

Borough of Crafton
Monday, June 22, 2020.

(Meeting was held via Zoom Communications Webinar)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday, June 22, 2020 at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager McKibben recorded seven (7) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Alo, Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Ms. Perry and Mr. Saba. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel and Public Works Director Kaczorowski. Absent was Engineer Minsterman.

4. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated June 22, 2020, as presented.

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Saba*) to approve the Meeting Minutes dated June 8, 2020, as presented.

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

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

Susan O'Connell, Creighton Avenue, inquired about Resolution 2020-09 and asked for clarification on the resolution and detail on the projects that could be pursued from a General Obligation Note.

David Lesondak, 10 Baldwick Road, also asked for clarification on Resolution 2020-09 and the projects and funding Council intends to seek. He noted a lack of transparency from Council on this matter.

AJ Pescuric, 75 Bradford Avenue, also spoke regarding the projects Council intends to undertake through the passing of Resolution 2020-09.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Resolution will be discussed in detail by Manager McKibben and stated that residents will have an opportunity to comment later in the meeting.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for May 2020: Financial Report, Act 511, Trash Collection, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, EMS Report, Building Inspection Report, and Public Works Report.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Levasseur thanked and acknowledged the Police Department and the Public Works department for their cooperation and support during the continued pandemic. He announced that all Parks are open for public use. He also stated that the pool will be closed for the season for renovations. Mr. Levasseur thanked the community and residents for their understanding. He also noted, in response to the Citizen Comments, that Resolution 2020-09 is an administrative procedure to allow Council to further explore capital projects and funding.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom announced that the body cameras have been purchased by the Chief of Police and noted that there is a ninety-day backorder. He added that all Officers will undergo training prior to the implementation of the equipment.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman was not in attendance.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel did not have anything to report on this evening.

12. MANAGERS REPORT

Manager McKibben gave a brief update on the various construction projects going on within the Borough as follows; the work schedule for the 2020 Road Program should be back by end of the week, the Pool/Park Grant bids are due in two weeks, the Contractor for the Johnston Street/N. Emily Street Sewer project has begun the staging process and will take approximate two to three weeks to complete, the same contractor will be completing the S. Grandview Avenue sewer work and is expected to begin immediately following the Johnston Street project. Manager McKibben added that the Green Light Go project is on hold due to the poles being on back order at this time.

Manager McKibben stated that he will discuss Resolution 2020-09 when it comes up during the Business Agenda.

Mr. Amendola inquired about returning to normal in person meetings in the Borough's Council Chambers.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that due to the extension of the Governor's Emergency Declaration, Council will be allowed to continue telecommuting for meetings, most likely into September, to help adhere to CDC guidelines and to limit large indoor gatherings.

13. BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to accept the high bid of \$162,000 from the Scotts Run/Cassville VFD (located in West Virginia) for the 2006 KME Predator Rescue Pumper.

Mr. Saba noted that this amount is higher than expected.

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

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Perry*) to advertise the bid specifications for new 23 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, 1 Rapid Intervention Team SCBA Pack, Face Pieces, batteries, battery packs, and air cylinders in accordance with NFPA 1981 recommendations. Bid packets will be available in the Borough Offices during normal business hours. All bids must be received at the Borough Office by 4:00 PM on July 10, 2020. Bid opening will be on July 15, 2020 at 9:00 AM at the Fire Department.

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

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to appoint Mr. Greg Laepple as the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Crafton Borough.

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

MOTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Alo*) to appoint Ms. Janice Everly, 305 Clearview Avenue, to the Crafton Zoning Hearing Board for the Vacancy expiring December 21, 2022.

Ms. Perry inquired if there was information available about the candidates and noted that no letters of interest were uploaded to the Share Drive.

Mr. Amendola asked if these vacancies were advertised or if letters of interested were received. He also noted that there was no information available prior to the meeting regarding appointment of new candidates.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the letters are available and will be added to the Drive. Additionally, He gave a brief background of both candidates and their qualifications and residency status.

Mr. Crouse noted that there is a lack of available, interested, qualified candidates willing to volunteer for these positions.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification on the requirements for members of the Zoning Hearing Board.

Solicitor Korbel stated that there are no requirements for the Zoning Board members, only the Building Appeals Board has specific requirements.

MOTION #6: carries by a Voice Vote (6-0-1). *Mr. Amendola Abstained.*

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crown*) to appoint Mr. Gregory Takac as an Alternate to the Crafton Zoning Hearing Board for the Vacancy expiring December 21, 2021.

MOTION #7: carries by a Voice Vote (6-0-1). *Mr. Amendola Abstained.*

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to appoint Ms. Jacquelyn Levasseur as the Crafton Borough Webmaster.

Mr. Crouse asked who the current webmaster is.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Ms. Perry has been assisting with the website along with administrative staff.

Mr. Amendola asked if the position has been advertised or if there have been letters of interest received. He inquired if this would be a paid position.

Mr. Saba noted that Ms. Levasseur has a master's degree in web development and stated that this could be discussed as a paid position during the 2021 budget season.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Ms. Levasseur assisted Ms. Perry with the development of the current website. He added that Ms. Levasseur holds a master's degree from Duquesne University in multi-media arts and web development, as well as an undergraduate degree from Texas University in Media Communications. Mr. Levasseur added that Ms. Levasseur intends to work on the website in her spare time at no cost to the Borough, which will free up time for the administrative staff.

Ms. Perry expressed her concern, noting that this position should not be held on a voluntary basis and should be a paid position.

Council continued discussion regarding the compensation and status of the position, as well as who should be responsible for updating the website.

Solicitor Korbel noted that he has seen several different variations of how municipalities handle the compensation of this position.

MOTION #8: carries by a Voice Vote (5-2). *Mr. Amendola – NO, Ms. Perry – NO.*

MOTION #9: It was moved and seconded (*Saba/Crouse*) to authorize payment of \$7,885.00 for Pay Application Request #3 from Roto-Rooter Services Company as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

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

MOTION #10: It was moved and seconded (Crouse/Saba) to adopt Resolution 2020-09 stating the Borough intends to reimburse any General Funds used to construct capital projects with proceeds from the General Obligation Debt.

Manager McKibben noted that Resolution 2020-09 is only a housekeeping item for if, or when, the Borough intends to explore borrowing funds. He added that this resolution ensures that any project expenditures will be repaid by any General Obligation Debt back to the General Fund. Manager McKibben also noted that the amount is an overstatement to encompass all the possible projects that could be explored.

Mr. Levasseur read the Resolution in its entirety.

Ms. Perry expressed her concerns with the affirmative wording stating that that the resolutions reads that the Borough had “determined” to undertake a capital improvement program and notes that it also reads that the Borough “intends to pay” the General Fund. She inquired if the wording could be adjusted. Ms. Perry also asked for clarification on the intended projects noting that there has been no discussion previously and she is concerned about possible backlash from the community.

Mr. Amendola also noted concerns with the language outlined in the Resolution and noted that this was the first time seeing or hearing any information regarding this Resolution. Mr. Amendola and expressed his displeasure with the expectation to vote with little information or time to discuss.

Solicitor Korbel noted that the language must be written in this manner to ensure eligibility for bond issuance, grant funding and taxability.

Mr. Crown spoke to clarify the purpose of the resolution and stated that if Council were to proceed with intentions to obtain a general obligation note Council would need to pass an additional ordinance.

Mr. Saba noted that the number is just a precaution and added that there will be time for community input as well as recommendations from the Recreation Board.

Mr. Crouse noted that there are several recommendations in the Crafton Ingram Thrive Comprehensive Plan that would be taken into consideration moving forward and added there will be time for community input and further discussion.

Council continued discussion on the parameters of the resolution, determining what capital projects could be funded and the best practices going forward.

Mayor Bloom requested a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Alo – YES, Mr. Amendola – NO, Mr. Crouse – YES, Mr. Crown – YES, Ms. Perry – NO, Mr. Levasseur – YES, Mr. Saba, YES.*

MOTION #10: carries by a Roll Call Vote (5-2).

14. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Saba announced that the community has organized a Pride Parade and noted that organizers have been working with the Police Department and Fire Department and asked for Council for support by participation. He also noted that the Parade will be a vehicle parade and welcomed residents to support them along the parade route and to follow proper CDC guidelines.

15. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Community Center will remain closed until further notice and all activities and bookings cancelled indefinitely. 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 first annual Crafton Pride Parade will be held this Saturday with parade vehicles leaving Crafton Park at Noon and traveling many of the main roadways in the Borough and concluding at the Circle Inn Bar and Restaurant.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

AJ Pescuric, 75 Bradford Avenue, stated that she hoped to hear more information about the projects that could be included in the capital improvements. She added that she is looking forward to moving onto the next step. Ms. Pescuric also stated her appreciation of the support from the Borough Departments regarding the Pride Parade and noted that she will be participating. Ms. Pescuric also asked Council to address the community regarding the racial and social unrest going on in the Country. She asked what can be done for community outreach and support.

Mr. Crouse expressed his agreement with Ms. Pescuric and suggested that a discussion be scheduled for the next meeting to allow Council to have a lengthy conversation on these topics.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary