

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday August 13, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of Crafton Borough, Monday August 13, 2018 at 7:22 PM. The flag salute was led by Ms. Damits.

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

**BILL LIST APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated August 13, 2018.

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

**ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Crouse*) to approve the Minutes dated July 23, 2018 as presented.

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

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

*James Mangan, 96 Sterrett Street*, updated Council on Sterrett Street flooding and sewer backup issues and provided Council with a list of residents who have experienced ongoing flooding.

*Greg Ducouer, 92 Sterrett Street*, provided a follow up on the flooding and backup issues on Sterrett Street noting that several residences had reported flooding to the Borough in the past. Mr. Ducouer noted his concern with the new curb height and direction of rain flow.

*Dan Cindric, 45 Creighton Avenue*, stated that the road paving contractor had promised to fix the yard damage caused by the recent construction; however, this was not completed.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Road Program payment request on the agenda is only a partial payment. Mr. Levasseur also urged residents to communicate any questions/concerns regarding the road program to Council or the Administrative Office.

*Charlene Krenke, 800 Clearview Avenue*, noted that the new curbs near Perrine Street are very high and could cause problems if there is oncoming traffic.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel noted that the condemnation notices were delivered to Mr. Felton for the properties at 1654, 1656, and 1664 Crafton Boulevard on August 3, 2018.

Solicitor Korbel announced that at the meeting of September 10, 2018, Council will consider the two pending zoning ordinances amendments, the Tattoo Parlor- Adult Oriented Business Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance Amendments, Restricting Commercial Uses in a Residential Zone.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom urged the Members of Council to move quickly to allocate the Borough's portion of funds and designate intersections regarding the Green Light Go Grant that was awarded.

### **SUMMER INTERN PRESENTATION**

Interns, Edward Solomon and Chris Bell, gave an update on their progress and provided council with a copy of the vacancy analysis. Mr. Solomon noted that all eight B.E.A.T. (Blight Enforcement Action Team) meetings were held and attended by both Crafton and Ingram residents. Mr. Solomon added that Mr. Bell and himself had attended the T.O.D. (Transit Oriented Development) workshop. Mr. Solomon stated that there are two vacant property applications pending. Mr. Solomon noted that he worked with Turnkey Taxes to update the Business/Landlord database.

Mr. Bell spoke in regards to the progress with the Vacant Property Registration and Rental Registration adding that Code Enforcement should follow up. Mr. Bell added that Real Estate data has been updated and integrated into the G.I.S. system for ease of use. Mr. Bell noted that a service request portal can be added to the website that will work in conjunction with the G.I.S.

Mr. Solomon and Mr. Bell recommend Crafton keep the B.E.A.T. going forward, meeting possibly monthly, as well as the integration of existing code issues and vacancy maps with the G.I.S. dashboard.

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

#### ***PERSONNEL***

Mr. Levasseur announced that prior to the meeting an executive session was held regarding personnel, no action was taken.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to hire Rachel J. Susko, as the Borough Manager, effective August 28, 2018 and approve the Employment Agreement between Rachel J. Susko and the Borough of Crafton.

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

Ms. Susko introduced herself and thanked Council for a unanimous vote.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Glaser/Rosario*) to hire Kathy Spinnenweber as a Part-Time Crossing Guard as recommended by Police Chief, Mark Sumpter.

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

### ***FINANCE***

Mr. Levasseur announced that Crafton Borough was awarded the Allegheny County Act 167 Municipal Grant in the amount of \$2000.00 to help with the costs of developing and adopting a stormwater management ordinance that complies with the Allegheny County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

### ***PUBLIC WORKS***

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to authorize Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$107,174.77 to Independent Enterprises, Inc. for the 2018 Road Program as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

Ms. Glaser asked if Council should consider holding part of the payment back due to issues with the current paving going on in the Borough.

Mr. Levasseur reminded council that the Borough still owes over \$300,000.00 for the remainder of the program.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to concur with the recommendation of SHACOG to reject the award of Contract-B Manhole to Manhole Lining, to Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC., the only bidder, of the Joint Municipal Sanitary Sewer Lining – Year 12 program and to concur with the recommendation of SHACOG, requesting to re-bid this portion of the project.

Ms. Perry asked for more information regarding SHACOG recommendation.

Solicitor Korbel stated that he did not have any other information; however, if it is the recommendation of SHACOG then it is best for Council to follow through.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to award the Clearview Avenue Road Reconstruction Project, stormwater management project, Phase V, as recommended by Gateway Engineers to A. Folino Construction, Inc., bid amount \$479,715.00.

Mr. Amendola asked if the project included a retention tank and inquired about the size of the new sewer lines.

Mr. Levasseur explained that the size of the new sewer lines will work as a retention system adding that completing the final phase of the project will complete the capacity requirements in the system as designed.

Ms. Perry noted that the Clearview Project was initially funded by grant money and a commitment was made to complete it.

Mr. Crouse stated that the Clearview Avenue Project was started, and committed to, by the previous council.

Mr. Amendola added that the project is not included in the budget for the current year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Mr. Amendola (NO), Mr. Crouse (YES), Ms. Perry (YES), Ms. Glaser (YES), Ms. Damits (YES), Mr. Rosario (YES), Mr. Levasseur (YES).*

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

Mr. Levasseur announced that Crafton Borough received the final ALCOSAN Grow Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$13,740.00 for the Thomas Street Separation Project.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### ***2019 MMO PENSION PAYMENTS***

Mr. Levasseur noted that Resolution 2018-11 is on the agenda for the 2019 MMO's, as required by Act 205, Police Pension \$63,491; Non-Uniform \$93,066. Mr. Levasseur asked Mayor Bloom for clarification on this item.

Mayor Bloom noted that Crafton is required to make contributions into the Police Pension Fund as well as maintaining the Non-Union Pension.

Mr. Levasseur asked if the deadline allowed for time to let the new Manager review the Pension requirements.

Mayor Bloom stated that a meeting will be held with Chief Sumpter, Ms. Susko and himself, to discuss the pension.

### ***FIRE INSPECTION MEMORANDUM***

Mr. Levasseur spoke in regards to the Fire Inspection memorandum provided by Solicitor Korbel and reminded Council of the dangers of commercial structure fires.

Solicitor Korbel started the discussion by stating that the International Fire Code gives the Borough three opportunities to conduct an inspection; operational permits, construction permits and reasonable suspicion.

Solicitor Korbelt noted that there are two ways that Crafton can move forward, first the Mt. Lebanon approach, by amending the International Fire Code to include these types of inspections; however, due to the legal requirements it could be very time consuming and costly. Solicitor Korbelt added that Crafton could also move forward using the Collier approach, by including the inspection requirements into the current Business Registration. Solicitor Korbelt asked Council to consider both approaches and decide which direction they wish to proceed.

Ms. Perry noted that she had reviewed the memorandum presented by the Solicitor and she feels the Collier approach suits the Borough best.

Ms. Glaser agreed that the Collier approach is best for Crafton.

Mr. Crouse noted that we need to secure the safety of our residents and businesses.

Solicitor Korbelt added that the International Fire Code does allow for the borough to require the Knox Box, as requested by Fire Chief, Mike Crown, under limited circumstances.

### **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**- Thursday, August 16, 2018 @ 7:30PM  
Community Band South
- **Senior Dinner**- Saturday August 18, 2018- Doors open at 5pm. Enjoy the Hawaiian themed evening with entertainment by Tuika's Polynesian Island Magic.
- **School District Tax Collection**  
Tuesday, August 28, 2018 1:00PM to 4:00PM  
Friday, August 31, 2018 9:00AM to 12:00PM
- **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)

Mr. Levasseur also added that a new Crafton website is currently in the works and hopes to roll out the new site within the next few weeks.

Ms. Damits alerted Council about a potential issue with the pouring of new handicap ramps on N. Linwood Ave and inquired who is responsible for the trees in the Right-Of-Way.

Solicitor noted that with more information he could review the situation.

Ms. Damits asked who owns the paper street/alleys within the Borough.

Solicitor Korbelt stated that paper streets not improved or maintained, such as winter service or putting gravel, by the Borough for the period of twenty-one years revert to the adjacent property owners starting at the center line.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

***John Richnavsky, 92 Noble Avenue***, noted that he has been requesting action at 96 Noble Avenue for eight years and asked Council for an update on the progress. Mr. Richnavsky asked if a deadline was given and if the property would be revamped. He also added that he has noticed a family of raccoons inhabiting the Calabrese property.

Mr. Levasseur noted that there was an appraisal done on the property and added that there are talks with the family to possibly donate the property to the fire department. Mr. Levasseur stated that there is dialogue with the family and Council will be working on a solution.

***Ken Arbuckle, 59 Maplewood Avenue***, asked for clarification in regards to Resolution No. 2018-07 Tattoo Parlor- Adult Oriented Business. Mr. Arbuckle specifically inquired about tattooing and body piercings.

Solicitor Korbel stated that the amendment allows for piercing and tattoo businesses under two different definitions; one, as a non-adult oriented business and two, as an adult oriented business adding that adult oriented businesses will continue to only be allowed in the industrial district.

***Roy Neiman, 104 Haldane Street***, addressed Council in regards to the maintenance of the ballfields in Crafton Park.

***Kathy Watson, 74 Fountain Street***, spoke regarding the pool raincheck policy asking council to consider amending the signage and refund policy.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council will look at the policy to see what changes can be administered.

***Cindy Widmer, 448 Maxwell Street***, stated that there are several code issues in several areas on Maxwell Street. Ms. Widmer stated that there are two dead trees that are located on Borough property that need to be removed adding that one tree has already fallen and the other poses a threat to surrounding structures. She also stated that the vacant properties around her residence need to be cited for high grass adding that the brush along Maxwell Street is blocking the driving/parking lane near the end of the cul-de-sac and it needs to be trimmed back either by the property owner or the Borough.

***Brian Widmer, 448 Maxwell Street***, continued by stating a call was placed into the Interim Borough Manager, Robert Kaczorowski, regarding two dead trees located on an adjacent property. Mr. Widmer noted that Mr. Kaczorowski came out and observed the trees in question and determined they are not on Borough property and located in a paper street. Mr. Widmer added that the Borough did maintenance on the trees approximately ten years ago. He also inquired about the Shade Tree complaint process.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the trees and code violations in question will be reviewed by the new Assistant Code Enforcement Officer.

***Karen Falbo, 257 Noble Avenue***, requested that Council consider providing a place for residents to dump compost.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council will work with Waste Management to see if there are any programs that offer this service.

***Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue***, provided a follow-up to Council on the contractor issues on Broadhead Avenue. Mr. Saba noted that he had filed a formal complaint with the PUC and it was determined that he was not notified of the construction because there is no gas service at his residence. Mr. Saba stated that he was told the notifications should come from the Borough at that point. Mr. Saba explained that access to his property was again restricted with limited notification adding that the communication problem with the Public Works office need to improve. Mr. Saba also urged Council to come to a solution regarding the dangerous intersection of W. Crafton Avenue, Belvidere Street and Broadhead Avenue as well as the parking issue from Church attendees.

Mr. Levasseur noted that he will get in touch with Peoples Gas in regards to the communication issues.

***Richard Yount, 2000 Crafton Boulevard***, spoke in regards to a large truck parking on N. Linwood Avenue causing a dangerous situation and a safety issue for emergency vehicles. Mr. Yount contacted the police department and noted that Chief Sumpter did try to work with him to determine a solution. Mr. Yount added that his neighbor has requested in person, and by letter, that the owner park this vehicle on their own property.

Mayor Bloom noted that he is aware of the truck in question adding that it falls just under the requirements of the Commercial Vehicle Ordinance parking restrictions.

Mr. Levasseur added that he will have the Mayor and the Chief of Police review the Commercial Vehicle Parking Code.

***Dan Cindric, 45 Creighton Avenue***, asked Council to consider the placement of new stop signs near Vance Alley and Creighton Avenue due to vehicles speeding on the newly paved roadways.

Mr. Levasseur stated that he will work with the Mayor for a possible solution.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Administrative Assistant