

**BOROUGH OF CRAFTON
COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of July 23, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

President Levasseur called to order the Regular Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council of July 23, 2018 at 7:20 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Crouse.

Mr. Levasseur noted an Executive Session was held prior to the council meeting regarding personnel and real estate. No action was taken.

ROLL CALL, by Ms. Kerns, recorded six (6) Members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur. Also present were Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Korbel, Engineer Minsterman and Interim Manager Kaczorowski. Absent was Ms. Glaser.

BILL LIST APPROVAL:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to approve the Bill List dated July 23, 2018 as presented.

MOTION #1 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (6-0).

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Damits*) to approve the Minutes for July 9, 2018 as presented.

MOTION #2 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (6-0).

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

Gregory Ducouer, 92 Sterrett Street, spoke in regards to the heavy rain storms and flooding on June 20, 2018. Mr. Ducouer inquired about permanent solutions to eliminate future flooding.

James Mangan, 96 Sterrett Street, also spoke in regards to the flooding on June 20, 2018. Mr. Mangan asked Council and the Engineer for recommendations to alleviate flooding in the future.

Mr. Levasseur noted that all other citizens will speak at the end of the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Mr. Levasseur acknowledged receipt of the following written reports for June 2018; Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, Act 511, Trash Collection and Property Tax Report, Police Report, EMS

Report, Ordinance Officer's Report, Building Inspection Report, Public Works Report, Fire Department and Library Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom asked Borough Administration to provide a copy of the Traffic Study of Crafton Boulevard completed during the 1990's.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman noted that the monthly Engineer's Report has been submitted to Council for review regarding various projects going on within the Borough.

Engineer Minsterman updated Council on the progress of the Road Program. He noted that Gateway had met with the Contractor and the Interim Borough Manager. Engineer Minsterman added that work began on July 16, 2018 and is ongoing.

Engineer Minsterman stated that in regards to the Park Rain Garden, a meeting was held with Gateway, the Shade Tree Commission and the Landscape Sub-Contractor. He noted that a punch-list will be created in regards to the items that still need to be completed.

Engineer Minsterman announced that Crafton was awarded a PennDOT grant in the amount of \$700,000.00 with Crafton contributing \$176,000.00 to replace aging stop lights throughout the Borough. He noted that Council will need to discuss and decide which stop lights will be replaced.

Engineer Minsterman spoke regarding the lack of response from the Contractor who completed the Sycamore Street demolition. He noted that there are uncompleted items on the punch-list adding that Gateway would like to work with the Solicitor to enforce completion of these items.

Engineer Minsterman noted that Allegheny County approved Act 167 adding that Gateway recommends Council review and update the Borough's current Storm Water Management ordinance to the new minimum standards. He also announced that the County is offering a grant in the amount of \$2000.00 to offset the cost of amending and/or adopting an ordinance compliant with these new regulations.

Engineer Minsterman responded to the Citizens comments regarding flooding on Sterrett Street. He noted that Gateway had completed the evaluation of the lines on Sterrett Street. He stated that the CCTV data showed no obstructions at the time. Engineer Minsterman added that the intense rain event was widespread throughout many neighboring communities that also experienced extreme flooding. He noted that Gateway has prepared a letter of explanation and have been sent out to property owners who experienced flooding from the rain event on June 20, 2018. Engineer Minsterman explained that at this time the Borough's storm water system is performing as it was designed; however, at the decision of Council, a backwater valve could be installed at the homes on Sterrett to prevent future flooding. He also noted that residents could have a backwater valve installed on their own by a professional.

Ms. Perry questioned if the backwater valve could be a permanent solution for the residents on Sterrett Street. Ms. Perry also asked if the storm system design should be evaluated to meet the current needs of residents.

Engineer Minsterman noted that Gateway could evaluate and make recommendations regarding these concerns at the direction of Council.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Council and Gateway are dedicated to working together to create the best solution possible to benefit our Community and its Residents.

Discussion on this matter continued by Council Members and the Engineer.

Engineer Minsterman continued his report by noting that the question raised regarding Gateway's invoices has been resolved and going forward Gateway will provide more detail on each invoice describing the work performed.

Engineer Minsterman commented on the inquires of the sewer mapping. Engineer Minsterman stated that the mapping of the Borough's storm system is fully complete. He reminded Council that this mapping does not include private infrastructure. Engineer Minsterman added that Gateway would gladly work with Crafton to include this information if it is the decision of Council.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Korbel announced that Council held an executive session regarding personnel and real estate prior to the evenings Council Meeting.

