

BOROUGH OF CRAFTON
REORGANIZATION MEETING
Minutes of January 6, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bloom called to order the Reorganization Meeting of the Borough of Crafton, Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:15 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mayor Bloom.

3. OATH OF OFFICE

Jack Kobistek, Magisterial District Justice swore in the following newly elected officials; Edward Alo, Roy Niemann, Coletta Perry and Anthony Saba.

4. ROLL CALL

Mayor Bloom recorded the following seven (7) Members of Council present: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Niemann, Ms. Perry and Mr. Saba. Also present were Solicitor Malik and Public Works Director Kaczorowski.

Mayor Bloom noted that he will chair the election of the President of Council and Vice President of Council which is slightly different from the printed agenda.

5. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mayor Bloom opened the floor for nominations for President of Council.

Mr. Amendola nominated Ms. Perry
Mr. Crouse nominated Mr. Levasseur

Mayor Bloom closed the floor for nominations for President of Council.

Mayor Bloom asked for a roll call vote to elect Ms. Perry as President of Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (No); AMENDOLA (Yes); CROUSE (No);
LEVASSEUR(No); NIEMANN (No); PERRY (Yes); SABA (No)

ROLL CALL VOTE fails to carry (2-5).

Mayor Bloom asked for a roll call vote to elect Mr. Levasseur as President of Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (Yes); AMENDOLA (No); CROUSE (Yes);
LEVASSEUR(Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); PERRY (No); SABA (Yes)

Mr. Levasseur was elected President of Council by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mayor Bloom opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of Council.

Mr. Amendola nominated Ms. Perry
Mr. Levasseur nominated Mr. Alo

Mayor Bloom closed the floor for nominations for Vice President of Council.

Mayor Bloom asked for a roll call vote to elect Ms. Perry as Vice President of Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (No); AMENDOLA (Yes); CROUSE (No);
LEVASSEUR(No); NIEMANN (No); PERRY (Yes); SABA (No)

ROLL CALL VOTE fails to carry (2-5).

Mayor Bloom asked for a roll call vote to elect Mr. Alo as Vice President of Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (Yes); AMENDOLA (No); CROUSE (Yes);
LEVASSEUR(Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); PERRY (No); SABA (Yes)

Mr. Alo was elected Vice President of Council by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

Mayor Bloom turned the gavel over to Mr. Levasseur, President of Council.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for nominations for President Pro-Tem.

Mr. Alo nominated Mr. Crouse
Mr. Amendola nominated Ms. Perry

Mr. Levasseur closed the floor for nominations for President Pro-Tem.

Mr. Levasseur asked for a roll call vote to elect Mr. Crouse as President Pro-Tem.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (Yes); AMENDOLA (No); CROUSE (Yes);
LEVASSEUR(Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); PERRY (No); SABA (Yes)

Mr. Crouse was elected President Pro-Tem by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

VACANCY BOARD CHAIR

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for nominations for Vacancy Board Chair.

Mr. Alo nominated Emily Babyak
Mr. Crouse nominated Eric Valcheff
Mr. Amendola nominated David O'Brien

Mr. Levasseur closed the floor for nominations for Vacancy Board Chair.

Mr. Levasseur asked for a roll call vote to elect Ms. Babyak as the Vacancy Board Chair.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (Yes); AMENDOLA (No); CROUSE (Yes);
LEVASSEUR(Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); PERRY (No); SABA (Yes)

Ms. Babyak was elected Vacancy Board Chair by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

6. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Marie Schmidt, 238 S Grandview Avenue, asked Council why the employment contract for Borough Manager, RJ Susko, would not be renewed.

7. MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to designate Crafton Borough Municipal Building, Council Chambers of the Community Center, 140 Bradford Avenue, as the location of the Monthly Borough Meetings and establishing the time of each meeting for the first and third Thursdays of each month convening at 7:15 pm.

Mr. Levasseur reminded all of the schedule conflict with the Char-West COG meetings and noted that Mr. Kaczorowski offered to attend the COG meetings in place of the appointed delegate when needed.

Mr. Crouse also reminded Council that the Irish Reelers regularly use the Community Room on Thursdays for practice which may cause a significant noise disturbance and suggested that the meetings be kept on Mondays.

Ms. Perry also spoke in favor of keeping the meetings on Mondays and added that Council can discuss changing the meeting days at a future meeting.

Mr. Crouse noted that moving the meetings may cause confusion for residents and negatively impact public attendance of the meetings.

AMEND MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to designate Crafton Borough Municipal Building, Council Chambers of the Community Center, 140 Bradford Avenue, as the location of the Monthly Borough Meetings and establishing the time of each meeting for the second and fourth Mondays of each month convening at 7:15 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (Yes); AMENDOLA (Yes); CROUSE (Yes); LEVASSEUR(Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); PERRY (Yes); SABA (Yes)

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

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to ratify the settlement agreement for RJ Susko.

Ms. Perry noted for the record that she does not support the decision to dismiss Manager Susko and added that there was a lack of effort to work with her.

At that time Solicitor Malik noted that further discussion regarding this personnel matter would need to be moved to Executive Session.

Mr. Amendola stated that he is in full agreement with Ms. Perry.

Mayor Bloom stated that he agrees with Ms. Perry and Mr. Amendola and added that Council should have been able to attempt to work with Manager Susko.

ROLL CALL VOTE: ALO (Yes); AMENDOLA (No); CROUSE (Yes); LEVASSEUR(Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); PERRY (No); SABA (Yes)

MOTION #2 carries by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to appoint Russell McKibben as the Interim Borough Manager.

Ms. Perry stated that it is imperative that the Borough has someone who is qualified and can step in place of the Manager.

Mr. Saba noted that he agrees with Ms. Perry and thanked the veteran Council Members for identifying the candidate with such short notice.

ROLL CALL VOTE: SABA (Yes); PERRY (Yes); NIEMANN (Yes); LEVASSEUR (YES); CROUSE (Yes); AMENDOLA (Yes); ALO (Yes)

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

Mr. McKibben introduced himself to the community and thanked Council for the opportunity.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to appoint Babst, Calland as the Borough Solicitor.

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

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to appoint Gateway Engineers as the Borough Engineer.

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

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to appoint PNC as the Official Depository Bank for all Borough accounts.

Mr. Nieman noted that PNC Bank does not volunteer or donate to the community and asked if Council would consider another bank.

Mr. Levasseur stated that Council may consider other banks at any time in the future.

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

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Alo*) to appoint Gazette 2.0 and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as the official newspapers for Borough Advertisements.

Mr. Levasseur noted the importance of the small papers such as the Local Gazette and the Gazette 2.0 and stated that municipalities are still required to advertise in a paper of regular circulation.

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

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to appoint the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department as the Borough Fire Department.

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

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to appoint of Michael J. Crown as the Fire Chief for the Borough of Crafton.

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

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Perry*) to appoint Mark Sumpter as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

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

MOTION #11: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Saba*) to appoint Andrew Beardmore as Borough Fire Marshal and Dave Morgan as the Assistant Borough Fire Marshal.

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

MOTION #12: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Saba*) to appoint Annette Lherbier as the Borough Treasurer for the Borough of Crafton.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #13: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Perry*) to ratify the Bill List dated December 31, 2019, as presented.

MOTION #13 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #14: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated January 6, 2020, as presented.

MOTION #14 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

MOTION #15: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Alo*) to approve the Minutes dated December 9, 2019, as presented.

MOTION #15 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION #16: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to approve Pay Application #1 for the SHACOG Joint Pipe Lining Project – Year 12, Contract B – to SHACOG at an amount of \$43,312.35 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. This is the final payment for this project.

MOTION #16 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

10. ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Gordan Smith, 95 Broadhead Avenue, took a moment to congratulate the new Council Members. Mr. Smith inquired about the status of the Street Light at Broadhead and Rebecca and noted that he has been complaining about this streetlight issue for several years.

Mr. Levasseur noted that this streetlight in question could potentially be added to the LED conversion program.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #17: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Crouse*) to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.

MOTION #17 carries by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary