/Levasseur*) to table **MOTION #5**.

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

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

Mr. Crouse requested that the Public Works Director conduct a thorough traffic study of the centerlines and turning radius of vehicles and that it be conducted in more detail.

Mr. Valcheff suggested that the intersection be made no right turn for vehicles turning out of Broadhead.

Ms. Perry suggested the Engineers conduct a study.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he will present a motion later in the meeting directing the Engineers to do so.

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 214 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances, Vehicles and Traffic, to prohibit parking on the easterly side of W. Crafton Avenue between Steuben Street and the intersection of W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue (*Note: minutes reflect the correction clarifying that parking will be prohibited on the Easterly side NOT the Westerly side*).

Mr. Amendola reminded Council that these parking issues regarding street width is a common problem that exists throughout the Borough and added that Council should consider options in support of both the Church and Businesses in Crafton.

Mr. Crouse spoke to clarify that a vote in favor of the ordinance is not an anti-religious vote but a vote that promotes vehicle safety.

Mayor Bloom stated that, in his experience as a Crafton Police Officer for thirty-one years, there have been no issues or reports of accidents due to parking in this area. Mayor Bloom suggested that Council vote against this ordinance and expressed his concerns of how it may affect the attendance of Mass and added that the inconvenience in this area amounts to roughly four hours per week.

Ms. Glaser noted the street is already posted fifteen miles per hour and drivers should be aware and courteous. Ms. Glaser also added that in agreeance with the Mayor, the inconvenience is only four hours a week.

Mr. Crouse noted that, during conversations with residents regarding this parking matter, someone had mentioned that at one time there was a police officer who would direct traffic and asked if this could be a solution in the future.

Mayor Bloom confirmed that, in past years, there was an officer on duty to direct traffic out exiting the traffic light at Crennell Avenue and N. Linwood Avenue and stated that it could be an option in the future. Mayor Bloom also noted that the Police Department will be directed to increase enforcement for illegal parking in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Valcheff questioned if the ordinance can be brought back up if it is voted down this evening after a more thorough study is completed or does the motion need to be tabled.

Ms. Perry noted that if the motion is voted down tonight there is nothing stopping Council from discussing or reconsidering it again at a later meeting.

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Damits*) to table **MOTION #7**.

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

MOTION #8 fails to carry by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

Mr. Amendola called for the vote on the current motion on the floor.

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

MOTION #7 fails to carry by a Roll Call Vote (6-1).

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to direct a group consisting of, the Manager, the Solicitor, the Engineer, Mr. Valcheff and Mr. Levasseur, to conduct a study and evaluate options for safety improvements to the areas of the westerly side of Crennell Avenue between Broadhead Avenue and 55 Crennell Avenue, and the westerly side of W. Crafton Avenue between W. Steuben Street and the intersection of W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue due on or before the first meeting in October.

AMEND MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Crouse*) to direct a group consisting of, the Manager, the Solicitor, the Engineer, Mr. Valcheff and Mr. Levasseur, to conduct a study and evaluate options for safety improvements to the areas of the westerly side of Crennell Avenue between Broadhead Avenue and 55 Crennell Avenue, and the easterly side of W. Crafton Avenue between W. Steuben Street and the intersection of W. Crafton Avenue and Crennell Avenue due on or before the first meeting in October.

Ms. Perry opened the floor for public comment.

Andrew Reilly, Crafton Boulevard, inquired about the validity of the traffic signal at N. Linwood Avenue and suggests that it be a 4-way stop and spoke in favor of moving the center line to allow for vehicles turning out of Broadhead Avenue.

Mr. Amendola stated that he does not agree with the idea of involving the Engineer as it could be costly and suggested leaving these duties to the Mayor and Police Chief.

Manager Susko spoke first to clarify that the discussion of possibly moving the center line never involved this section of Crennell Avenue, it was discussed regarding the section of W. Crafton Avenue, also known as Church Hill and added that the cost of involving the Engineer would be minimal.

Council continued discussion regarding what to include in the study, temporary solutions and who is best to conduct the study in the least biased and most lawful way.

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

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

B. PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Valcheff*) to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Crafton Borough and Teamsters Local Union No. 249 for a four-year term commencing April 1, 2019 and ending March 31, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Damits (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Mr. Valcheff (YES), Mr. Amendola (YES), Ms. Perry (YES).

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

13. DISCUSSION

YEAR 46 CDBG PRE-APPLICATION TOPICS

Manager Susko gave a brief update regarding the CDBG Year 46 pre-application process and noted that, among the improvements that the funds can be used for, she suggested that Crafton apply for additional ADA Ramps due to limited time.

Manager Susko noted that the W. Steuben Street ramp was included in this year's application which was approved and noted that the construction detail is not available yet.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if CDBG funds could be used for improvements to the main borough building.

Manager Susko stated that if the Borough would intend to use funds for improvements to the Borough Building a door-to-door income study would need to be conducted to show how improvements would better the public. Manager Susko noted that CDBG Funds are determined by income via census tracks and added that funds are to be used toward public improvements.

Council continued discussing the options for use of future CDBG funds as well as how other neighboring communities are using these funds to better their communities.

Ms. Damits inquired about how the Borough could prevent private property owners from painting the curbs yellow and inquired specifically about two sections on Crafton Boulevard.

Mayor Bloom noted that these yellow lines may have been painted for ease of access for the garbage trucks.

Mr. Crouse updated Council on the Blight Committee and announced that he had reached out to the past members and a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Community Center.

Mr. Valcheff noted that he had run into some roadblocks, mainly the lack of available information, while attempting to update the job descriptions for the members of the various Boards, Committees and Commissions.

Manager Susko stated that the Planning Commission is working on evaluating the Crafton businesses in the hopes of creating a business map that will be accessible via the website.

Mr. Levasseur inquired about the information he had requested for the website and noted that the millage table he provided had not been included. Mr. Levasseur also announced that there had been considerable changes to the EPA health standards regarding lead paint and asked if this information could be added to the website as well.

15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, will be held in the Community Room on Wednesday, August 28, from 12PM to 4PM. There are currently 18 open donor appointments remaining. Contact the Borough Office or visit our website for more information and event flyers. Donors will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card from the Red Cross.

16. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Karen Falbo, 257 Noble Avenue, inquired about implementing a telephone book recycling program. Ms. Falbo also asked about the newly painted crosswalk at White Street and Crennell Avenue and pointed out that it is dangerous due to the lack of proper markings.

Solicitor Korbel stated that telephone books are no longer able to be recycled.

Ms. Perry noted that Mayor Bloom and the Chief of Police will investigate her crosswalk concerns.

Vernon Smith, 29 Taylor Street, expressed his concerns regarding the stop sign at Taylor Street and N. Linwood Avenue that is constantly ignored by passing vehicles, as well as, the number of vehicles traveling the wrong way up N. Linwood Avenue. Mr. Smith also added that this intersection is a school bus stop as well.

Mayor Bloom stated that he will have the Chief of Police get in touch with him to discuss these concerns.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if the Borough could install surveillance cameras.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Officers cannot ticket based off camera footage.

Glenn Wacker, 1654 Crafton Boulevard, spoke to Council regarding a possible stay of demolition on his property. Mr. Wacker noted that he was working on rehabbing this property but due to unfortunate situation he had to put it on hold.

Solicitor Korbel stated that proper notification had been sent regarding the property in question and added that Mr. Wacker did not respond as instructed in the notification.

Mr. Crouse noted that the Borough has received several complaints and that this property had been discussed in detail on numerous occasions.

Ms. Perry noted that unfortunately due to the history of the property the Borough will continue with due process.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary