

Borough of Crafton  
Thursday, November 14, 2024

*(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ](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, November 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

## **2. FLAG SALUTE**

Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. ROLL CALL**

Manager Price recorded seven (7) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Compitello, Mr. Hough, Mr. Oliverio, Ms. Pulkownik, and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Keenan.

## **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda for November 14, 2024, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2024
2. Bill List – November 14, 2024

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Hough*) to approve the November 14, 2024, Consent Agenda, pending the bill list approval by the President, Manager, and Treasurer.

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

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no residents signed in to speak on agenda items.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Oliverio gave an update on the following item.

- ***Giving Grove*** – Volunteers from Sherwin Williams planted 18 fruit trees and bushes around the community garden, these fruits will be donated to the Food Bank.

## **7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perry gave an update on the following items.

- **Civil Service Commission** – Deadline has passed with no qualifying applicants. The Civil Service Commission will discuss advertising the exam again in the new year.
- **Police Chief Search** – The Police Chief Search Committee, with help by the contracted professionals at Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and after an extensive application and interview process, has recommended, Richard Ford, as the new Police Chief for Crafton Borough. Mr. Ford is currently the Assistant Chief of the City of Pittsburgh Police. Chief Mark Sumpter will continue to serve as Chief of Police until Mr. Ford is able to take the position, upon his retirement from the City of Pittsburgh, in July of 2025.

**MOTION #2:** it was moved and seconded (*Hough/Compitello*) to extend a conditional employment offer to Richard Ford.

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

## **8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel gave the following announcement.

- **Executive Session** – Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

## **9. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Keenan gave an update on the following projects.

- **Broadhead Project** – Waiting on the document review for the EPA funding application.
- **Stairs Replacement Project** – There are a few remaining punch-list items that need to be completed for the Fountian to Promenade stairs. Handrail installation for the Crafton Blvd to Walnut Street is still pending.
- **2024 Road Paving Plan** – Paving has been completed, Crafton will consider a change order for additional streets or alley ways due to the Locust Street water main break.
- **Ewing Road Closure** – Subsidence and cracking of the roadway has caused a safety issue leading to temporary road closure while Crafton considers options for repairs.
- **Retention Facility- Crafton Boulevard** – Crafton has reached out to Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company to conduct the regular maintenance of the retention facility located under the parking lot on Crafton Boulevard.

- ***PAWC Water Main Replacements*** – Cilenti has started brick restoration work on Union Avenue.
- ***Trail Feasibility Study*** – The Vacancy Committee will be selecting the members for the trail study prior to the next Council Meeting.

**MOTION #3:** It was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Hough*) to appoint the Vacancy Committee to select the members of the Trail Study Committee.

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

- ***Public Works Building*** – Sewer Lateral bids were received on November 5, 2024, and the lowest responsible and responsive bidder is A. Merante Contracting, Inc., in the amount \$87,620. Gateway had estimated the cost of this project at \$104,000.
- ***C-20 Sewer Project*** – Advertisement has been published and bids are being accepted now.
- ***C-20 Green Infrastructure*** – Presentation by Gateway.

***Craig Jubic, Gateway Engineers***, gave a presentation on the alternative options being explored for the planned green infrastructure project for Oregon, Dakota, and Montana. ([Presentation Slides](#))

1. Move green infrastructure from Oregon Avenue (2-way street) to Noble Avenue (1 way street).
2. Build green infrastructure on Oregon Avenue without building extensions into the roadway.
3. Build a sewer separation project (no visible infrastructure – all underground) on W. Steuben at Richmond.
4. Build a sewer separation project (no visible infrastructure – all underground) on W. Steuben at Walsh.

Council Members discussed the alternative options and the funding probability for these projects.

Mr. Oliverio noted that options three and four would have the least impact on residents and would offer a bigger reduction in storm water.

- ***Station Street Retaining Wall*** – Initial survey has been received. Part of this infrastructure is located on PRT Property. Work authorization is pending approval.
- ***Police Station Garage Basement*** – \$5,000 authorization is needed to move forward. Overall estimate for repair is \$30,000 to \$80,000.

- ***Peoples Gas Main Line Work*** – Upcoming schedule for 10/15/24 – 11/25/24. Work is ongoing, no major updates at this time.
  - i. N. Linwood Ave (approx. 675’ in street/30’ in sidewalk)
  - ii. N. Emily St. (approx. 350’ in street / 95’ in sidewalk)
  - iii. Coulter St. (approx. 675 in street / 30’)

## **10. MANAGER’S REPORT**

Manager Price spoke on the following items.

- ***Zoning Update***
  - ***Planning Commission Solicitor*** – The Planning commission has begun the process of selecting a Solicitor.
  - ***Planning Commission Meeting*** – Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM – Council Chambers.
  - Further discussions, forums, and meetings are being planned (as needed) before the revised draft is prepared for community review.

- ***11 Fountain Street***

***Maura Sevier-Burgess, 11 N. Emily Street***, spoke regarding the deterioration of 11 Fountain Street. She inquired about the possibility of the Borough taking this property under conservancy. She also inquired about Peoples Natural Gas and the lack of communication between residents.

Manager Price gave a brief explanation of the existing concerns and conditions of the property at 11 Fountain Street. He outlined the process for rehabilitation of this type of property through a land bank.

Solicitor Korbel explained the process and steps that the Borough would need to undertake in order to demolish the structure at 11 Fountain Street.

Manager Price stated that Crafton could seek an administrative search warrant to gain access to the property.

- ***Salt Shed Cover*** – Wear and tear on the salt shed cover has caused an opening that has expanded by 300% over the last two months and will need to be replaced. There is approximately \$20,000 left in the salt budget that Crafton can use to cover this expense.

**MOTION #4:** it was moved and seconded (*Ridilla/Chandler*) to approve the purchase of a Salt Shed cover for the Public Works Salt Shed and installation for \$16,922.

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

- **2025 Budget Schedule** – Advertise for the December 12, 2024, Council Meeting.
  - November 26 – Council Budget Workshop – 6:00 pm
  - December 12 – Council Budget Workshop – 6:00 pm
- **Valley Waste Services, Inc.** – Administrative Staff is working with Valley Waste on resident communications. Pickup will no longer be solely on Tuesdays, but Tuesday through Friday. The list of streets and information will be forthcoming in the mail to each resident. Please communicate any issues directly with Valley Waste Services, Inc.
- **PennDOT Winter Maintenance Agreement** – 5-Year Winter Maintenance agreement.

**MOTION #5:** It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Ridilla*) to approve Resolution 2024-13 to sign a 5-year snow removal contract with PennDOT for the portions of Steuben, Crafton Blvd, and Dinsmore Ave that are State Routes.

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

## **11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, & SUSTAINABILITY***

Ms. Perry gave a report on the following items.

- **Financial Auditor** – Municipalities are required by the Borough Code to appoint, by resolution prior to December 31, to appoint an independent auditor.

**MOTION #6:** It was moved and seconded (*Hough/Ridilla*) to adopt Resolution 2024-12 appointing Maher Duessel as the Crafton Borough independent auditor for the fiscal year 2024, to conduct the annual financial audit for the Borough of Crafton at a cost not to exceed \$19,000.

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

- **2025 Budget Resolutions** – Review
  - **2025 Millage Rates** – There will be no increase in the tax millage rate; however, there will be a shift in percentage that goes to the road tax fund.
  - **2025 Fee Schedule** – Updates will be presented at the next budget meeting.
  - **2025 Wage Rates** – Updates will be presented at the next budget meeting.

- **2025 Budget Advertisement** – Advertisement and Public Inspection of the 2025 Budget. Council will consider adoption of the 2025 Budget as well as related resolutions at the December 12, 2024, Council Meeting.

**MOTION #7:** it was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to advertise and make available for public inspection the 2025 Proposed General, Road, Sewer, and Capital Fund Budgets for adoption at the December 12, 2024, Council Meeting.

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

### ***INFRASTRUCTURE & LAND USE***

- **Linwood & Noble Parklet Grant** – Project was outlined in the Master Parks plan and a \$250,000 grant was awarded by DCNR. The grant requires a 50% match, and these funds have been budgeted in the Capital Projects plan. DCNR announced updates to the grant terms which will allow Crafton to continue to plan use of these funds on both of the parklets.

### ***PLANNING COMMISSION***

Mr. Ridilla announced the following.

- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Planning Commission will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

### ***COMMUNICATION & RECREATION***

Ms. Bollenbacher gave an update on the following events

- **Upcoming Events – Save the Date**
  - Celebration of Lights
    - December 7, 2024 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
    - Entertainment: Joyful Noise (Acapella Group), Nightlife DJ, Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Snow Princess, Balloon Artist, Crafts & Games, and refreshments.
  - Holiday House Tour
    - December 15, 2024 – 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
    - Advance tickets \$20.00, available at the Crafton Public Library, Fig Tree Coffee, Blue Snail Gift Shop, Administrative Office, and online at [www.craftonborough.com](http://www.craftonborough.com).
    - Day of the event tickets will be sold for \$25.00.
  - Santa by Firetruck
    - Saturday, December 21, 2024.
  - Volunteers are encouraged for all events, go to the Borough's website to submit interest.

- **Newsletter** – Next edition should be in mailboxes by the end of November.

### **VACANCY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Pulkownik gave an update on the following openings.

- **Current Open Vacancies** – appoint Mercedes McCormick-Karl to an ongoing Civil Service Commission vacancy.

**MOTION #8:** it was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Compitello*) to appoint Mercedes McCormick-Karl to the Civil Service Commission for an existing term that is to expire on July 1, 2026.

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

- **Upcoming Vacancies**
  - a. Zoning Hearing Board expiring 12/31/2024 (2 Vacancies)
  - b. Zoning Hearing Board Alternate expiring 12/31/2024
  - c. Civil Service Commission Alternate expiring 2/1/2029

*\* Interested candidates should apply on the Borough's website at [www.craftonborough.com/commissions](http://www.craftonborough.com/commissions).*

- **Community Engagement Committee** – Communications have been sent out to residents who have suggested that Council create a community engagement committee.

### **COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)**

Ms. Bollenbacher stated that the next meeting is November 21, 2024, at 6:30 PM in Greentree Borough.

### **12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, November 26, 2024, 7:00 pm, 6:00 pm Budget workshop.
- **Celebration of Lights** – Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Crafton Park – Join the Rec Board for Holiday Festivities as they illuminate Crafton and welcome the Holiday season in style. There will be crafts for kids, pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Snow Princess, non-profit booths, holiday music, and more.
- **Holiday House Tour** – Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm – \$20 advance tickets, \$25 day of the event. You can buy tickets online (with a credit card) at [craftonborough.com/Christmas-house-tour](http://craftonborough.com/Christmas-house-tour) or you can stop at the Crafton Borough

Library, Borough Office, Fig Tree Coffee, or the Blue Snail Gift Shop to buy tickets with cash. On the day of the event, stop by the Crafton Public Library to pick up your tour booklet. At your own pace, you will tour Crafton's beautifully decorated homes.

- **Santa Comes to Crafton by Fire Truck** – Saturday, December 21st, beginning at 9:00 AM, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Crafton Volunteer Firefighters will work their way through the streets of Crafton by Fire Truck and then visit Thornburg and Rosslyn Farms. Listen for the sirens and enjoy one of Crafton's oldest traditions.

### **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Geri Stewert, 166 Noble Avenue**, spoke regarding the Green Infrastructure project and asked if the Borough would consider adding native plants.

Manager Price stated that native plants will be considered for the design of the green infrastructure project.

**Greg Wozniak, 1773 Barr Avenue**, inquired about notification of those selected for the Trail Study Committee, the Green Infrastructure Project maintenance costs, engineering costs for the parklet improvements, the heavy trucks on the brick portion of Clearview Avenue, and building regulations for properties that would be taken under conservancy by the Borough.

Mr. Oliverio noted that the only maintenance costs for the green infrastructure project would be the plants and vegetation.

Manager Price stated that, in regard to the parklet improvements, engineering costs will be considered and approved, as the project progresses at a later date. He added that the construction trucks that Mr. Wozniak inquired about were the brick repair contractors' vehicles. Manager Price noted that the Borough does not take ownership of a property under a conservatorship.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary