

Borough of Crafton
Thursday, December 12, 2024

(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed 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, December 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Manager Price recorded five (5) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Compitello, Mr. Hough, and Mr. Oliverio. Also present were Mayor Perry, Solicitor Korbel and Engineer Keenan. Absent were Ms. Pulkownik and Mr. Ridilla.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda for December 12, 2024, including:

1. Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2024 (with requested changes)
2. Bill List – December 12, 2024

MOTION #1: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to approve the December 12, 2024, Consent Agenda, pending the bill list approval by the President, Manager, and Treasurer.

MOTION #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

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.

- ***December 26, 2024, Meeting Status*** – Council discussed cancellation of the Christmas week meeting and will push the decision to later in the agenda.

- **2024 Tree Planting** – The Shade Tree will plant 15 trees in the tree line and front yard of residents who requested a tree. Crafton has added 37 new trees to the Borough in 2024.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perry had nothing to add to the agenda.

8. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel gave the following announcement.

- **Executive Session** – Council will hold an executive session following tonight's meeting to discuss litigation and real estate matters.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Keenan gave an update on the following projects.

- **Broadhead Project** – EPA is reviewing the final environmental documents, and legal counsel is ironing out details regarding the Perrine Street easement.
- **Stairs Replacement Project** – Promenade to Fountain public stairs is open. Handrail installation on the Crafton to Clearview and Crafton to Walnut stairs began on December 9th and should be completed by December 12th. The contractor will return next week to finalize any punchlist items and should be open to the public shortly thereafter.
- **2024 Road Paving Plan** – Crafton is working with Folino to ensure paving occurs when it is most likely to be successful. Streets added for paving include Sterrett Street, Rush Way, Newville Way, Prince Alley and Home Street.
- **Ewing Road Closure** – The Infrastructure Committee is exploring options to address this road closure. Crafton has touched base with Gateway on investigating the scale of possible repairs. The Committee has discussed potential alternative ways to add a temporary roadway connecting directly to the CIT Ballfields.
- **PAWC Water Main Replacements** – Cilenti has completed the brick restoration on Union Avenue. CCSI has also restored the paving on Sidney Alley.
- **Peoples Gas Main Work (October 15 to November 25)** – Street opening permit has been extended through December. Work has been completed pending restoration. The upcoming site meeting with the restoration specialist was postponed to next week.
- **C-20 Sewer Project** – Project has been delayed. Crafton may consider adding Walsh Road or Richmond Street as alternatives for the C-20 GSI discussion as a separate project. There is a pre-bid meeting scheduled for Tuesday next week.

- ***Storm Sewer Retention*** – Crafton Elementary Parking Lot – Planning on doing a personal inspection of the system to give a better perspective on what will need to be done for regular maintenance.
- ***Station Street Retaining Wall*** – Retaining wall design has begun.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Price spoke on the following items.

- ***2025 Budget & Resolutions*** – Review of the 2025 Fund Budget, 2025 Fee Schedule, 2025 Wage Rates, and 2025 Tax Millage. Wage Resolution will be amended in January.
 - ***2025 Budget – General, Road, Sewer and Capital Fund Budgets*** – Slight changes to Swimming Pool and Sewer amounts.

MOTION #2: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Chandler*) to adopt the 2025 Crafton Borough Budget for four funds – The General Fund, The Sewer Fund, The Road Fund and the Capital Fund as advertised, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purpose of the Borough Government set fourth during the year 2025.

MOTION #2 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

- ***2025 Millage Rates*** – There will be no increase in the tax millage rate; however, the special road tax will be eliminated for 2025. There has been no increase since 2021.

MOTION #3: It was moved and seconded (*Hough/Compitello*) to adopt Resolution 2024-15 setting the real estate millage rate for property for the year 2025.

MOTION #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

- ***2025 Fee Schedule*** – Minor changes include Recreation Facility rates, Swimming Pool Rates, and Military Banner Program Fees.

MOTION #4: It was moved and seconded (*Hough/Compitello*) to adopt Resolution 2024-14 adopting the general fee schedule for the year 2025.

MOTION #4 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

- ***2024 Property Tax Refunds*** – Crafton has received the 2024 Real Estate & Road Tax Refunds, in the amount of \$10,057.47, as requested by Jordan Tax Service, Inc.

MOTION #5: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Chandler*) to approve the 2024 Real Estate & Road Tax Refunds, in the amount of \$10,057.47, as prepared and requested by Jordan Tax Service, Inc.

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

- ***Garbage/Recycle Update*** – Valley Waste has sent mailers and should be in mailboxes this week. If you do not receive notice from Valley Waste, please go the Borough’s website or contact the Administrative Office. Waste Management will pick up on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, as their final pickup under the contract. Valley Waste will begin picking up January 2, 2025, due to the delay from the New Year holiday.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, & SUSTAINABILITY

Ms. Perry gave a report on the following items.

- ***2024 Financial Position*** – Crafton is expected to end the year slightly under budget for 2024.

INFRASTRUCTURE & LAND USE

- ***Linwood & Noble Parklet Grant*** – Engineer has spoken with a local engineer to complete the survey of design of the Parklet improvements.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Manager Price announced the following.

- ***Zoning Update***
 - ***Next Steps***– At their next meeting, the Commission will review the previous meeting items.
 - ***Planning Commission Meeting*** – Tuesday, December 17, 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.

COMMUNICATION & RECREATION

Ms. Bollenbacher thanked the Recreation Board for the great event, Celebration of Lights, that was held this past Saturday.

Ms. Bollenbacher gave an update on the following events

- ***Upcoming Events – Save the Date***
 - 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.
 - Day of the event tickets will be sold for \$25.00.
 - Blue Snail and Fig Tree Coffee will be open and decorated for the event.
 - Fat Cat Mac & Cheese, a local food truck vendor, will be set up at the Fig Tree Coffee during the event.
 - Santa by Firetruck
 - Saturday, December 21, 2024. Beginning promptly at 9AM, Santa will visit Crafton Borough with the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department.
 - Murder Myster Dinner
 - Till Death Do Us Part
 - Crafton Public Library
 - February 14, 2024
 - More information to be announced.
- ***Newsletter*** – Next edition of the Crafton Courier is planned for March 2025. Collecting articles now.

VACANCY COMMITTEE

Manager Price gave an update on the following openings.

- ***Appointments*** – Zoning Hearing Board.

OTION #6: It was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Compitello*) to appoint Cory Roma to a seat on the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term ending on December 31, 2027.

MOTION #6 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

MOTION #7: It was moved and seconded (*Bollenbacher/Compitello*) to re-appoint Lisa Smith to a Zoning Hearing Board Alternate seat for a 3-year term set to expire on December 31, 2027.

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

- ***Open Vacancies***

1. Civil Service Commission (alternate) term expiring 2/1/2029 (1 Opening)

2. Zoning Hearing Board 3 Year Term, expiring 12/31/2027 (1 Opening, 1 Alternate)
 3. Recreation Board, term expiring 2/28/2026
 4. Recreation Board, term expiring 12/31/2027
- **Upcoming Vacancies** – 2025 Vacancies will be announced at the next meeting.
 - **Trail Study Committee** – Committee members will be notified in the upcoming week.

* *Interested candidates should apply on the Borough's website at www.craftonborough.com/commissions.*

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Ms. Bollenbacher stated that the next meeting is December 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM in Coraopolis.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Council Meetings** – Status
 - Thursday, Dec 26, 2024, 7:00 pm

MOTION #8: It was moved and seconded (*Compitello/Bollenbacher*) to cancel the December 26, 2024, Council Meeting.

MOTION #8 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0).

- Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:00 pm
- **Administrative Office Hours** – Holiday Early Closures
 - December 24th – Office will close at 12:00 pm (noon)
 - December 25th – Office will be closed
 - December 31st – Office will close at 12:00 pm (noon)
 - January 1st - Office will be closed
- **Holiday Garbage Pickup** – Waste Management Pickup will be Dec 24 for garbage and recycling. Waste Management Pickup will be Dec 31 for garbage.
- **Holiday House Tour** – Sunday, December 15th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm – \$20 advance tix, \$25 day of. You can buy tickets online (with a credit card) at craftonborough.com/Christmas-house-tour or you can stop at the Crafton Borough Library, Borough Office, Fig Tree Coffee, or the Blue Snail Giftshop to buy tickets with cash and/or 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

Ms. Bollenbacher clarified that the Tour Booklet must be picked up in the Crafton Public Library between 12:35 PM and 3:45 PM.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Wozniak, 1773 Barr Avenue, first wished Council a Merry Christmas. He also inquired about the final decision of Crafton's new logo.

Steve Crescenzo, 79 Duncan Avenue, spoke regarding a tree issue causing the sidewalk to buckle in front of his home. He also inquired about the Zoning Ordinance Update process.

Manager Price gave a brief background of the process of the logo selection.

Mr. Oliverio noted that the Shade Tree Commission has met and discussed the list of nuisance trees and added that the Borough has put out an RFP for maintenance and/or removal of these trees.

Manager Price stated that the tree in question is on the list for pruning and the sidewalk is scheduled to be repaired.

Manager Price clarified that the Planning Commission is still reviewing the Zoning Ordinance and will have their newly selected solicitor at the next meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary