

Borough of Crafton  
Council Meeting  
Monday September 10, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, Monday September 10, 2018 at 7:15 PM.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Susko included seven (7) members of council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur. Also present were Solicitor Korbel and Mayor Bloom.

**BILL LIST APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve the Bill List dated September 10, 2018.

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

**ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to approve the Minutes dated August 27, 2018, as presented.

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

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

*Brian Widmer, 448 Maxwell Street*, spoke in regards to the ongoing issue with the hazardous trees and maintenance of the trees within the paper street at the end of Maxwell Street. Mr. Widmer noted that by Ordinance the Borough of Crafton is responsible to notify property owners of diseased trees and request removal.

*Greg Ducouer, 92 Sterrett Street*, asked Council for a follow up on the Sterrett Street flooding and if there is a plan in the works to alleviate flooding for residents.

*James Mangan, 96 Sterrett Street*, reminded Council that the berms on Perrine Street are too high and are directing storm water into the sewer drain that caused the backup previously.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bloom noted that his report will wait for the next meeting when the Public Works Director is present.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Korbel spoke in response to the paper street and shade tree issues on Maxwell noting that this is a Paper Street and is owned by the abutting property owners. Solicitor Korbel added that if the abutting property owners refuse to remove a diseased or dangerous tree Borough Residents can submit a formal Tree Complaint requesting that an investigation be conducted by the Shade Tree Commission. Solicitor Korbel noted that the Borough can “Clean and Lien” if the Property Owners do not respond in a timely manner.

Mr. Levasseur stated that Code Enforcement will be working with the Shade Tree Commission to effectively identify nuisance trees throughout the Borough and to enforce the action process lined out in the Borough Code.

Resident, Mr. Widmer, spoke from his seat, adding that the complaint process written in the code had not been followed and that this issue has been ongoing since April 21, 2018.

Mr. Crouse questioned if the Borough Officials could bypass the Shade Tree Commission to speed up the process for action.

Solicitor Korbel stated that, although he would advise against it, the Shade Tree Commission process could be bypassed by amending the ordinance which consists of a written process for handling complaints.

Mr. Amendola asked Manager Susko, in regards to the Maxwell Street hazardous tree issue, if the code enforcement process could be started immediately.

Ms. Perry noted that the current process had failed Mr. Widmer in regards to having a solution in a timely manner.

Mr. Levasseur reminded Council that in most cases these issues are a private matter and not a Borough responsibility.

Manager Susko ensured that the two-day timeline for the Shade Tree Commission to respond will start tomorrow morning.

Solicitor Korbel added that he will work with Manager Susko on the appropriate notices.

Solicitor Korbel also reminded Council that they will be considering the approval of two zoning ordinance amendments; one, redefining an Adult Oriented Business, removing Tattoo Parlor from the Adult Oriented Business definition, and two, a revision to the Zoning Ordinance, removing Commercial Uses from the R-1 and R-2 zoning districts that are permissible in other zoning districts.

### **LIBRARY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES - PRESENTATION**

Members of the Crafton Public Library Board of Trustees, Jerry Eonta, Secretary and Megan Grabowski presented a quarterly update. Mr. Eonta stated that the most recent changes at the library consist of, first, the hiring of a new part-time director, Jessica Watson, second, the Library Board contracted with a pro-bono Attorney to assist with the updating of the Library By-

Laws, third, established a policy requiring all Library Board Members to provide background checks before consideration, in addition to, adding a confidentiality and conflict of interest agreement for all future Board Members. Mr. Eonta noted that the Board Members attended a four-hour session Best Practice Skills, for Library Board Members, held at Robert Morris University.

Mr. Eonta announced that WQED has chosen Crafton Public Library to offer a twelve-month S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Education, Math) program for ages two to eight. Mr. Eonta added that the cost of the program is ten-thousand dollars and will be funded by a generous donation from Fed-Ex.

Mr. Eonta also reminded Council of the Library's parking needs adding that the Board would still like to see a copy of the Lease Agreement stating that there are a few maintenance items that need to be taken care of at the Library.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification on the employment changes, current staffing and financial reporting.

Ms. Watson, in response, noted that she is also the part-time director for Coraopolis and her time is shared equally adding that the previous acting director has left of his own accord. Ms. Watson also noted that there are two full-time staff members, a librarian and a librarian assistant, a part time clerk and are in the process of hiring a part-time children's librarian.

Ms. Grabowski announced that the Crafton Public Library has started a new fund matching campaign adding that the Library will be holding a 21+ Halloween Party. Ms. Grabowski also stated that new to the Library, moving forward the Library will be moving the Historical Society, establishing ad hoc meetings and re-establishing the "Friends of the Library" committee.

Mr. Levasseur noted that an executive session will be held after the meeting regarding Real Estate.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### ***ADMINISTRATION***

Manager Susko announced that the Borough received a scholarship from CONNECT that will fund full attendance of the Rail-Volution four-day seminar regarding Transit Oriented Development (T.O.D.).

Manager Susko provided an update regarding the Code Enforcement Team noting that the use of the G.I.S. has helped increase the efficiency of enforcement throughout the Borough adding that accumulation of rubbish and garbage on properties are the top offenders.

Manager Susko reminded residents that small business administration disaster loans are available for those who were affected by the flooding in June.

### ***PUBLIC WORKS***

Mr. Levasseur announced that the Borough is working with Char-West COG on pre-applications for CDBG Year 45 funds on the installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps at several intersections.

Manager Susko noted that she has been working with the Community Development Coordinator of the Char-West COG regarding submission of the applications for grant funds to replace ADA curbs in the Steuben Street corridor as well as the Traffic Circle near the Borough Building.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to approve Resolution No. 2018-12 authorizing the execution and delivery of a Master Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Perry*) to approve the administrative agreement with South Hills Area Council of Governments (“SHACOG”) for the SHACOG Joint O&M Point Repair Project – Year 7.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Perry*) to approve the administrative agreement with South Hills Area Council of Governments (“SHACOG”) for the SHACOG Preventative Maintenance Project – Year 8.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Glaser*) to approve the administrative agreement with South Hills Area Council of Governments (“SHACOG”) for the SHACOG Joint O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning – Year 8.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to approve the Pay Application No. 3 from Standard Pipe Services, LLC., for the 2017 Manhole Rehab Project in the amount of \$90,551.20 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. This is the final pay application for this project.

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

### ***PLANNING & ZONING***

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1647 Amending Chapter 225 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances and Zoning.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1648 Amending Chapter 225 of the Crafton Borough Code of Ordinances and Zoning

MOTION #9 carried by a Unanimous Vote (7-0).

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

***CODE APPEALS BOARD MEETING FOR 1664 CRAFTON BOULEVARD***

Mr. Levasseur noted that there was a letter in the Council Packet regarding an update received for the condemned property at 1664 Crafton Boulevard.

Mr. Crouse questioned if the property was condemned and asked for clarification of the structure violations and status of the building.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Mr. Felton, Building Inspector, felt that the structure was a safety hazard and could be demolished; however, the property owner submitted a timeline stating that the structure could be rehabilitated in a timely manner. Solicitor Korbel added that the condemnation exists and will continue to exist until the Building Inspector is satisfied that the building no longer needs to be condemned. Solicitor Korbel suggests that the Property Owner and the Building Inspector meet going forward to ensure the repair timeline be followed closely.

*Donald Zaremski, 1664 Crafton Boulevard*, stated that the structure had been stripped of plumbing after several years of vacancy and noted that there are no active utilities running. Mr. Zaremski added that there are no issues with the internal structure or roof of the property.

***COMMUNITY GARDEN SIGNAGE INQUIRY***

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for discussion of the signage request from the Community Garden.

Mr. Crouse inquired about the vandalism noted in the letter of interest.

Mr. Levasseur asked the Mayor to follow up with the Chief of Police regarding the extent of vandalism. Mr. Levasseur added that there is no official action that needs to be taken.

***CIVIL SERVICE LETTERS OF INTEREST***

Mr. Levasseur noted that there has been one letter of interest received for the vacant seat on the Civil Service Commission adding that Council will take action to appoint a new member at the next Council Meeting.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- *Crafton Awake! Fall Poetry Series* – Wednesday, September 12, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Crafton Library.

- **Job Fair hosted by State Rep. Dan Deasy**  
Thursday, September 27, 4 – 7 PM at VFW Vesle Post 418, 1242 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks, PA 15136.
- **Veteran’s Outreach Clinics**  
Hosted by State Rep. Dan Deasy in partnership with Congressman Mike Doyle  
September 21, October 19, November 16 (Friday’s), 10 AM to 2 PM  
Held at Rep. Dan Deasy’s District Office.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**Brian Widmer, 448 Maxwell Street**, expressed his frustration with the Code Enforcement officer’s response to the issues with the trees in the paper street. Mr. Widmer also asked for clarification on the permit process.

Mr. Levasseur reminded the audience that the new Manager will be working with the G.I.S. and upgrading the new website.

Ms. Damits asked Council if the Borough can hire a company do paint the crosswalks.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that each council member meet with the new Borough Manager to discuss their issues and wishes.

**Kathy Watson, 74 Fountain Street**, noted that the landslide on Chartiers was not cleaned up.

Mr. Amendola asked for a timeline of when the residents of Sterrett Street can expect some resolution.

Mr. Levasseur stated that at the next business meeting Council will hold a workshop with Gateway Engineers to discuss the Consent Order Agreement, Capital Improvement Plan and budgeting needs for 2019. Mr. Levasseur added that there are two different resolutions for the flooding issues on Sterrett Street that will be discussed at this meeting as well. Mr. Levasseur also noted that PENNDOT is interested in working with Crafton on a separation project of the Clearview Area adding that Capital Improvements can be done in conjunction with Transit Oriented Development.

Council continued discussion regarding budgeting of Capital Improvements.

**George Carey, 450 Maxwell Street**, asked Council for action in regards to the paper street issue on Maxwell Street.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Administrative Assistant