

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday, December 9, 2019

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Perry called to order the Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:17 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Valcheff.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Manager Susko recorded six (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, Solicitor Korbelt and Public Works Director Kaczorowski.

Ms. Perry gave a quick timeline of the events for the evenings meeting and public hearing.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST**

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated December 9, 2019 as presented.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION #2:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to approve the Minutes dated November 25, 2019 as presented.

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

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

Ms. Perry noted that all citizen comments regarding the property discussion will be heard during the Public Hearing.

**7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Perry stated that the only item on her report is the Police Association contract and asked Solicitor Korbelt to provide an update.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that he is working with the Police Association Attorney to finalize the contract language and noted that the final contract would be ready toward the end of the month. Solicitor Korbelt added that Council could hold a special meeting to approve the contract or it could be ratified at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Valcheff suggested scheduling a special meeting rather than waiting until January.

Mr. Levasseur also suggested scheduling a special meeting prior to the end of the year.

Ms. Perry inquired if Council would be available for a quick December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the contract would not be ready by that date.

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

Ms. Perry welcomed the Mayor back. Mayor Bloom noted he had no report for this evening.

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

Solicitor Korbel stated that he had no additional report.

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

### ***Agenda Item Detail***

Manager Susko gave a brief summary of the motions on the agenda for approval including the final 2020 Financial Budget, the Green-Light-Go Grant bid award, as well as a few end of year resolutions such as the 2020 tax rates, the general fee schedule, the wage and benefits resolution and the appointment of Maher Duessel as the auditor for 2019.

Manager Susko added that the reorganization meeting for Council will be held on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm.

Mr. Valcheff inquired about a budget comparison for the current year and the proposed 2020 budget.

## **11. BUSINESS AGENDA**

### ***A. 2020 BUDGET AGENDA***

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Levasseur*) to adopt the 2020 General Fund, Road Fund, Sewer Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Celebrates Fund budgets as presented.

Mr. Levasseur requested that Manager Susko incorporate the budget comparison on the final published copy of the 2020 budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: MR. CROUSE (YES), MS. DAMITS (NO), MS. GLASER (YES), MR. LEVASSEUR (YES), MR. VALCHEFF (YES), MR. AMENDOLA (YES), MS. PERRY (YES).

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

**MOTION #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to adopt Resolution 2019-21 fixing the tax rate on real property for the 2020 fiscal year at 5.67 mills to be used for general purposes and 1.92 mills to be reserved for the Road Fund (NO CHANGE).

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

**B. END-OF-YEAR BUSINESS**

**MOTION #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Levasseur*) to approve Resolution 2019-22 updating the General Fee Schedule fixing the fees, costs, charges and expenses pursuant to Borough ordinances and repealing any and all resolutions inconsistent therewith.

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

**MOTION #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to approve Resolution 2019-23 updating the Wages & Benefits Resolution, effective January 1, 2020, fixing the pay and benefits of certain employees of the Borough and providing disciplinary procedures for violations thereof; and repealing any and all resolutions inconsistent therewith.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Council and Planning salaries do not reflect the changes he discussed with Ms. Perry.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that Council salaries are limited by population and are set by ordinance.

Mr. Levasseur stated that Crafton's ordinance refers to 2012 and asked if changes could be made if the 2012 restriction was removed.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that the 2012 restriction should be removed due to the constant updating of the Borough Code and added that there are current state legislation discussions to lower the salaries of elected officials.

Mr. Levasseur asked if it would include the Council, Mayor and Planning Commission salaries.

Manager Susko stated that Crafton's current Planning Code ordinance does not enable compensation for Planning Commission members; however, she added that the Municipal Planning Code permits a salary set at the same rate as Borough Council.

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

**MOTION #7:** to approve Resolution 2019-24 appointing Maher Duessel as Borough Auditor to conduct the 2019 Annual Financial Audit.

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

**MOTION #8:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Valcheff*) to schedule the 2020 Reorganization Meeting for Monday, January 6 at 7:15 PM.

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

### ***C. PUBLIC WORKS***

**MOTION #9:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Valcheff*) to award the bid for the Green Light-Go Traffic Signal Upgrades Project contract to M&B Services, LLC in the amount of \$777,801.62 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

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

## **12. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Manager Susko took a few moments to highlight some of Crafton's achievements in 2019 including 1.5 million dollars in Sewer Grant Funds, 375,000 dollars in park and recreation grant funds, the 800,000 dollars in Green-Light-Go Funds and the introduction of ClearGov - software for capital project & budget transparency, TRAI SR – an asset and permit management software, and the new Shop Local brand I ♥ Crafton. Manager Susko then gave an update on several questions regarding recreation and park equipment that were brought to her by Ms. Damits prior to the meeting.

Solicitor Korbel gave an update on the Council Salary discussion and stated that Crafton could increase the Council Salary up to \$2,500 based off the current population. Solicitor Korbel added that Council cannot vote to increase the salary of current members and added that an ordinance can be advertised to increase the Council Salary for the next group of incoming Council Members in January of 2022.

Mr. Valcheff noted that there was no end of season report from Crafton Celebrates and inquired about the remaining funds balance of recreational capital funds noting that there are some upgrades needed in the women's bathhouse at the pool.

Mr. Valcheff asked if there would be progress in the Social Media policy in the coming new year and asked if there had been any progress with the Clearview Avenue punchlist.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that the Shade Tree Commission had meet with the contractor who agreed to complete the items in question.

## **13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Santa Visits Crafton by Fire Truck** with his Elves from the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department on December 14th! The truck will start in Crafton around 9:15am. Listen for the siren to let you know that Santa is on your street.
- **Senior Dinner** – December 14, doors open at 5pm. Call the Borough Administrative Office to RSVP.

- The **Borough Administrative Office** will be closed on the following dates:  
December 25 & 26, January 1.

Ms. Perry took a moment to thank all the exiting Council Members for their service and time on Council.

**14. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary