

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday July 9, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of Crafton Borough, Monday July 9, 2018 at 7:30 PM. The flag salute was led by Mr. Amendola.

ROLL CALL, by Ms. Kerns included Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur. Also present were Solicitor Korbel, Interim Manager Kaczorowski and Mayor Bloom.

Mr. Levasseur noted that an executive session was held prior to the meeting regarding Personnel and Real Estate matters, no action was taken.

**BILL LIST APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated July 9, 2018.

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

**ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Rosario*) to approve the Minutes dated June 25, 2018 as presented.

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

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

Mr. Levasseur noted that Residents who signed in to address Council will speak at the end of the meeting.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel provided to Council a copy of the Borough's Chapter 167 Vacant Property Ordinance, a memo regarding the structures at 1654, 1656, and 1664 Crafton Boulevard, and two sample ordinances from surrounding communities.

Solicitor Korbel noted to Council that Crafton already has a Vacant Property Ordinance and suggests that some items need to be revised in regards to Vacant Property Registry. He also

noted that these revisions give the Borough the tools to enforce this ordinance efficiently. Solicitor Korbel explained that the fee structure for violations cannot generate revenue and should be included in the Borough's fee schedule which is done by resolution and reviewed annually. He also stated that absent property owners can be penalized through a penalty structure that can be built into the ordinance.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that vacant and abandoned properties can be "Cleaned and Liened" allowing the Borough to clean up the property and lien any costs sustained by the Borough to the owners of the property as well as the property owner's current residence.

Solicitor Korbel spoke regarding the properties on Crafton Boulevard. He noted that 1656 Crafton Boulevard is owned by the Bank of New York Mellon and is primed to go to Sheriff Sale; however, there is a belief that this property will not sell. Solicitor Korbel noted that 1654 and 1664 Crafton Boulevard need to be evaluated in more detail by the Building Inspector.

Solicitor Korbel also updated Council noting that the two proposed ordinance amendments establishing a Body Piercing/Tattoo Parlor as a conditional use and eliminating commercial uses in a residential zone have been submitted to the Allegheny County for review.

Solicitor Korbel noted that he has been working with the Fire Department regarding the International Fire Code concerns discussed at past Council meetings and will have a memo prepared with recommendations.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom noted that he had nothing to report at this time.

### **CRAFTON CELEBRATES**

Angela Palchowski, Crafton Celebrates Chair, spoke in regards to the Celebrates Festival held the previous week. Ms. Palchowski noted that, although there is no financial report yet, the festival went very well. She noted that members of the committee received compliments on the food booths, acceptance of cash, the beer garden, as well as the variety of vendors and games. Ms. Palchowski added that the beer garden was very successful and reported no incidents for the duration of the five-day festival. She also thanked the Borough Administration, Borough Council, and Public Works for all the help and support.

Mr. Levasseur added by thanking the Celebrates Committee, Public Works, the Fire Department, and the Police Department for their participation and ensuring the safety of everyone.

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

#### ***PUBLIC WORKS***

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Perry*) to authorize pay request no. 3 for El Grande Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$75,033.61 for the construction work completed between May 21, 2018 and May 29, 2018 for the Crafton Park Improvement Project as requested by the Engineer and included in the 2017 ALCOSAN Grow Grant.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to authorize pay request no. 4 and final for El Grande Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$11,439.25 for the construction work completed between June 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018 for the Crafton Park Improvement Project as requested by the Engineer and included in the 2017 ALCOSAN Grow Grant.

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are a few concerns regarding the vegetation in the Rain Garden and that suggested that final payment be withheld until these issues are resolved.

**REVISED MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Rosario*) to table the motion on the floor.

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

Mr. Kaczorowski gave an update on the CCTV work being performed in response to the flooding. He noted that Gateway Engineers had not submitted the CCTV report for Maxwell Street, Sterrett Street or McMunn Avenue at that time. Mr. Kaczorowski stated that as a first line of defense during heavy rain that there are measures of preventative maintenance as well as several steps of action that can be taken to ensure lines are operating properly.

Ms. Damits spoke regarding the flooding on Chartiers Avenue near Morange Road and asked if there is an existing agreement with the City of Pittsburgh as to who is responsible for cleaning of the lines. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the City of Pittsburgh should automatically check these lines upon knowledge of impending storms.

Mr. Crouse asked if Ingram Avenue could be added to the CCTV schedule. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the catch basin in question, concerning the flooding at 14 Ingram Avenue, is a private catch basin; however, under Code Enforcement the Borough can direct the property owner to maintain and clean the drain.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to approve the hiring of Samantha Nardozzi as the Assistant Swim Coach for Crafton Crocodiles.

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

Mr. Levasseur asked Solicitor Korbel if there is an update on any legal issues with increasing the Assistant Coaches as discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Korbel noted that there will be no issues with increasing the pay as payment is not issued until the end of the season.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Crouse/Glaser*) to increase the wage for the Crafton Crocodiles Swim Coaches from \$350.00 to \$500.00, effective immediately.

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

### ***PUBLIC SAFETY***

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged the receipt of the Organizational Charts detailing Chain of Command by the Crafton Police Department, Crafton Volunteer Fire Department and the Public Works Department.

Mr. Levasseur also stated that the e-mail migration to craftonborough.com is complete and the conversion to OneDrive is in progress.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### ***PRINTING SERVICES***

Mr. Kaczorowski announced that the Administration Office has received two proposals for Printer Services that are comparable in price and services. Ms. Kerns added that the Amcom proposal includes five licenses for the Nuance eCopy that will allow the office staff to edit and convert PDF files. Mr. Kaczorowski stated that the new agreement under Amcom will include black and white as well as color copies.

Mr. Perry inquired about Ford Business Machines and noted that this company had interest in providing a proposal and has attempted to reach out previously. Ms. Perry added that she would ask Ford Business Machines to reach out to the Administrative Office directly.

Ms. Damits noted that Michele Lutz with the Char-West COG is looking into joint municipal contracts for printing needs.

Mr. Levasseur noted that action must be taken at the next meeting.

#### ***WASTE MANAGEMENT BAGSTERS***

Mr. Levasseur expressed concern regarding the Waste Management Bagsters throughout the Borough. Mr. Levasseur questioned if there is any action the Borough can take to have the bagsters removed if they become a nuisance.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the residents must call Waste Management to have the bagsters picked up. He added that Waste Management stated that the bagsters are picked up within three

days once it is called in. Mr. Kaczorowski suggested using doorhangers under the current property maintenance code as a reminder to residents when the bagsters become a code violation.

### ***ENGINEER SERVICES***

Mr. Crouse spoke regarding the storm water problems and questioned what the Borough can do to move forward and if it would be beneficial to request proposals to outsource some of the work that needs to be completed.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the Consent Decree works toward decreasing infiltration of storm water. He also added that ALCOSAN has a major regionalization plan in action and Crafton Borough is a part of it. Mr. Kaczorowski recommended waiting to see what ALCOSAN plans to take over and the Borough will have a better understanding of what is needed. Mr. Kaczorowski stated that there is an ongoing preventative maintenance plan, required by the Consent Decree, of which the Borough participates through SHACOG.

Mr. Levasseur continued by stating that these issues need further in-depth review by the Engineer. He added that the Borough needs to ensure that it has the right tools and the best team to address the new regulations that are being pushed down from a federal level in regards to storm water management.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to advertise a Requests for Proposals for Engineering Services.

Mr. Amendola noted that Gateway has served as the Borough Engineer for 60 years.

Discussion on the matter continued by Council Members

Mr. Levasseur asked if there were any Citizens comments on this matter.

***Eddie Solomon, Crafton Intern,*** questioned if the Borough is coordinating with surrounding municipalities in regards to the sewer program.

Mr. Kaczorowski stated that the Borough is coordinating in the regionalization program with surrounding municipalities.

***Kathy Watson, 74 Fountain Street,*** noted the lack of citizens attending the meetings regularly.

***Dennis Henk, 14 Ingram Avenue,*** stated that the damage to his basement from the previous rain storms cost four thousand dollars. He asked Council to be open to all options when working toward a solution.

***Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street,*** spoke in favor of a request for proposals for engineering services.

*Roy Neiman, Haldane Street*, also spoke in favor of a request for proposals for engineering services.

**REVISED MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to direct Interim Manager to advertise a Requests for Proposals for Engineering Services.

MOTION #7 carries by a Voice Vote (6-1).

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ***Savvy Citizen***- <https://savvycitizenapp.com/SignIn> ; downloadable as an application for your smart phone, tablet or other device connected to an application store. This is a great method of communication to become aware of different events that take place within the community and surrounding areas.
- ***Concerts in the Park***- Begin Thursday, July 12, 2018 @ 7:30PM  
West Hills Symphonic Band
- ***Senior Dinner***- Saturday July 21, 2018- Doors open at 5pm
- ***Ingram Days***- Saturday July 21 to Sunday July 22, 2018 from 5PM to 11PM at Foster Park
- ***Crafton Public Library***- Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 6PM held at the Crafton Community Center-**Crafton's Got Talent, A Special Event for Talented Kids!**
  - Open to Children ages 17 and under
  - Register at Crafton Public Library
- ***Crafton-Ingram Rotary***- Rib & Chicken Fest  
Thursday, August 2, 2018 – Crafton Park
- ***Crafton Community Farm Open Gardening Nights***
  - Sundays 9:30AM to 11:30AM
  - Tuesdays 7PM to 8PM
  - Thursdays 5PM to Dark
  - More information email [craftoncommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:craftoncommunitygarden@gmail.com)
- ***School District Tax Collection***
  - Tuesday, August 28, 2018 1:00PM to 4:00PM
  - Friday, August 31, 2018 9:00AM to 12:00PM
- ***Message from Dan Deasy***- Residents can report their flood damage to their local municipal emergency management coordinators. The information will be entered in to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) Damage Reporting System and it will be shared with Allegheny County. Pennsylvania and Federal Emergency Management agencies will review all claims to determine who is eligible for financial relief.
  - Crafton Borough 412.921.0752
  - Ingram Borough 412.921.3625
- ***2018 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program***
  - Accepting applications through August 31, 2018
  - More information on the website at [www.crafton.org](http://www.crafton.org)

### **ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Eddie Solomon and Christopher Bell, Crafton Interns, first provided a written update to members of Council. Mr. Solomon noted that the Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program is available through Allegheny County where residents can acquire neighboring vacant and/or abandoned properties at a lower cost. Mr. Solomon updated on the B.E.A.T progress. Mr. Bell expanded further by discussing a cluster map showing housing sales by volume and by sale pricing. Mr. Bell added that the map could potentially show areas in the Borough that may need attention. Mr. Solomon noted they are still collecting GIS data from the utility companies. Mr. Solomon added that they are ready to test out a few streets in both boroughs to put a little more pressure on properties in violation of the property maintenance codes.

Mr. Solomon stated that the T.O.D. (Transit Oriented Development) meeting will be held on July 24, 2018.

***ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Administrative Assistant