

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, April 22, 2021.

(Meeting was held via Zoom Communications Webinar)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Levasseur.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded seven (7) members of Council, present as follows: Mr. Amendola*, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Crown, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. Oliverio and Ms. Perry. Also present were Mayor Bloom and Solicitor Korbel. **Mr. Amendola was in attendance, due to technical difficulties he joined the meeting following the Managers Report.*

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Chandler*) to approve the April 22, 2021, Consent Agenda (Including the Meeting Minutes dated March 25, 2021, and the Bill List dated April 22, 2021).

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

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the following written reports for March 2021. Treasurer's Report (January & February), Financial Report, Act 511, Trash and Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, EMS Report, Code Enforcement Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report and Library Report.

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

Roslyn Maholland, 36 Union Avenue, spoke regarding the concerns regarding Union Avenue and thanked Council for bringing the issue before the public.

7. PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTAION – ECO DISTRICTS

Kirsten Compitello, Crafton Planning Commission Chair, gave a brief introduction of EcoDistricts and noted that Millvale, Sharpsburg, and Etna communities have paved the way for other surrounding areas to open these discussions. She noted that EcoDistricts inspire interactions between communities as well as community engagement focusing on Equality, Resilience, and Climate Protection. Ms. Compitello extended the invitation to attend the Workshop Webinar on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

8. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Levasseur spoke regarding the motions on the agenda. Mr. Levasseur announced that the Annual Community Clean Up Day is this Saturday. He added that there is also an ongoing community cleanup, led by Ms. Luxbacher and sponsored by the Great American Cleanup.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom opened the discussion regarding the property at 40 Union Avenue and spoke regarding the shooting incidents and other criminal activity that has occurred at the residence and the status of the legal charges pending. He added that a petition was received by the surrounding residents and is requesting an update from the Chief of Police tonight who is in attendance.

Chief of Police, Mark Sumpter, assured Council and the Residents of Crafton, specifically the Union Avenue Residents, that the Police Department continues to exhaust all law enforcement efforts regarding the recent activity at 40 Union Avenue and added that the Police Department will continue to do so during the COVID shutdown of these types of hearings within the Allegheny County Court System.

Ms. Perry noted that the District Magistrate stated that these hearings will be scheduled as a priority when the Courts open back up.

Mr. Crouse asked the Solicitor what the Borough can initiate outside of law enforcement and how can this case move forward once the Courts do open.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Crafton Borough is already doing everything he has advised to attempt to mitigate this situation. He added that if/when the tenants are evicted through the Court the Borough will have several avenues to enforce this decision.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman was not in attendance.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel had nothing to report.

12. MANAGERS REPORT

Interim Manager Sample reported that 1528 Barr Avenue has been demolished and the final walk through was completed on Friday. He gave an update on the Demolition Grant discussion from the previous meeting and stated that the Structural Engineers did a walkthrough of the property at 64 S. Grandview and found several deficiencies with the foundation and the roof and added that with the property demolition at 11 Fountain Street, it would bring the project cost to \$155,000 with a 15% match by the Borough of Crafton.

Interim Manager Sample noted that the Borough Building façade grant will be going to bid soon. He also noted that there is a pre-bid meeting scheduled for the Woodlawn/Fountain Sewer Separation Project on April 28, 2021, with a scheduled bid opening on May 19, 2021.

(Mr. Amendola entered the Zoom Meeting at 7:30 PM.)

13. BUSINESS AGENDA

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Crown*) to hire Heather Ravenstahl for the position of Pool Manager for the 2021 Pool Season at a rate of \$10,000.00/season.

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

Council discussed the qualifications of the Pool Manager as well as the budgeted salary.

Mr. Levasseur announced that Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters, no action was taken.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Crown/Perry*) to advertise the position of full time Building and Code Inspector for the Borough of Crafton.

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

Mr. Levasseur noted that the annual Salt Contract will continue under the same terms and conditions, with only the price subject to an adjustment. That price may be adjusted by the CPI prevailing on April 20, 2021. Current price is currently \$78.82 per ton and the CPI is 1.4%, which would increase the price to \$79.92 per ton.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crown*) to exercise the Second Option Year of the Rock Salt Contract between Crafton Borough and Cargill, Inc.

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

14. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Borough Administrative Office is now open to the public. Administrative Staff is available during normal business hours (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM) to address all Borough business. Residents wishing to conduct business in person are asked to come to the door adjacent to the parking lot at the rear of the building please press the intercom/ buzzer and the staff will assist you. No one will be granted access into the building without a proper mask. In addition, there is a drop-box in the rear of the building for any written correspondence. Administrative Staff can be reached by phone at (412) 921-0752 x 10. Non-Emergency Police Matters can be directed to the Police Secretary at (412) 921-2016.

- Crafton Pool will operate daily starting on Saturday, June 12th to August 22nd, August 28th and 29th, and September 4th to 6th. Daily Hours will be Monday thru Saturday 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM till 6:00 PM. All CDC, State, and County guidelines will be followed.
- Extension of Local Income Tax Deadline has been extended to May 17th, 2021.
- Crafton Community Clean Up will be held April 24th, 2021, at Crafton Park from 9AM to 12PM. Items being collected include the following: building materials, bulk items, household clutter, yard debris, and small appliances. Items not being collected are tires/rims, auto-parts, refrigerators/AC units, paint, and electronic waste.
- Be a Good Neighbor and adopt a street, alley, park, trail, or wooded area in Crafton and clean up the trash. The Community Clean Up Event will run from April 16th through April 30th. Supplies will be available, while they last, in rear of the Borough Building in the designated bin or you may use your own. Please wear gloves and be careful and alert. When completed please deposit all trash in the designated bins or leave in a garbage bag along the curb to be picked up by the Crafton Public Works. Students, who have a service hour form that needs signed can contact the Administrative Office at [\(412\) 921-0752](tel:4129210752) x et 10.

Mr. Amendola noted that the Zoom Meetings have been a challenge for him and asked Council if they would consider returning to in-person meetings. He added that several Boroughs have returned to in-person meetings.

Mr. Levasseur noted that, although He, the Vice President, and the Manager are working on technology solutions geared toward moving the meetings back to in-person, he would expect the Zoom meetings to remain for at least a couple of months.

Council continued discussion on moving back to in-person meetings, rate of vaccinations and timeline to immunity, how other Boroughs are accommodating in-person meetings, and the possibility of holding hybrid meetings.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Hilary Bright, 25 S. Emily Street, spoke in favor of finding a hybrid model for the Council Meetings to allow for in-person attendance as well as those who would like to attend electronically.

Justin Marks, 165 Promenade Street, also spoke in favor of a hybrid model for future meetings.

Mary Luxbacher, 71 Dinsmore Avenue, expressed her concerns surrounding the 40 Union Avenue incidents stating that this property abuts the Noble Avenue Park where children play.

Roslyn Maholland, 36 Union Avenue, again spoke regarding 40 Union Avenue and the growing safety concerns for herself and her neighbors, as well as, the lack of concern by the Property Owner.

Police Chief Sumpter stated that the Magistrate has scheduled a hearing with the property owner and noted that any residents who would like to attend should contact him at (412) 921-2016 to be added to the list.

Greg Wozniak, 1773 Barr Avenue, asked about the timeline of the Crafton Boulevard Sewer Separation Project and how traffic will be routed for the construction.

Mr. Levasseur noted that there is a pre-construction meeting scheduled for next week and added that the construction details and adjusted traffic routes will be discussed and communicated with residents.

Elaine Devlin, 88 S. Grandview Avenue, stated that she has had difficulties attending the Zoom meetings and spoke in favor of returning to in-person meetings. She also stated that she is happy to see that the nuisance property at 64 S. Grandview Avenue is being addressed after 10+ years.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary