

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Monday October 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Monday October 8, 2018 at 7:15 PM. The flag salute was led by Mr. Rosario.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Susko included seven (7) members of council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur. Also present were Solicitor Korbel, Mayor Bloom and Public Works Director Kaczorowski.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to approve the Bill List dated October 8, 2018.

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

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Damits*) to approve the Minutes dated September 24, 2018, as presented.

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

Engineer Minsterman spoke regarding the new curbs on Perrine Street and resident concerns about the flow of storm water runoff. Engineer Minsterman stated that a solution is pending and will be included on the punch-list for the Contractor. Engineer Minsterman noted that the inlets are part of a much larger project to remove storm water.

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

Brian Widmer, 448 Maxwell Street, inquired about an update on the trees in the paper street near Maxwell. Mr. Widmer also noted that the downspouts from the LOBOS Apartments are directing water onto his property.

Manager Susko noted that there is an ordinance for approval on the agenda for tonight's meeting amending, Ch. 131: Health Hazards and Nuisances, and Ch. 208: Trees. Manager Susko noted that the new amendments outline a procedure allowing nuisance trees to be enforceable by the code and therefore by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Gordon Smith, 95 Broadhead Avenue, asked for clarification of the ordinance definitions pertaining to the Health Hazards & Nuisances Chapter. Mr. Smith also asked what the enforcement process is when dealing with Vacant Properties.

Manager Susko noted that the new amendments will allow the Borough to remove a nuisance tree from abandoned or vacant properties and lien the property owners if they do not respond to notices and violations from the Code Enforcement Officer.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom asked Public Works Director Kaczorowski about the status of Hawthorne Avenue.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that Hawthorne Avenue will be milled and paved upon completion of the gas line work.

Mayor Bloom inquired if the Solicitor reviewed the Crafton Boulevard speed limit traffic studies.

Solicitor Korbel noted that he had not received any documents to review.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel spoke regarding the Stormwater Management memorandum provided to Council prior to the meeting. Solicitor Korbel added that a draft ordinance, noting any discretion, will be ready for review for the next Council meeting.

BUSINESS AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

Manager Susko noted that Crafton will be registered as a member of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Manager Susko stated that this membership will provide useful benefits to Crafton Borough, adding that the membership dues are waived for the first year, fifty percent for the second year and full price for the third year.

Manager Susko announced that our summer intern, Chris Bell, will be back working in Crafton through the 2018-2019 academic year working on the Borough's G.I.S.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Perry*) to set the 2019 Annual Budget workshop meetings for a date in October and a date in November at 6:30 PM.

Manager Susko noted that it is best to hold the workshops separate from the regular Council Meeting dates.

MOTION AMENDED: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Perry*) to set the 2019 Annual Budget workshop meetings for October 24, 2018 and November 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

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

Manager Susko noted that if any Council Members have any questions or wish to review budget documents they can contact her by phone or e-mail.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to approve Resolution No. 2018-13 authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the Grant Agreement and all future grant-related documents necessary in the administration of the 2017 Green Light-Go Program awards.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to concur with SHACOG to award Jet Jack, Inc the SHACOG Joint Municipal Sanitary Sewer Project – Year 12 – Contract B, with Crafton’s share of the project at \$108,175.00, as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Glaser*) to accept the Grow Cycle 3 grant for the Fountain-Sycamore Sewer Separation Project, valued at \$94,053 which is 85% of the total project cost.

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

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that this project will separate rain water runoff from the combined system in the Fountain Street/Sycamore Avenue area of the Borough and direct the stormwater into Chartiers Creek.

PLANNING & ZONING

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Crouse*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1649 amending Chapter 131, Health Hazards and Nuisances, and Chapter 208, Trees, regarding the regulation of nuisance trees located on private property.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Damits*) to approve Resolution No. 2018-14 agreeing that the Side Yard Program application for parcel 68-H-341 is in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

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

DISCUSSION

Mr. Rosario asked if any members of Council would be interested in helping with the Allegheny Green Web project.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that Gateway applied for a dirt and gravel road maintenance grant on behalf of Crafton adding that, if awarded, Crafton could get assistance with drainage and paving of Ewing Road.

Mr. Amendola expressed the need to hire another Police Officer.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Glaser*) to authorize the Police Chief and Mayor to conduct background checks and hire a Police Officer.

Ms. Perry questioned if the motion on the floor should be split into two separate motions.

Mayor Bloom added that the hiring of a new officer will be discussed during the budgeting workshops for 2019; however, agreed with the idea of starting the background check process.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Police Contract expires next year.

MOTION AMENDED: It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Glaser*) to direct the Crafton Civil Service Commission to begin the background check process for the police eligibility list.

Mr. Levasseur opened the discussion for citizens comments regarding the motion on the floor.

Dennis Henk, 14 Ingram Avenue, questioned the need for an additional officer.

Mayor Bloom noted that the motion is to begin the background check process.

Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street, spoke in favor of beginning the process of the hiring of an additional officer.

Gordon Smith, 95 Broadhead Avenue, asked about the cost of adding an additional police officer.

Ms. Perry noted that the cost for the first year is approximately \$100,000.00, including benefits.

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

Ms. Perry noted that a letter had been received by a resident in regards to the overpopulation of deer in the area. Ms. Perry added that there had been several complaints made by other residents as well.

Ms. Damits also added that the raccoon and squirrel population has also become a nuisance within the Borough.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council can discuss and look into possible solutions.

Mr. Levasseur also took the time to thank Public Works Director Kaczorowski for his time and dedication during the transition and hiring of the new Borough Manager.

Ms. Damits inquired about the status of the paving on N. Linwood Avenue.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that he met with the contractor regarding concerns with the work that has yet to be completed and noted that the Engineer will mitigate and ensure that the work and all punch-list items are completed.

Mr. Levasseur noted that 1508 Barr Avenue demolition has been completed and neighbors are pleased with the outcome.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ***Recreation Board appointments***
 - Letters of interest to serve on the Recreation Board are being accepted through October 12.
 - Residents can submit a letter of interest at the Borough office directly or via mail sent ATTN: Borough Manager or attached as a PDF to rsusko@craftonborough.com.
- ***Crafton Elves – Community Funding Drive***
 - Crafton Elves are taking donations to help upgrade the holiday lights to LED Lights.
 - Donations will be taken at the Borough administrative office on behalf of the Crafton Elves
- ***Haunted Borough Hall***
 - October 31, 2018: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (During Trick-or-Treat hours)

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dennis Henk, 14 Ingram Avenue, noted that the sidewalks on West Steuben Street near the corner of West Crafton Avenue need to be repaired. Mr. Henk also noted that the downspouts are directing water onto his property from the LOBOS Apartments. Mr. Henk also spoke in regards to the debris that runs down along Ingram Avenue, adding that, when it rains the debris backs up the drains in his driveway, causing flooding on his property. Lastly, Mr. Henk thanked Public Works Director Kaczorowski and Council for working together to get the garbage at the Lobos Properties cleaned up.

Ms. Damits noted that Idlewood Busway underpass flooded again last week.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that a letter be sent to the City of Pittsburgh from himself and the Mayor asking for an intergovernmental agreement for aid and storm response.

Mr. Levasseur also reminds residents that the new Stormwater Management Ordinance will address many nuisance drain issues, that are currently a private matter between neighbors, allowing complaints to be resolved through the Code Enforcement Office.

Roy Niemann, 102 Haldane Street, inquired about the cost of the Police background checks. Mr. Niemann also requested Council consider making the intersection of McMunn Avenue and Haldane Street a four-way stop.

Gordon Smith, 95 Broadhead Avenue, spoke in regards to several issues regarding Rebecca Street. Mr. Smith first noted that the street light at the bottom of Rebecca Street is out adding that

it has been reported several times. Mr. Smith also noted that the No Parking signs need to be repaired and/or repositioned. Additionally, Mr. Smith expressed concern regarding vehicles that continue to travel the wrong way on Rebecca Street.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the street light in question could possibly be added to the 2019 LED conversion plan.

Mr. Levasseur announced that there will be an executive session regarding Real Estate held following adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Administrative Assistant