

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Regular Meeting of Council
January 14, 2019

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President King at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Cmar and Council Members Ielase, Khalil, Montgomery, Reynolds, Sockman, Vice President Weber and President King answered to roll call. Finance Officer Bennett, Solicitor Shimko, Chief Roach, Public Works Director Volpe and Borough Engineer Glister were also present.

President King asked everyone to keep the family of Gregg Daily, who is a member of the Borough's Planning Commission, in their thoughts and prayers due to the passing of his father last week.

CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Keith Reynolds, of 1313 Collins Avenue, stated he has never been against the fire halls working together and coming together to better serve the community. Mr. Reynolds indicated what he has been against the whole time are the claimed dirty politics and politicians that have been involved and running it. Gill Hall VFC has had 70 plus years of service to the community and he does not believe it would be a good idea to decertify and defund them. Last year it was Floreffe VFC that was the subject of closing, but the residents rose up and stood behind Floreffe VFC and Floreffe VFC improved themselves. Mr. Reynolds commented the attention has now turned toward Gill Hall VFC. Mr. Reynolds confirmed there is a shortage of volunteers, but stated Council should recognize that 298 calls were answered last year, with an average of 3.5 firefighters responding. Mr. Reynolds said Jefferson Hills Borough pays Jefferson Fire Rescue ("JFR") to supply a shift crew to protect the residents of this Borough, but the President, Vice President and Secretary of JFR are from Jefferson 885 VFC. Mr. Reynolds alleged all the money is going to Jefferson 885 VFC and is not being used to help Floreffe VFC or Gill Hall VFC.

Tom Bercik, of 108 Steinbach Lane, stated it is his understanding that Council was elected to represent all of Jefferson Hills Borough not one specific area and, as of right now, he thinks Council is only representing one part.

Brian Hutson, of 420 Old Clairton Road, stated he moved to Jefferson Hills Borough from Baldwin Borough and just built a house on Old Clairton Road. Mr. Hutson commented that Baldwin Borough just went through a similar situation with Becks Run and what will happen is this will end up in court and no one will get what they want. Mr. Hutson claimed the closure of the fire station there created a stress for the other companies in the area. Mr. Hutson stated even if something is only 75% effective, it is better than something that is 0% effective and, if you force out Gill Hall VFC, you are only going to have two fire stations for the whole Borough and he believes they will burn out. Mr. Hutson asked, if the Shift Crew were not compensated, did Council ever think about how many of them would stay.

Vincent Talarico, of 151 Margaret Street, Apartment #4, Pittsburgh (Mt. Oliver), PA 15210, stated he is with the Gill Hall VFC and does not feel it is right to slander the Gill Hall VFC. Mr. Talarico

asked why the Shift Crew is not put at Gill Hall VFC or at Floreffe VFC. Mr. Talarico commented it seems to him that Council does not like anyone but Jefferson 885 VFC and that is why they are given everything. Mr. Talarico declared this is not a merger, but is a takeover and stated Council is going to leave elementary schools, high schools and a hospital to the responsibility of one fire company. Mr. Talarico stated maybe Council should make it more lucrative to joint fire departments. Mr. Talarico commented he is not against an operational merger, but let each department remain its own entity, have their own officers and let them run the way they do. Mr. Talarico asked if Council thought about building a substation before decertifying Gill Hall VFC.

MINUTES:

Mr. Khalil moved the minutes of the agenda meeting December 5, 2018 be approved, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved the minutes of regular meeting December 10, 2018 be approved, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS:

Mrs. Reynolds moved the December bills be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY PAYROLLS:

Mrs. Ielase moved the payrolls for the month of December in the amount of \$235,271.59 be approved, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Vice President Weber moved to adopt Resolution No. 1-2019 amending certain fees for the year 2019, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2-2019 amending the salaries, compensation and wages for Borough employees for the year 2019, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to adopt Resolution No. 3-2019 granting a modification request to Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section 607.B and preliminary approval of the subdivision plan known as S-9-2018, Moscatiello Subdivision Plan, seconded by Mr. Khalil. Vice President Weber asked Mr. Glister if he was comfortable with Council voting on Resolution No. 3-2019 with the five (5) conditions that are outstanding. Mr. Glister replied he was. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to adopt Resolution No. 4-2019 granting final approval to the land development plan known as SP-10-2018, Marlow – Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to officially recognize the decertification of Large Volunteer Fire Company and Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company and authorize the proper Borough officials to undertake any action(s) necessary to effectuate decertification, seconded by Vice President Weber.

Prior to Council beginning the discussion of the motion, Mayor Cmar interjected and stated the motion should indicate this is a change to Ordinance No. 1-801, entitled Recognition of Fireman's Relief Association and lists both Gill Hall VFC and Large VFC. A Resolution does not change this Ordinance and, without a change, the Ordinance is still valid and will be enforced. Mr. Shimko responded the Ordinance discusses the fireman's relief associations specifically and, secondly, two months ago, Council authorized the Borough Solicitor and the Borough Manager to do the things that are necessary to effectuate a consolidation and whatever goes along with that and so he and the Borough Manager have been working on the proper Resolutions and Ordinances as the case may be. Mr. Shimko continued to say they did not want to go through the expense of advertising an Ordinance before it was known how the vote was going to go. The Ordinance is scheduled to be changed if the vote goes that particular way. Mr. Shimko stated, moreover, the funding that Jefferson Hills undertakes has always been done by Resolution and that is the reason why there is a Resolution on the agenda tonight. Mayor Cmar responded when the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief were added, that was done by Ordinance and she believed there was no stopping and thinking about that. Mayor Cmar stated she called an attorney for the Mayors' Association and they advised her that it should be an Ordinance. Mr. Shimko replied he does not disagree that there will need to be an Ordinance, but does not believe that it needs to be now.

Mayor Cmar asked if there was a written agreement from Pleasant Hills and from South Park stating that they will be our primary responder without costing any more money to the taxpayers since taxpayers already pay for fire protection. Mr. Khalil stated there is not a written agreement, but all the communities provide mutual aid free of charge and he personally confirmed with Broughton VFC that they will do so free of charge as Jefferson Hills also provides mutual aid in their area. Mayor Cmar commented she would think that before someone is decertified that the Borough should have a written agreement in place and not just take the chance that there is mutual aid. Vice President Weber commented that is a great question and is the same question he asked Andrew Tomer. Vice President Weber asked Chief Tomer to come up to the podium and address Council with the explanation of how mutual aid works so that, not only the Mayor, but the community will be comfortable with this decision.

Andrew Tomer, of 1312 Hornbake Drive, Fire Chief for Jefferson 885 Fire Company and Emergency Management Coordinator, stated in Gill Hall VFC's area Pleasant Hills VFC or Broughton VFC will not be the primary provider of service. As was discussed publically, operational control will be turned over to Jefferson 885 VFC and there are written Mutual Aid Agreements amongst all local organizations, especially within the SHACOG, to provide mutual aid free of charge to each other's municipalities. So, the primary response area would be under the authority of Jefferson 885 VFC and would use Pleasant Hills VFC and Broughton VFC for mutual aid. Mr. Montgomery asked, if there would be a fire or some other call for service in those communities, what would happen if Jefferson Hills then had a call in the Gill Hall area. Chief Tomer expressed that could happen any day and, in that event, the County Dispatch System will automatically field it to the next engine on the alarm assignment. Chief Tomer explained it would

be no different if the police were all tied up at an incident that involves all of their officers, the call would go to Pleasant Hills and vice versa. It is not different across emergency services regardless which field it is. President King commented, throughout most of the year in 2018, Gill Hall VFC has not been providing that service. President King stated everyone would think because Gill Hall VFC has a station and trucks at the station that they are actively going to fires, but as was stated in the past, there is a difference between responding to a call and actually fighting the fire once at the scene. There has been at least one situation in which Calvin Felix drove the truck to the incident, but there was no one on the truck to fight the fire. President King indicated recently, as well, when responding to fires in the Gill Hall area, Gill Hall VFC was not the first responder to the fire. Chief Tomer responded that is correct and stated it is about having qualified and capable people staffing that equipment to go in and do the job that is needed. Mayor Cmar stated, if there is no written agreement, she does not understand how the Borough can depend on the other community being there. Chief Tomer responded, again, there is a written Mutual Aid Agreement. Mayor Cmar commented everyone has Mutual Aid Agreements, but, if Jefferson Hills expects two other Boroughs to take over, there should be a written agreement to be sure that this does happen. Chief Tomer responded, again, that is the purpose of the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Vice President Weber stated in December there was a resident who came and spoke to Council and said that she had a fire at her residence and Gill Hall VFC responded with one firefighter and that firefighter is no longer at Gill Hall VFC because he resigned. Vice President Weber said that this resident indicated that everyone was safe and the fire was extinguished because everything went perfectly, which, as we know, is not always the case. Vice President Weber stated that the resident said Jefferson 885 VFC did show up with about 12-15 firefighters and Floreffe VFC showed up with 6. Vice President Weber continued to say that the resident expressed she was lucky to have all three fire companies, but Gill Hall VFC is in very dire circumstances right now and does not have the necessary resources to fight fires. Mayor Cmar commented she had heard about that and heard that the resident's neighbor, who is a fire fighter from West Mifflin, put out a small brush fire allegedly caused by a cigarette. Vice President Weber interjected saying he is not sure if it matters how the fire started. President King added that does not justify Gill Hall VFC only having one person on their truck. President King commented the gentleman earlier said 75% is better than nothing and said he disagrees with that. President King indicated this is a very unfortunate vote that has to be made and there is no celebration in this. President King stated Gill Hall VFC has been asked to participate throughout the whole year and have acknowledged their intention is not to consolidate. Mayor Cmar asked if there was any documentation of Gill Hall VFC's not having an adequate response. President King responded it has been talked about at meetings throughout the year. Mayor Cmar asked if Council would allow Brian Hutson, who had previously spoken in Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments, to return to the podium.

Mr. Khalil stated, if this vote ends in the affirmative, this does not preclude Gill Hall VFC from becoming part of a consolidated organization. Mr. Khalil indicated the time tonight is to make a vote as to whether Council wants to move forward with enhancing, promoting and making the Borough's fire service better. Mr. Khalil commented providing fire service has been discussed for over a year and the same was discussed with Floreffe VFC, but Floreffe VFC recognized the problem and has worked to fix it. Mr. Khalil stated Council has no idea what is the problem at Gill Hall VFC because they do not respond when asked. When Gill Hall VFC took Jefferson 885 VFC

off their Active 911 alert system, they were endangering every citizen in this community because the other two fire companies had no idea whether calls were being answered and that is completely inexcusable. Mayor Cmar indicated Gill Hall VFC only did that because Jefferson 885 VFC removed Gill Hall VFC. Chief Tomer responded that is absolutely incorrect and there are still members of Gill Hall VFC on their Active 911 system.

Mayor Cmar asked Council if Brian Hutson could speak. President King said he would grant that one request, but all throughout the year Council has encouraged discussion, encouraged Gill Hall VFC to get on board and Mr. Sockman spoke directly to the audience last week, but no one from Gill Hall VFC spoke. President King stated now that it is the final hour, everyone wants to speak. Mayor Cmar stated that is because Gill Hall VFC has been beaten up so many times, they just kind of gave up. President King replied no one has beat up Gill Hall VFC. Mr. Sockman stated he has asked Gill Hall VFC a number of times to please tell Council what their concerns are so Council may try and resolve them. Mr. Sockman said he also asked Gill Hall VFC to meet with Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue and still has no idea why Gill Hall VFC does not want to join the consolidation. Mr. Sockman indicated this is not a takeover and has stated two items in the past, 1. he is for the consolidation and 2. he would never vote to close a fire hall. Mr. Sockman stated he is not voting to close Gill Hall VFC; Gill Hall VFC is voting to close themselves because they don't want to be a part of this merger. Vice President Weber stated this is a councilmatic decision and he would like to see it come to vote now and was seconded by Mr. Khalil. President King stated he would allow Mayor Cmar to call Brian Hutson back to the podium.

Mr. Hutson stated he has been a volunteer fireman for about twenty years, was President of Baldwin's Relief Association. President King interjected asking what Keith Reynolds was doing because he began standing at the podium. Mr. Reynolds stated Kathleen Reynolds will request for him to come up to the podium. Mr. Reynolds declared that he thinks if Vice President Weber and Mayor Cmar had an opportunity to call someone up, Mrs. Reynolds should have the same opportunity. Mr. Hutson continued to say he was President of Option Fire Department and in the 1990's was President of the Gill Hall VFC so this is not new to him and what Chief Tomer stated was mostly true with the mutual aid. Mr. Hutson stated mutual aid is only done when the municipality can afford to expend it, if they can't, they are not coming. Mr. Hutson said that it is fine for Jefferson 885 VFC to cover that area, but the time it takes to get to the area is going to be longer. Mr. Hutson stated if Council forces this issue you will lose an asset that will probably never be able to be replaced. President King asked Mr. Hutson if he understood that throughout 2018 Gill Hall VFC has not had good response times. Mr. Hutson responded President King just mentioned one fireman from Gill Hall VFC showed up alone on a truck and asked President King to state whose property was it and when was it. President King responded he did not know whose property it was and Mr. Hutson asked how he knew it happened. President King replied Calvin Felix stated it himself when thanking the other companies for helping him. Mr. Hutson asked if that was verified with anyone and President King stated Mr. Felix does not speak at the meetings. President King stated Council feels comfortable that they have taken all the steps and the residents will be safe. Mr. Khalil stated the residents will actually be safer.

Mrs. Reynolds asked if she could have Keith Reynolds come up to the podium. President King responded no because when Mayor Cmar asked to have Mr. Hutson come up he told her he would grant that one instance. Keith Reynolds interjected that Mrs. Reynolds is not being granted

the same rights as the rest of Council. President King stated Mr. Reynolds had been warned and can leave the meeting.

The vote was not unanimous and a roll call vote was taken. Council Members Khalil, Montgomery, Sockman, Vice President Weber and President King voted yes. Council Members Ielase and Reynolds voted no. Motion carried 5-2.

Immediately thereafter, at approximately 7:40 p.m., Mr. Reynolds, from the audience, asked Mrs. Reynolds if she would like to walk out with him and and leave the meeting.

Mr. Sockman moved to adopt Resolution No. 5-2019 setting the procedures to be followed with respect to the receipt and distribution of real estate taxes for fire tax and ambulance tax revenues, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously. Mrs. Reynolds did not appear to participate in the vote as she was readying herself to leave.

As Mr. Reynolds was helping Mrs. Reynolds from her seat, Mrs. Reynolds stated this is not a democracy. There was a commotion and Mr. Reynolds alleged Mr. Khalil tried to grab something off of his mother. Mr. Khalil denied grabbing something from Mrs. Reynolds and told Mr. Reynolds not to threaten him. Mr. Reynolds commented you will get what is coming your way. President King asked what that meant and Mr. Reynolds responded he is not allowed to talk. Mrs. Reynolds again stated this is not a democracy and left the meeting.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company in the amount of \$5,230.00 for the SHACOG Sanitary Sewer Lining Year 12 – Contract A project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to approve Application for Payment No. 11 from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$104,433.50 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract A, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from A-1 Electric in the amount of \$8,550.00 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract B, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to approve Application for Payment No. 3 from State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$49,243.54 for work completed on the 2018 Manhole Rehab Program, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated January 2, 2019 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services related to the Clairton Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Work Authorization dated January 2, 2019 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2019 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated January 2, 2019 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for Borough Building ADA Door Hardware Upgrade Construction Administration in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated January 2, 2019 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for general planning assistance in 2019 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated January 2, 2019 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services related to the West Elizabeth Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to ratify the appointment of Tucker Arensburg, P.C. as Special Counsel to represent the Borough of Jefferson Hills regarding a Zoning Land Use Appeal, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve the EOI Fireworks Display Agreement from Pyrotecnico for 2019 Community Day, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to reappoint Holly Rubinoff to the Recreation Board for a term ending December 31, 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Glister stated since last week's meeting there has been another break was discovered on the Lick Run interceptor and Public Works has set up a bypass pump until the contractor can come out and make the repair, which is a savings compared to having to use the emergency contract to do the bypass pumping. The Allegheny County Health Department has been notified of the break and he is getting the paperwork together to apply for the emergency permit through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The SHACOG emergency contract will be used to complete the actual repair work.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER:

Mr. Bennett stated he provided the financial reports for the month/year ending December, which are very preliminary and will have adjustments from the auditor.

Mr. Bennett indicated he received the cost for the repair of the Municipal Building elevator, which is approximately \$10,000.00 and may seek out some other quotes to be sure it is competitive. Mr. Sockman asked if the oil cooler was included. Mr. Bennett said it did not, but would see about adding that in as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Cmar stated the Jefferson Hills Recreation Initiative will be having a meeting on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:00 in the Municipal Building and public input is critical to help look into a recreation center.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery indicated he had received the list of meetings for SHACOG for the year and the meeting at Jefferson Hills will be August 12. Mr. Montgomery asked that the room be reserved. Mr. Bennett stated the room is reserved for Thursday, August 12.

Mr. Sockman stated this has been a pretty difficult meeting and hopes the citizens of Jefferson Hills get the facts and understand what has been occurring with all the fire companies and Council. Council's ultimate goal is the health, safety and welfare of the residents. About \$4.6M a year of the Borough's \$10M budget is spent on health and safety and it is a priority. Hopefully Gill Hall VFC will come back and provide a viable service for the Borough.

Mrs. Ielase stated she has probably been the least vocal regarding the fire halls. She is for the merger, but not for the expiration date of everything happening so quickly and feels it should have been done step-by-step. Mrs. Ielase said that she does hope Gill Hall VFC will join the merger.

Vice President Weber read a prepared statement that he made. There is a Pennsylvania legislative study called SR6 that was released about a month ago, which looks at how Pennsylvania continues to use volunteers to fight fires and respond to medical emergencies. The study exposes the increased demands for around-the-clock fire service, faster response times, newer and more arduous certifications that come at a time when volunteerism is down. Vice President Weber stated during about 80% of the meetings from April 2018 to November 2018 Council has discussed the fire consolidation situation and feels that this has been done comprehensively and step-by-step. It is unfortunate that one of the fire companies decided not to participate. Participation in volunteer firefighting has shrunk from 300,000 in the 1970's to 38,000 this year in Pennsylvania because of residents' ever-growing home, family and career obligations. Vice President Weber indicated he suspects that is the catalyst that prompted the three fire companies to come to Council in 2014 and request that Council commission the Feasibility Study of Consolidation of Fire Services in

Jefferson Hills. The study took 18 months to complete and was received by Council in July 2017. In January 2018 a Task Force was formed consisting of three members of each of the three volunteer fire companies and two at-large members. Mr. Thatcher is one at-large member and the other had to step off for personal reasons. The Task Force negotiated amongst themselves without input from Council. Since January 2018, the Task Force came to Council and reported the progress of the meetings. Council was given an organizational chart, line officer positions, revised bylaws and job descriptions for the positions of Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief positions were advertised on the Borough website and Council relinquished all of the applications and requested the Task Force to review them and to make a recommendation to Council on who they believed would best fill these roles. Vice President Weber stated Floreffe VFC and Jefferson 885 VFC consistently spoke in favor of the consolidation. However, Gill Hall VFC was either silent or dissenting on the issue of consolidation and refused to acknowledge the reasons for dissenting and their members failed to negotiate in good faith on the Task Force. During the period of the Task Force work, six or seven active firefighters from Gill Hall VFC transferred to Jefferson 885 VFC due to what they described as a toxic environment that was more concerned about social aspects than training and firefighting. Vice President Weber continued to say these defections left very few firefighters at Gill Hall VFC and further strained the efforts to advance the consolidation of fire services. It was clear by late summer that the substandard services of Gill Hall VFC was putting a strain on the services of the other companies. Gill Hall VFC's refusal to train with the other companies in the Borough created a trust and safety issue for the individuals on site during an emergency. Residents and firefighters reported to Council that Gill Hall VFC's diminutive responses to emergencies in and around their station were being covered by Floreffe VFC, Jefferson 885 VFC, Pleasant Hills VFC and Broughton VFC, through mutual aid. Vice President Weber indicated members of Council acknowledged that there was a need to change and that was what was done this evening by recognizing the underperformance at Gill Hall VFC. Vice President Weber stated, on behalf of himself, he voted the way he did because it was about the health, safety and welfare of the residents and the appropriate spending of taxpayer resources. Vice President Weber thanked the other Council Members that had the courage to do this. It is Council's hope that the fire services will be enhanced and, hopefully, Gill Hall VFC will decide to join the consolidation. The Borough of Jefferson Hills is not the first municipality in Pennsylvania to consolidate fire service, but it is one of the first local municipalities to provide incentives to the firefighters and EMS rescuers to thank them for the services they provide through a tax credit.

Mr. Khalil stated this subject is very emotional, highly charged and everyone is very passionate about their stations and the fire protection of this community. This has been seen in the outbursts and inappropriate behavior. Mr. Khalil commented his behavior was inappropriate. He should not have grabbed Ms. Reynold's microphone and apologized to everyone for doing so. Mr. Khalil apologized to Mayor Cmar for raising his voice to her. Mr. Khalil stated Gill Hall VFC is always welcome to come back. Hopefully, that will happen and is the ultimate goal. Mr. Khalil commented, if that does not happen, Council will take the measures needed to protect the residents, up to and including, adding additional shift crews.

President King stated Council has decided they wanted him to serve in the position of President and carryout the rules and regulations that have been established by Council for conducting meetings. Councilwoman Reynolds was on board when approving those rules and

regulations ten years ago and voted in favor of the same. Mr. Reynolds has been to many meetings this year and, unfortunately, has been removed from some of them, but he understands and knows how the meetings run. President King commented, if someone is new to the meeting and doesn't understand that you cannot just shout out from the audience, that possibly can be overlooked, but Mr. Reynolds understands that is not proper. Just because something is not going your way, it does not give the Mayor or any Council member the opportunity to act unbecoming of an elected official. President King stated he has never slandered Gill Hall VFC or said anything derogatory or bad about them. President King indicated he has asked questions of Gill Hall VFC and asked Calvin Felix questions concerning political mailings sent by Gill Hall VFC and acquiring an attorney using taxpayer dollars, which have gone unanswered. President King said he wanted to make it clear that Council did not have a meeting yesterday and commented that Mr. Khalil invited Mayor Cmar and Mrs. Ielase to sit down with John Thatcher and discuss what is being discussed tonight regarding fire services. There were only two Council Members there and no quorum. President King stated Mr. Felix and Mr. Reynolds showed up and were asked to leave because they were not invited, but the meeting was not secretive and was not a meeting of Council. President King confirmed that he also hopes Gill Hall VFC will get onboard with the consolidation, but, if not, Council needs to know what Gill Hall VFC will do with their equipment. Gill Hall VFC owns the building and equipment, but they were paid for with taxpayer dollars. President King stated, hopefully, the leaders at Gill Hall VFC will understand that equipment is needed to provide safety to all the residents of this Borough and will decide to turn it over to the new organization. President King thanked the Task Force and all the firefighters for all their help regarding the consolidation over the past year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Ielase moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Charles W. Bennett
Secretary/Interim Borough Manager