Solicitor Korbel noted that Council will be receiving a memorandum regarding the Fire Inspection Ordinance this week.

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Levasseur noted that Crafton Borough was awarded \$704,051.00 through PennDOT's Green Light Go Grand to modernize four traffic lights within the Borough. Mr. Levasseur thanked Gateway and Council for their support. Mr. Levasseur also thanked PennDOT.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to award the bid to Deller Professional in the amount of \$10,500.00 for the demolition of 1508 Barr Avenue as recommended by the Engineer.

MOTION #3 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Rosario*) to accept the proposal from AMCOM Office Systems as recommended by the Interim Borough Manager.

MOTION #4 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Crouse*) to amend resolution 2017-19; Wages and Benefits, to add an Assistant Code Enforcement Officer at the rate of \$15.00 per hour and to amend the Treasurer’s wage from \$2,700.00 to \$3,000.00.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comment.

Dennis Henk, 14 Ingram Avenue, asked for clarification of the Assistant Code Enforcement position.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Mr. Kaczorowski will remain the Code Enforcement Officer; however, there is a motion on the agenda to add an Assistant Code Enforcement Officer to the Borough staff.

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded by a Roll Call Vote (5-1).

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to hire Season Ciechanowski as the Assistant Code Enforcement Officer.

MOTION #6 was moved and seconded by a Voice Vote (5-1).

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Rosario/Crouse*) to authorize to advertise for Vacancy on the Civil Service Commission (6 Year Term). Applications will be accepted until September 1, 2018.

Mr. Levasseur noted that Ms. Pescuric has served on the Civil Service Commission for six years and is not seeking reappointment. Mr. Levasseur thanked Ms. Pescuric for her years of service and dedication to the Civil Service Commission and the community.

MOTION #7 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Vote (6-0).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VACANT PROPERTIES ALONG CRAFTON BOULEVARD

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the Building Inspector, Dan Felton, submitted a detailed report on each of the properties in question on Crafton Boulevard. Mr. Kaczorowski reminded council that 1656 Crafton Boulevard has been submitted to the Allegheny County Vacant and Blight Property Recovery program by an interested party and has begun the paperwork process.

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, July 26, 2018 @ 7:30PM- Jupiter Vinyl (Indie Pop Folk Music)
- ***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
- ***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

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS COMMENTS

Edward Alo, 568 Broadhead Avenue, inquired about the progress of the work that Peoples Gas is completing around the Broadhead Avenue, Coulter Street, Park Street areas. He noted that on several occasions the contractor restricted access to the resident's driveways without notice. Mr. Alo also inquired if anything could be done about the vehicles speeding on Broadhead Avenue.

Mr. Kaczorowski stated that he spoke with the Project Manager and told them they must give prior notice to residents when restricting access to driveways. Mr. Kaczorowski also noted that the speed monitoring device can be placed on Broadhead Avenue to monitor the speed of passing vehicles.

Mr. Levasseur also noted that these incidents can be documented by filing a complaint with the Pennsylvania PUC (Public Utility Commission).

Anthony Saba, 568 Broadhead Avenue, expressed his concern about a parking issue on W. Crafton Avenue during events held at St. Phillip Church. He noted that the intersection of W. Crafton Avenue, Belvidere Street and Broadhead has become increasingly dangerous to pedestrians and vehicles passing through due to limited visibility.

Mr. Kaczorowski suggested meeting with the Police Chief and the Mayor to discuss possible solutions to resolve this issue.

Eddie Solomon and Chris Bell, Crafton Interns, updated Council on the G.I.S. (Geographic Information System) work and B.E.A.T. (Blight Enforcement Action Team) progress. Mr. Solomon noted that all eight B.E.A.T. meetings were hosted and a report outlining suggestions for code enforcement will be available soon. Mr. Solomon stated that, with Council approval, a dashboard can be added into the G.I.S. for use by Code Enforcement. Mr. Solomon noted that the Allegheny County Side Yard Program is still available to residents that are adjacent to a vacant or blight property. Mr. Bell spoke in regards to economic development through T.O.D. (Transit Oriented Development) and possible grant monies available. Mr. Bell also announced that a citizen submission portal that can be added to Crafton's website is in progress.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carissima J. Kerns, Administrative Assistant