

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Regular Meeting of Council
June 8, 2020

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:04 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. President Bucy stated Council was in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Cmar and Council Members Ielase, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Sockman, Steffey, Vice President Montgomery and President Bucy answered to roll call. Borough Manager Stinner, Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Roach, Borough Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer, Reidenbach and Public Works Director Volpe were also present.

Mrs. Bucy stated that the agenda items are going to be read in a different order than what is listed on the agenda to make things more expeditious. If you would like to check your agenda, the following items will be voted on first: Agenda number 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 34

MONTHLY BILLS:

Mr. Reynolds made a motion that Mr. Sockman excuses himself from voting until the lawsuit against him is resolved. No one seconded motion, motion died.

Mr. Sockman moved the payrolls for the month of May be approved, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously

MONTHLY PAYROLLS:

Mrs. Ielase moved the payrolls for the month of May be approved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

Mr. Montgomery moved the minutes of agenda meeting May 6, 2020 be approved, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved the minutes of regular meeting May 11, 2020 be approved, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to appoint Lori Bartrug to the West Elizabeth Sanitary Authority Board (Term Expiration: 12/31/24), seconded by Mr. Reynolds and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to advertise opening of vacancy on the Jefferson Hills Recreation Board; expiration date of term to be assumed December 31, 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated she is sorry to see Mrs. Rubinoff leave the board and thanked her for her service and would be missed.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise opening of the UCC Appeal Board; expiration date of term is indefinitely, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to send car 259, 2014 Ford Interceptor AWD to the auto auction, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to Ratify participation by the Borough of Jefferson Hills in the "Land Use Planning" technical assistance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Governor's Center for Local Government Services, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to adopt Resolution No. 9-2020 granting preliminary approval to the land development plan known as SP-1-2020, Quality Landscapes Equipment Building with a modification to Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section 22-504.1b to not install sidewalks along the front of the property, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 3 and Final from Bronder Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$6,151.80 for work completed on the State Route 837 and Walton Road Signal Replacement project subject to receipt and approval of the maintenance bond by the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 19 and Final from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$19,571.01 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract A subject to approval of the maintenance bond by the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Mrs. Ialase and carried unanimously. Mr. Montgomery asked Mr. Glister to summarize the project. Mr. Glister stated the project has been in the works for about 15 years and it now completed. This is one of four contracts that will be coming up for completion. They were the Mechanical portion of the project. Mr. Glister stated that Gateway Engineers, Inc. has made a video that will soon be put on our website showing what went into this project. Mr. Reynolds stated he had heard that the roof was leaking and water was coming down through the electrical panel and asked if there were any unresolved issues, and if not, he stated they shouldn't be paid until it is. Mr. Glister stated there were some punch list items but Mr. Minsterman wasn't here tonight to speak on that. Mr. Volpe stated the roof did not leak, but there were some issues with cracks and a different contractor was responsible for fixing them and in addition is taking care of other punch list items.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated May 26, 2020 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with developing an updated Pollution Reduction Plan for the Fallen Timber Watershed for submittal to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously. Mr. Glister stated that this project is part of the MS4 requirements that all the Municipalities in Pennsylvania are required to comply to. The goal is to remove sediment from the streams. We were very fortunate that ours was a very small project that needed to be completed in order to comply with the requirements. The problem was that we couldn't find a project within Jefferson Hills and would have to involve a neighboring Municipality. We made the decision that we would make an update to the Pollution Reduction Plan along Lobb's Run since there were numerous opportunity to do a project that is beneficial to the tax payers not a surrounding community.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated May 27, 2020 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with the design, permitting, and the bidding process for a Stream Restoration Project along Lobbs Run in the amount not to exceed \$22,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously. Mr. Glistler stated it pertains to a 15' sanitation line along Lobbs Run that coincides with the Pollution Reduction Plan. Won't address all of our requirements for the Pollution Reduction Plan, but covers 50% of it.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated May 27, 2020 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to continue to assist the Borough with alignments, cost estimates, and negotiations with Ashland/Hercules for the sanitary sewer replacement on the PICCO Landfill site in the amount not to exceed \$11,500.00, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously. Mr. Glistler explained our sanitary sewer line located on this property needs repaired and we have been working with DEP, EPA and Hercules to fix the issue.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated May 28, 2020 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with construction administration and inspection services for the 2020 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$53,357.85 for the work completed on the Beedle Park Concession Stand (17-GEDF-09) Project, seconded by Mrs. Steffey, carried unanimously. Mr. Reynolds asked who was running the sewage to the end of the park. Mr. Glistler stated since we do not have a sanitary line that goes through the park, the intention has always been to install a grinder pump which is part of the contract then our Public Works Department are going to install a 2" HDPE force main from the grinder pumper through the park drive to Decker Avenue where we have an existing line to tie into. Mr. Reynolds asked if we don't have a registered plumber if we are allowed to run the line without one. Mr. Glistler stated Swede Construction is used their plumber Scott Boyd Plumbing for their end of the project and this is when this came up. We thought it would be an extension of our line, but the Allegheny County Health Department disagrees with that and what they say goes. Since it was never intended to be a part of the contract and instead of extending the contract, we are using a plumber that we have used in the past for projects within the Borough to get the permits needed and oversee the project. We will be following all the proper steps. Mrs. Ruscitto asked the time line of competition and Mr. Glistler stated about a month and a half.

Mrs. Ielase moved to Authorize the Engineering committee to pursue compliance with the 1991 Record of Decision rendered by the EPA and DEP at the Resin Disposal site in Jefferson Hills Borough, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously. Mr. Montgomery thanked Mrs. Ruscitto for all her research on this project.

Mrs. Ielase moved to purchase a 2020 Ford Police Interceptor AWD Utility vehicle with extended service policy of 5 years/100,000 miles in the amount of \$36,085.00 with the purchase being made under the PA COSTARS purchasing program (COSTARS #013-010), seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy extended her thanks to the Police, staff, clerks, Public Works, Manager, Mayor, first responders, Fire Companies, Code Enforcement Engineer and Solicitor for all their hard work getting us all through these very trying 3 months.

Mrs. Bucy announced that we do have a Facebook page called The Borough of Jefferson Hills, where you can go to get information for the Borough. Grace Duda has established an official Facebook and only The Borough of Jefferson Hills will be the only place where official statements are posted.

Mrs. Bucy introduced Jon Drager our new Financial Director replacing Mr. Bennet who is retiring.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Roach stated Officer Dale Provins, Jr. was involved in a catastrophic accident and suffered substantial catastrophic injuries on Wednesday, June 3rd at 8:15 am in the morning was life flighted to the hospital. We are hopeful that he is progressing and will hopefully recover from his injuries. The investigation of the crash is continuing.

EMS REPORT:

Mr. Doug Pascoe, 114 Oakwood Drive, EMS Director of Southeast EMS, commented on the accident of Officer Provins. Mr. Pascoe stated he is asking Council not to change the run cards as they stand, but to add Gill Hall to them. They have not had any issues with response times for the past year and a half and the Council should not change the order of the calls, but to add them.

FIRE CHIEF:

Fire Chief Andrew Tomer reported on the two recent fires in the Borough and their response times. Mrs. Steffey acknowledge Jr. Firefighter Dylan Walsh for all his hard work at the recent fires.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mrs. Bucy and Mrs. Steffey presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Gill Hall Fire Co probationary plan.

Mr. Reynolds moved to Ratify participation by the Borough of Jefferson Hills in the "Fire & Emergency Services" technical assistance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Governor's Center for Local Government Services, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Council to facilitate audits performed by a certified public accountant (CPA) for the previous five-years for all volunteer fire companies in the community, including: 885, Gill Hall, Floreffe, JFR, Large, and JHFR, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to provide utility payments to Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company not to exceed a sum total of \$20,000 during phases 1 & 2 of the one-year probationary period beginning April 27, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 provided itemized bills are submitted to Borough Council; utilities to be included: gas, electric, sewage, water, cable/wifi, seconded Mrs. Ielase, and carried with a 6-1-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting yes and Mr. Reynolds voting no.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to strike the word probation from the document, there was no second, the motion died.

Mr. Sockman moved to provide legal fee payments to Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company not to exceed a sum total of \$20,000 of all expenses submitted during phases 1 & 2 of the one-year probationary period beginning April 27, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 provided itemized bills are submitted to Borough Council, seconded by Steffey and with a 1-6-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting no and Mr. Reynolds voting yes the motion died.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to strike the word probation from the document, there was no second, the motion died.

Mrs. Bucy stated that Gill Hall has to submit invoices after April 27th to be paid. Any invoice prior to that date will not be paid.

Mr. Reynolds discussed legal fees paid by JHFR and Gill Hall with Chief Tomer and Michael Plavchak for the fire truck and the purpose of JFR.

Mrs. Bucy asked if the .335 tax money was used for equipment or for anything? Chief Tomer stated it is being used for maintenance and monthly payments of all equipment under JHFR.

Mrs. Ielase moved to provide payments to Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company for the maintenance and upkeep and of fire-fighting equipment and fire-related vehicles, not to exceed a sum total of \$20,000 of all expenses submitted during phases 1 & 2 of the one-year probationary period beginning April 27, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 provided itemized bills are submitted to Borough Council, seconded by Mr. Montgomery carried with a 6-1-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting yes and Mr. Reynolds voting no.

Mr. Sockman moved to cap all approved payments to Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 total for all authorized expenditures during the 2020 calendar year, covering probationary periods phase 1 and phase 2, seconded by Mr. Montgomery carried with a 6-1-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting yes and Mr. Reynolds voting no.

Mr. Sockman moved for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Council to accept a probationary plan for Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company to establish fire protection benchmarks for the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mrs. Steffey carried with a 6-1-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting yes and Mr. Reynolds voting no.

Mrs. Ielase moved to appoint Dunkin Financial Group as the Borough's Insurance Agency of Record for the purpose of providing insurance services to the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mrs. Steffey carried with a 5-2-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting yes and Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Ruscitto voting no.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to require a General Liability Form be signed by all players participating in any sports on our fields or courts prior to using our facilities, seconded by Motion to Discuss the reopening of Borough Parks and Recreation, seconded by Mrs. Ielase carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto expressed her concerns for the safety of our residents and the legality of the Borough.

Mrs. Steffey moved to pay Zacur Construction a total of \$4,800 for the Borough's portion of the \$9,600 total fee following Zacur Construction's installation of the roof on the newly erected small pavilion in Andrew Reilly/885 Park, seconded by Mr. Sockman carried with a 6-1-0 roll call vote with Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Sockman, Mrs. Steffey and Mrs. Bucy voting yes and Mr. Reynolds voting no.

Mr. Reynolds expressed his concerns as to how this contract was awarded without a bid.

REPORTS:

Andrew Tomer

- Nothing further to report.

Engineer Glistler reported

- Nothing further to report.

Consulting Engineer reported:

- Nothing further to report.

Finance Officer/Treasurer Mr. Bennett reported:

- Nothing to add

Public Works Director Mr. Volpe reported:

- Nothing further to report.

Police Chief Roach reported:

- Nothing further to report.

Mayor Cmar reported:

Mayor Cmar apologized for her poor choice of words and didn't intend to offend anyone. She also asked for prayers for Officer Provins. She thanked Chief Roach and our officers for keeping us safe during the pandemic.

Borough Manager Stinner reported:

- Nothing further to report

CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Ms. Cindy Caulkett – 1424 High Road discussed Fern Valley Road and High Road giving way. Stating that 70 ft of the road is collapsing. Pictures passed out to Council and Public Works.

Mr. Bob Gulla – 1301 Collins Avenue discussed the fire depts

Ms. Rose Ann Ellinsky – 209 Regina Drive - Cusomano Insurance Agency, wanted to introduce herself and her insurance company but since it was already awarded, she didn't have anything further to say.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery thanked Jon Drager and Charles Bennett for getting the summary of expenditures and receipts and would like the Engineering spreadsheet back in the packets. Clairton Municipal Authority stopped our taps again and we are addressing the situation as fast as we can. Asked to keep the Provins family in our prayers

Mr. Sockman asked we keep the Provins family in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Sockman welcomed Jon Drager as our new Financial Officer. He thanked Mrs. Bucy and Mrs. Steffey for their work on the Gill Hall Probationary outline power point. He also thanked Doug Pascoe and Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue for getting Officer Provins excavated and to the hospital as soon as possible. He asked if the Fire Dept reports can be put on the website also. Mr. Sockman discussed Mr. Reynolds accusation against me and stated it was untrue and it would be nice if like we said in the beginning, we don't have to agree, but it would be nice to not try to embarrass other members in a public forum.

Mrs. Ruscitto welcomed Jon Drager and Grace Duda, our new Community Relations Coordinator. She asked prayers for Officer Provins. Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers out there.

Mrs. Steffey thanked the first responders on scene of Officer Provins' accident. She also addressed the Nepotism that she is being accused of. Would like to organize a charity softball game to help out with the expenses for Officer Provins.

Mr. Reynolds asked we respect Officer Provins' privacy. He congratulated Jon Drager as our new Finance Officer. He feels we should adopt a policy against anti-nepotism.

Mrs. Ielase expressed her prayers for the Provins family and welcomed Mr. Drager. Stated the Library is planning on opening the library with a dropbox to drop off your books.

Mr. Reynolds thanked Mr. Volpe on how good the Beedle Park looked when they went to use it.

Mrs. Bucy wished everyone a happy Father's Day and congratulated Mr. Glistler on the birth of his first daughter, Julia. She reminded everyone to have the flags put down by the sign for Flag Day on June 14th.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner
Secretary/Borough Manager