

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday, February 10, 2020

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:15 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Alo.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Interim Manager McKibben recorded six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Alo, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Public Works Director Kaczorowski. Absent was Mr. Niemann.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST**

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Saba*) to approve the Bill List dated February 10, 2020 as presented.

**MOTION #1** carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

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

**MOTION #2** carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

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

Mr. Levasseur noted that any citizens signed up will speak at the end of the meeting.

**7. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Levasseur announced that Roy A. Niemann, Jr. submitted a resignation statement to the Members of Council, dated February 5, 2020. Mr. Levasseur read Mr. Niemann's statement which stated personal obligations and health conditions as the reason for his resignation. He added that Mr. Niemann thanked the residents for their support and noted that he has confidence in the current Council going forward.

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to accept the resignation statement.

Mr. Amendola inquired about the delay in notification of the resignation from Mr. Niemann.

Mr. Alo stated that the letter was only received earlier in the day.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he wished Mr. Niemann the best.

Ms. Perry called for the vote.

*ROLL CALL: Mr. Alo (YES), Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Mr. Saba (YES).*

**MOTION #3** carries by a Roll Call Vote (6-0).

**MOTION #4:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to adopt Resolution No. 2020-01 appointing Michael J. Crown to the vacancy created by Roy A. Niemann, Jr., term expiring December 31, 2021.

Ms. Perry questioned the decision to not follow the process discussed, to solicit letters of interest for the vacancy.

Mr. Crouse stated that there is a will amongst Council to move forward with a candidate that is capable tonight.

Mr. Levasseur added that there was no support from Council to move in the direction that Ms. Perry wished.

Council continued discussion regarding the process for appointment and the lack of communication amongst Members of Council.

*ROLL CALL: Mr. Alo (YES), Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Ms. Perry (NO), Mr. Saba (YES).*

**MOTION #4** carries by a Roll Call Vote (5-1).

Magisterial District Judge, Jack Kobistek, performed the swearing in of Mr. Michael J. Crown as a Member of the Crafton Borough Council.

## **8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Levasseur announced that the developers, Armstrong, for Get-Go have reached out to Crafton on several occasions regarding input on how they can get the support of Crafton residents. Mr. Levasseur noted that he suggests they review the Public Hearing comments to get a better understanding of what the Community is looking for. He added that the School District is under contract with the Developers and added that he will continue to update the community on the discussions going forward.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification regarding the contract between the Developer and the School District as she had the understanding that it was contingent on the approval of Crafton.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the School District may still have an agreement.

Mr. Perry inquired about how Armstrong, the developer, can meet the needs of the community.

### **9. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom noted that he had no report.

Mr. Levasseur announced that Coach Cowher was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame.

### **10. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Interim Manager McKibben gave a brief description of the four proposed projects to be submitted to ALCOSAN for Grow Grant funding. Interim Manager McKibben added that Crafton plans to work with Port Authority on the Busway storm water drainage. Interim Manager McKibben noted that these work authorizations must be submitted by the end of February for Crafton to be considered for funding.

Ms. Perry inquired about the cost of these projects as well as plans for funding these projects.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that each of the work authorizations submitted indicates the cost for the Engineers to perform the design work and submit the LOI's to ALCOSAN for the following Grow Grant projects; \$20,000 for the Emerson project, \$22,000 for the Perrine project, \$100,000 for the Woodlawn & Fountain project, and \$70,000 for the Port Authority drainage.

Ms. Perry asked how the \$200,000 plus funds fit into the 2020 budget.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that the Borough could decide not to approve the Busway drainage project; however, he recommends that Council approve all the work authorizations as one, to give Crafton the best opportunity to receive ALCOSAN grant funding for these projects.

Mr. Saba inquired about possible cost to the Borough for these projects.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the funding from ALCOSAN would be approximately around seventy to eighty five percent leaving the Borough with roughly \$600,000 in expenses from the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Saba noted that Crafton should take advantage of the Grant funds available.

Mr. Levasseur added that these projects will be in line with the expectations of future Consent Orders. He added that these projects will be a good use of sewage fees, that the Borough receives from residents, as they will be put toward improvements to the Borough's infrastructure. Mr. Levasseur noted that he had spoken with a member of the ALCOSAN communications department, at the Allegheny County Boroughs Association Banquet, who stated that they are interested in working with Crafton Borough on obtaining a low interest loan.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that General Funds will not cover these costs and added that Crafton will most likely need to acquire a general obligation note to cover the costs.

Ms. Perry spoke to clarify, that even after the low interest rates are paid back, the Borough will still be responsible for 500,000 to 600,000 thousand dollars.

Council continued discussion regarding EPA requirements and how the Borough can prepare to fund the projects that are needed to meet these requirements.

### **11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

### **12. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Interim Manager McKibben state that he had no additional report.

### **13. BUSINESS AGENDA**

**MOTION #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Amendola*) to award the Johnston and N. Emily Sewer Repair base bid – without the deduct bid – to Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$307,855.00 per the recommendation from Gateway Engineering.

Interim Manager McKibben stated that the deduct bid included pipe bursting, which was removed.

*ROLL CALL: Mr. Alo (YES), Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Mr. Crown (YES), Mr. Saba (YES).*

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

**MOTION #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to authorize the advertisement of the Joint Crafton/Ingram Planning Commission meeting on February 25, 2020 to discuss a Zoning Ordinance re-write.

Mr. Saba asked if this is in line with the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

Interim Manager McKibben clarified that the meeting is not to discuss a joint comprehensive plan but to discuss an overlay district that could be in place around the Crafton/Ingram Shopping Center.

Council continued discussion regarding the purpose of the Joint Planning Commission Meeting regarding the Zoning Re-Write conversations that were held last year as well as the inclusion of Ingram in future conversations and to create a sense of cooperation between the communities.

*ROLL CALL: Mr. Alo (YES), Mr. Amendola (YES), Mr. Crouse (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Mr. Saba (YES), Mr. Crown (YES),*

**MOTION #6** carries by a Roll Call (7-0).

**MOTION #7:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to approve the work authorizations submitted by Gateway Engineering to allow for GROW Grant submittals to ALCOSAN for four separate sewer separation projects.

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

#### **14. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### ***SUMMER EMPLOYMENT***

**MOTION #8:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Alo*) to authorize the Manager to advertise for the appropriate positions needing to be filled to operate the swimming pool for the season 2020.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that he had reached out to three management companies to obtain a quote to outsource the management of the pool and added that none of the companies returned his call.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comments.

No citizens presented to comment on the motion on the floor.

Mr. Saba urged those interested in seasonal employment to reach out to the Administrative Office.

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

##### ***VACANCIES & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS***

Mr. Alo inquired about an update from the COG regarding the Joint Building Appeals Board.

Solicitor Korbel noted that there has been no update from the Char-West COG.

##### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Levasseur spoke regarding the letters received for the Planning Commission; including, Jessie Ulibarri, the candidate recommended by Planning Commission Members (letter received over a year ago), Eric Valcheff, who is currently serving on the Zoning Hearing Board and is ineligible, and Colton Chandler. Mr. Levasseur also noted that Lydia Herrings terms expires this year.

Ms. Perry asked if Council could consider a policy to reach out to the current Boards and Commissions Members prior to their term expiration to see if they are interested in being re-appointed.

Mr. Saba also noted that those interested in serving or re-appointment should reach out to the office.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Mr. Levasseur noted that there is one vacant seat and one vacant alternate seat available on the Zoning Hearing Board. He added that interested parties should submit letters of interest.

Mr. Saba suggested that any letter of interest should be submitted for the next meeting.

Mr. Crown added that this is something the office can administer as far as notifying members of their expiring terms and getting them re-appointed.

PARK & SHADE TREE

Mr. Levasseur noted that there is one vacancy on the Park & Shade Tree Commission.

RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are four open seats on the Recreation Board.

**MOTION #9:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Perry*) to appoint Colton Chandler to the Planning Commission, term ending April 13, 2021.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comments.

No citizens presented to comment on the motion on the floor.

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

**MOTION #10:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to appoint Marsha Damits to the Recreation Board, term ending December 31, 2021.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comments.

No citizens presented to comment on the motion on the floor.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that the office has not received any official letters of interest.

**MOTION #10** carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). *Mr. Amendola (NO)*

**MOTION #11:** It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to appoint Matthew Megyesy to the Recreation Board, term ending December 31, 2021.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comments.

No citizens presented to comment on the motion on the floor.

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

#### ROAD PROGRAM ENGINEERING

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that he worked with the Manager and President of Council on options for Engineering Services to oversee the 2020 Road Paving Program. He stated that KLH Engineering submitted a proposal that was approximately \$35,000 less than Gateway Engineering had proposed.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that he was impressed with their presentation and communications up to this point and thanked Public Works Director Kaczorowski for his due diligence on this matter.

**MOTION #12:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crown*) to authorize the Manger to accept the Engineer Design Proposal from KLH Engineering for the 2020 Road Program.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comments.

No citizens presented to comment on the motion on the floor.

Mr. Levasseur reminded Council that this was discussed during the 2019 Budget workshops as a possibility to save funds.

Mr. Saba asked if the decision could impact the Borough's relationship with Gateway.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that there will be no impact.

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

#### SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Interim Manager McKibben asked Council to review the sample policy in the meeting packets.

Solicitor Korbel noted that discussion regarding this policy should be held in executive session.

#### SLOT MACHINE NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Solicitor Korbel noted that this ordinance is attempting to push enforcement on to local municipalities and stated that he does not recommend that Crafton move forward. He added that the ordinance is already enforced at the state level.

#### CLEAR GOV SOFTWARE

Interim Manager McKibben stated that the software was purchased last year for approximately \$1700 and added that the annual fee is \$4700. Interim Manager McKibben recommends that Council agree to discontinue the agreement for several reasons, such as, lack of general knowledge of the product in the office, time/availability of the administrative staff to update information, as well as, additional costs charged by the Engineers to provide the documents to be uploaded.

Mr. Crouse asked to clarify if Gateway is posting the project specifications to the website.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that, although Gateway does not upload any information, the documents are always available in the Administrative office for review.

#### FRANKLIN ALLEY WATER ISSUE

Interim Manager McKibben gave a brief description of the ongoing water issue coming out of Franklin Alley and onto Bradford Avenue. Interim Manager McKibben noted that when it freezes over it becomes a hazard to pedestrians and drivers.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski added that although it is a private issue between two property owners, the Borough may need to investigate options to remedy the situation to reduce the liability to the Borough and reduce the hazardous conditions.

Mr. Saba asked if Gateway could be brought in to review the situation and provide a solution.

Mr. Levasseur noted that it may be best for the Borough to take care of the situation.

Interim Manager McKibben noted that they will continue discussions and come back to Council with options for a resolution.

#### W. CRAFTON AVENUE PARKING AT ST. PHILIPS

Mr. Saba inquired if Council could reopen the discussion regarding the Parking concerns on W. Crafton Avenue, also known as Church Hill.

Mr. Amendola stated that this was discussed last year and when voted on, the vote failed to carry.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the discussion can be reopened to allow the new Council Members to make input.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification of what areas would be affected.

Mr. Saba stated that he would like to have a discussion that includes all parties involved including, the Church Administration and Parishioners, Businesses in the area, Council and Borough Residents.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that Council set a time and date, to be advertised, for a Public Hearing where all stakeholders can be invited to join the discussion.

Council continued discussion regarding how to proceed with scheduling the Public Hearing.

Mr. Crown suggested that the Manager put together recommendations for a few dates and times for the next Council Meeting where Council can make an official motion to advertise the Public Hearing.

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Alo inquired about an update on the propose Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

Solicitor Korbel stated that he sent a draft to the President and Vice President of Council.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Manager had a few concerns regarding the ordinance.

Solicitor Korbel suggested that Council schedule an executive session to discuss the draft ordinance provided and move forward with official action at a future meeting.

#### 15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jordan Tax Service will be in the community room on Friday, February 28, 2020 from 9-Noon to collect the trash fee (last day for 2% discount).
- Borough Offices will be closed Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

#### 14. ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

*Greg Wozniak, 1733 Barr Avenue*, inquired if there have been any discussions by the Borough to purchase the School District Property on W. Steuben Street, or to solicit funds or grants to purchase the property.

Mr. Levasseur noted that grants were researched for drainage projects that could be funded through the ALCOSAN grant funding; however, he noted that the School District did not have any interest to move forward in that direction.

Council continued discussion regarding the sale and possible use of the School District Property.

#### 15. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION #13:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Crown*) to adjournment the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary