

Borough of Crafton
Council Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2023

(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Oliverio called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Interim Manager Sample recorded six (6) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Compitello, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbelt and Engineer Minsterman.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Bollenbacher*) to approve the January 12, 2023, Consent Agenda (including the Meeting Minutes dated December 8, 2022, the Ratified Bill List Dated December 31, 2022, and the Bill List dated January 12, 2023).

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens signed up to speak on agenda items.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Oliverio spoke regarding the ongoing process of hiring a new Borough Manager and noted that with the assistance of The Bradley Partnerships, Mr. James Price was chosen out of ten potential candidates and gave a brief background of his qualifications.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Compitello*) to hire James T. Price as Borough Manager to commence on January 23, 2023, and to authorize the President of Council to execute the Memorandum of Employment which outlines the terms and conditions of Mr. Price's employment.

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

Mr. Price thanked the board for the opportunity.

Mr. Oliverio also thanked Mr. Sample for his support and for serving as the Borough's Interim Manager. He added that Mr. Sample will return to his previous position as the Assistant Manager.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry had nothing to report on.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman had nothing besides the written report submitted to Council.

9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

PA FIREWORKS ORDINANCE & UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ORDINANCE

Solicitor Korbel stated that both ordinances have been advertised and will be up for consideration at the next Council Meeting

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an executive session on January 3, 2023, to discuss personnel matters and added that there will be an executive session following the meeting to also discuss personnel matters.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Sample had nothing in addition to his written report submitted to Council.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Perry noted that she only had one item for consideration, ratifying payment of the 2021/2022 Real Estate and Road Tax Refunds.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Bollenbacher*) to ratify payment of the 2021/2022 Real Estate and Road Tax Refunds in the amount of \$1,475.73 as presented and submitted by Jordan Tax Service, Inc.

MOTION #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MULTI MUNICIPAL ZONING PROJECT

Ms. Compitello noted that there is no update but added that there will be public engagement events forthcoming.

Ms. Compitello announced that the Planning Commission will attend the event at the Fig Tree Café on Crafton Boulevard on Saturday, January 14, 2023, beginning at 10:00 AM. She noted that there will be resources available for review and a member that can answer any questions.

BRADFORD AVENUE STOP SIGN

Ms. Compitello stated that the installation for this stop sign will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. She added that there will be a SavvyCitizen notice pushed to alert the residents.

GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Compitello announced that Crafton Borough was awarded a community project funding grant for just over nine-hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars with the assistance of Coner Lamb. She added that these funds will go toward the Broadhead Sewer Separation project.

MASTER PARKS PLAN ORDINANCE

Ms. Compitello stated that the Master Parks Plan was submitted to the state over a year ago and has been under review. She added that Council expects the plan to be returned and the ordinance will be up for consideration at the February 9, 2023, meeting.

COMMUNICATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mr. Marks stated that he has no report for this evening and noted that the committee meets next week.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Mr. Chandler noted that his committee will also be at the Fig Tree Café event on Saturday and will be available to discuss these positions with the public.

Mr. Chandler noted that there are still open vacancies and stated that the application is available on the borough's website, www.craftonborough.com/commissions.

1. Civil Service (Alternate)
2. Library Board
3. Zoning Hearing Board
4. Zoning Hearing Board (Alternate)
5. 2023 Upcoming
 - a. Civil Service Alternate (2/1/23)
 - b. Planning (4/13/23)
 - c. Shade Tree (3/31/23)
 - d. Recreation Board (12/31/23)
 - e. Recreation Board (12/31/23)
 - f. Recreation Board (12/31/23)

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Mr. Ridilla had nothing to report.

12. COUNCIL VACANCY

Mr. Oliverio stated that there are several candidates in attendance to present to Council for appointment to the vacant seat created by Mr. Levasseur's resignation.

INTERVIEWS

Nathan Henry, 245 W. Steuben Street, thanked Council for the opportunity to present to them. He stated that, in addition to his comments at the previous meeting, he is a current student at Chatham University where he is a member of the Chatham Women's Entrepreneurship Center. Mr. Henry stated that he would love to bring these ideas to Crafton Borough.

Question & Answer

Mr. Henry responded to various questions from the Council Members, including;

Issues not been addressed by the current (new) Council – Mr. Henry stated that with his youthful age he could bring a new fresh look to Council.

Women's Entrepreneurship in Crafton – Mr. Henry stated he would be looking into funding and considered spearheading a committee.

Three priorities while on Council – Mr. Henry stated that he is passionate about improving recreation areas, seeking additional funding, and improving and sustaining a safe community.

Pamela Pulkownik, 31 Division Street, apologized for missing the previous meeting. She stated that she grew up in Southwestern Pennsylvania, she attended Cal-U (University of California), spent time working in Washington D.C. and is a 10-year resident of Crafton. Ms. Pulkownik noted that she is currently working in the marketing field and working from home allows her to enjoy the amenities.

Question & Answer

Ms. Pulkownik responded to various questions from the Council Members, including;

Three priorities while on Council – Ms. Pulkownik would like to see improvements in public awareness and attendance, amping up the parks and walking trails, and revitalizing the business district and bringing a main street feel to Crafton.

Areas where Council could improve – Ms. Pulkownik stated that she is unaware of areas where Council is lacking and reiterated her priorities while on Council.

Participation in the Community – Ms. Pulkownik stated that COVID pushed her to move more toward volunteering and she attended the most recent Recreation Board meeting at the park.

Skills to bring to Council – Ms. Pulkownik noted that one of her skills that could assist while on Council would be her ability to troubleshoot situations or her ability to pivot and change directions when something does not go as planned.

Council Role as opposed to Recreation Board – Ms. Pulkownik noted that the Recreation Board is more of a liaison position rather than a decision-making position.

What would you like to bring to Crafton – Ms. Pulkownik stated she would like to see more participation with businesses as well as bringing back the house/walking tours.

Brad Crouse, 40 Belvidere Street, gave a summary of his comments at the previous meeting. Mr. Crouse stated that he previously served on Council for four years where he worked directly with State and Local officials, Council of Governments, Zoning Consultants, Gateway Engineers, and the School District. Additionally, he assisted with the hiring of the previous two Borough Managers, the purchase of three new trucks, progression of the Crafton Boulevard Separation project, and the groundbreaking on the Public Works Facility Building. Mr. Crouse noted that he understands the importance of working collaboratively and driving the Council narrative, such as the infrastructure goals.

Question & Answer

Mr. Crouse responded to various questions from the Council Members, including;

Three priorities while on Council – Mr. Crouse noted his top three priorities would include working with local partners regarding potential consolidation, increase utilization of the shopping plaza and building businesses and development, and to continue the current infrastructure projects, specifically extending the Crafton Boulevard project.

Skills to bring to Council/Why return – Mr. Crouse stated that serving on Council is a volunteer position. He stated that he has communication skills and understanding of how government is run and how it takes time for these ideas to be put in stone. Mr. Crouse noted that he would like to be appointed so he can help push and see the current Council's vision continue.

Mr. Oliverio announced that Council will now select a candidate by Roll Call Vote where each Council Member will state the last name of their candidate.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Marks – CROUSE

Mr. Ridilla – PULKOWNIK

Ms. Bollenbacher – PULKOWNIK

Mr. Chandler – PULKOWNIK

Ms. Compitello – CROUSE

Mr. Oliverio – PULKOWNIK

Interim Manager Sample noted that Ms. Pulkownik received the majority with four votes.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Chandler*) to adopt Resolution 2023-001 appointing Pamela Pulkownik to Crafton Borough Council to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Phillip Levasseur, which expires on December 31, 2023.

MOTION #4 carries by a Voice Vote (5-1). *Marks (NO)*

Ms. Compitello thanked all the candidates for their attendance and time. She encouraged those who were not chosen to seek opens seats on the various boards and commissions.

13. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, January 26th, 2023, at 7:15 PM

b. **Crafton Community Information Fair** – Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 10 AM – 2 PM @ Fig Tree Coffee (1931 Crafton Blvd) – Open House format. Learn about borough resources, local businesses, spend time with neighbors and enjoy complimentary refreshments. Open to all residents. Attendees include council members, Crafton Library, VFD, Area Agency on Aging, Boy Scouts, and more.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no citizens requesting to speak on any other items.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary