

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2020

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

President Levasseur announced that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:20 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

President Levasseur recorded seven (7) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola*, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Ms. Perry, Mr. Saba, and himself. Also present were Manager McKibben*, Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Minsterman.

**due to technical issues, Mr. Amendola and Mr. McKibben joined the meeting after the Roll Call was taken.*

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crown*) to approve the Bill List dated July 13, 2020, as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crown*) to approve the Minutes dated June 22, 2020, as presented.

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

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Alo stated that there are no citizen comments at this time.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom thanked the Crafton Police Department for their efforts with assisting a Borough resident who had paid a contractor for services that did not follow through with the agreed upon work. He added that because of the Officers persistence, the resident's money had been returned by the contractor.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman stated that he had nothing to report in addition to the Engineers Report that was submitted to Council prior to the meeting.

Mr. Levasseur inquired about an update on the Johnston Street/N. Emily Street Sewer Repair project.

Engineer Minsterman stated that due to unforeseen circumstances and deterioration of the conditions of the current sewer lines, the project was postponed. He added that this project has taken nearly four years to prepare due to the design and the process of obtaining the proper legal paperwork regarding the easement. Engineer Minsterman noted that it could take some time to redesign and prepare before the project can go forward.

Mr. Crown asked if it was common for structures to be built upon an easement such as this.

Engineer Minsterman stated that it is very uncommon to see permanent structures built on an easement, such as garages in this situation.

9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel stated that he had nothing additional to report.

Solicitor Korbel reminded Council that they will need to hold a public hearing and open the floor to comments prior to voting on the 5G Wireless ordinance amendment.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur spoke regarding the recent storms in the area noting that a house on Steuben Street had some damage from a private tree. He stated that Council continues to work with the Shade Tree Commission to maintain the trees around the Borough and to help mitigate hazardous situations.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager McKibben reported that the Green Light Go Traffic Signal replacement project and the South Grandview Sewer projects are both underway.

Manager McKibben announced that Crafton Borough may be eligible for up to \$125,000.00 in grant funds through FEMA and PEMA and stated that he will share more details as they are received.

Manager McKibben also noted that the 2020 Road Program is scheduled to begin next week.

12. BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Alo/Saba*) to adopt Ordinance 1663 amending Chapter 225 of the Crafton Code of Ordinances – Zoning, to regulate wireless

communication facilities located outside the public right-of-way and wireless communication facilities taller than 50 feet.

Solicitor Korbel noted that this is one of two ordinances, of which the first was passed back in May, and included a resolution previously passed. He added that the ordinances have been sent to Allegheny County and noted that there has been no response yet.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for comment and initiated the Public Hearing.

Manager McKibben noted that there is no fee schedule for these ordinances and added that he will continue to work with the Solicitor to prepare a schedule of fees in a timely manner.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that Manager McKibben reach out to municipalities in New Jersey where Verizon's main offices are located.

Mr. Saba spoke to clarify that these ordinances will give the Borough more oversight which will be a benefit to local businesses and residents.

Mr. Levasseur closed the floor for comment and ended the Public Hearing.

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

MOTION #4: was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to engage the services of Strategic Solutions LLC to help draft and submit an application for the Crafton and Ingram Planning Commissions to the Department of Community and Economic Developments "Municipal Assistance Program" at a cost not to exceed \$3500.00 and to be split by each Borough.

Mr. Levasseur stated that the Crafton Planning Commission and the Ingram Planning Commission has interviewed and recommended Strategic Solutions, LLC to complete and submit the D.C.E.D. grant application.

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

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Crown*) to terminate the employment of Public Works Superintendent Robert Kaczorowski effective July 13, 2020.

Solicitor Korbel noted that comments are allowed apart from matters that must be discussed in executive session.

MOTION #5 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1). Amendola* (NO)

**Mr. Amendola requested that his NO vote be recorded in the minutes.*

13. DISCUSSION ITEMS

LED LIGHT CONVERSION PROGRAM

Mr. Levasseur announced that Crafton is working with Duquesne Light on a program to upgrade the standard street lighting to LED Street Lights and noted that these upgrades would take place around the main corridors and the walking trails. He stated that the cost to upgrade one hundred lights would cost roughly \$11,000.00. Mr. Levasseur added that the cost savings over the years would be worth the investment.

Mr. Levasseur also reminded all residents to continue to contact Duquesne Light for power outages and emergencies.

Mr. Saba inquired about the timeline for the project.

Manager McKibben noted that the applications are due September 1st and added that the timeline for implementation is uncertain, he expects the project would start before the end of the year.

Mr. Alo inquired about liability to the Borough regarding providing the municipal standard for lighting upgrades.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the Borough must ensure that the new lighting is at least as bright or brighter than the previous lighting and noted that it is an opportunity to make the intersections safer.

TREE/SIDEWALK DAMAGE

Manager McKibben gave a brief update on the tree inventory progress and noted that there are several sidewalks around the Borough that have damage from both, healthy shade trees and shade trees that have already been removed. Manager McKibben asked for Council's guidance regarding the responsibility of repairing the damaged sidewalks.

Mr. Levasseur noted that for many years the Shade Tree Commission did not allow homeowners to properly maintain or repair the Borough's shade trees which caused most of the sidewalk damage. He stated that the Borough should be responsible for damages to the sidewalks when it is caused by the growth or removal of a Borough shade tree.

Mr. Crouse agreed with Mr. Levasseur, that the shade tree damage to the sidewalks is the responsibility of the Borough.

Mr. Levasseur directed the Solicitor and the Manager to work together on the Tree ordinance to clarify who is responsible for damages from Borough planted shade trees.

Ms. Perry inquired if the Borough has a list of sidewalks that have damage from shade trees that are healthy and do not need removed.

Manager McKibben noted that no such list exists.

Council continued discussion regarding the specific locations where sidewalks have been damaged, the possibility of having an intern brought in to compile a list of damaged sidewalks, and the need to schedule a meeting with the Shade Tree Commission to discuss these items.

14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Borough parks are open and shelters available for Crafton residents to rent. The Borough strongly advises that social distancing should be maintained, and all rules and regulations set forth by either the Commonwealth or the County be followed. 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.
- The Crafton Library will continue with limited hours for curbside-only service beginning June 15th. Please visit their website for further details.
- Crafton Borough will be having its annual fireworks display on Sunday, September 6, 2020 @ 8:15 PM
- There will be a Crafton / Ingram Blood Drive & Antibody Testing at the Craftonian Hall (next to Schepner-McDermott Funeral Home) on Wednesday, July 29th from Noon until 6 PM. Appointments are strongly recommended and can be made by calling 412-209-7000.
- The Crafton Ingram Rotary is sponsoring two fund raisers to help the numerous charities they support. “Llama Plop” tickets are \$20.00 with the winner receiving \$1000.00. They also are sponsoring a Rib / BBQ Pulled Pork sale. Raffle tickets and food orders can be purchased on their website or by calling 412-595-1026.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary