

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Regular Meeting of Council
May 13, 2019

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by Vice President Weber 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 and Vice President Weber answered to roll call. Finance Officer Bennett, Solicitor Shimko and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. President King was absent.

CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Bob Gulla, of 1301 Collins Avenue, stated this Borough cannot allow anything else that does not generate tax dollars such as a community recreation center or a hospital; claimed Council keeps driving everything out of this Borough that generates tax dollars such as the Practice T, TC Customs and Wal-Mart; and said he read an article that said there are residents of Jefferson Hills standing in line at soup kitchens who need help. Vice President Weber stated the Practice T was given permission to build the recreation facility and they chose not to do so. Mr. Khalil stated he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Gulla and stated Council passed a resolution to help low income residents with garbage and sewer fees. Mr. Khalil also commented that the Borough, in the past, has paid for a service to try and drive business into the Borough and nothing came of it. Mr. Khalil indicated bringing business in is still the focus of Council. Mr. Khalil expressed taxes have only been raised once in the eleven (11) years he has been on Council because Council is cognizant of the impact taxes have on the community. Mr. Khalil stated that a potential community center is only in the first step of a very long process and it may or may not happen. Mr. Khalil stated, at the last meeting, he did ask about having a financial forecast for the community center and there is not one at this time. Mr. Khalil stated this Council is fiscally conservative and, if anything comes into fruition, it will fit within the Borough's budget or it will not happen. Vice President Weber noted the Wal-Mart issue was fourteen (14) years ago and commented that not one member of the current Council could have had a vote on that issue.

Karen Bucy, of 410 Deer Park West Drive, stated when Gill Hall VFC become decertified this caused a loss of fifty percent (50%) of the fire departments the Borough had in 2004, which is especially concerning in the Gill Hall area because Gill Hall has increased their home population by thirty-five (35%). Ms. Bucy expressed she wants to have Gill Hall VFC recertified. Ms. Bucy asked all the members of the Gill Hall VFC and Council to recognize that this lack of cooperation, respect and inability to compromise contradicts their oath to serve and protect this community. Ms. Bucy stated everyone needs to leave their pride, ego and past resentments at the door and reenter negotiations to achieve the best safety and protection for Borough residents.

Mrs. Ielase stated she was wondering where to put this in tonight, but she was going to ask for a motion to recertify Gill Hall VFC for the safety of the residents as well as start talking with Gill Hall VFC because they are willing to do that now. Mrs. Reynolds stated she was going to second it, too. Mr. Sockman asked Mrs. Ielase if Gill Hall VFC is willing to talk. Mrs. Ielase stated her understanding is that Gill Hall VFC has a new attorney and the gag order has been lifted. Vice President Weber asked if anyone from Gill Hall VFC has gone to the Task Force or has come to a

meeting to be part of the dialog again. Mrs. Ielase replied not that she is aware. Mayor Cmar stated Gill Hall VFC should be recertified and have the issues mediated in the meantime. Mr. Khalil stated he feels Council should get something from Gill Hall VFC in writing stating they want to be part of the consolidation and stating what their reasons for not initially wanting to consolidate. Mr. Khalil indicated, if they want to come on board and talk, everyone is willing to do that, but the process will not be stopped or reversed. Mr. Sockman stated this consolidation has been difficult for everyone and he is very concerned about the people in Gill Hall. Mr. Sockman commented his proposal is to consider recertifying Gill Hall VFC for sixty (60) or ninety (90) days. Vice President Weber stated he does not feel it takes a councilmatic action for Gill Hall VFC to speak to the Task Force. Vice President Weber expressed the problem was certified, competent firefighters left Gill Hall VFC and there was only a skeleton crew left to fight fires. Vice President Weber asked is the opportunity of Gill Hall VFC and the Task Force speaking to each other the only thing being gained by recertifying Gill Hall VFC. Vice President Weber stated that can be done without recertification. Vice President Weber noted Council needs to be cognizant of its responsibility to the taxpayers and how their money is spent. Mr. Sockman stated he understands that, but recertification may help Gill Hall VFC obtain more firefighters. Mr. Khalil stated let's see what the list of issues are, but if Gill Hall VFC is recertified, they need to allow other firefighters in our community to access their facility as Floreffe VFC and Jefferson 885 VFC have done. Vice President Weber stated he is uncomfortable that Gill Hall VFC has not joined the consolidation and feels Mr. Khalil's suggestion is a good one.

Mayor Cmar asked if Brian Hutson could speak on behalf of Gill Hall VFC. It was Council's consensus to let Mr. Hutson speak.

Brian Hutson, of 420 Old Clairton Road and Vice President of Gill Hall VFC, indicated Gill Hall VFC is not opposed to and never was opposed to some type of consolidation, but, instead, would like more checks and balances. Mr. Hutson provided a letter to Council. Mr. Khalil asked Mr. Hutson if he had an opportunity to read the Bylaws. Mr. Hutson replied he had. Mr. Khalil asked to what, within the Bylaws did he take objection. Mr. Hutson responded that is something that should be hammered out between the fire companies and not aired in the public. Mr. Hutson stated every organization needs to be represented equally regardless of the number of members. Mr. Khalil stated the Bylaws are incredibly inclusive and allows for the organizations to transition into the new organization. Mr. Hutson stated, again, a discussion like that needs to be hashed out between the fire companies. Vice President Weber asked what the date of the letter that he provided to Council was. Mr. Hutson replied he believed it went out last week. Mr. Hutson indicated it was posted on Gill Hall VFC's Facebook page. Vice President Weber asked if it was sent through U.S. Mail. Mr. Hutson responded it is in the process of being sent through U.S. Mail. Mr. Hutson stated the community is in no better position with Gill Hall VFC being recertified than they are staying decertified. Vice President Weber asked Mr. Hutson if Gill Hall VFC is willing to talk. Mr. Hutson stated Gill Hall VFC never said they were not willing to talk. Vice President Weber asked, if Council were to consider recertifying Gill Hall VFC, would they be willing to allow Jefferson 885 VFC and Floreffe VFC access to their building to be able to respond to incidents in the Gill Hall region. Mr. Hutson responded he could not give a concrete yes to that question because there is a lot to that. Vice President Weber asked Mr. Hutson to go back to the membership at Gill Hall VFC and bring that answer to Council.

Mr. Khalil asked for Mr. Thatcher of the Task Force and Brian Chalfant, President of Jefferson Fire Rescue, to be recognized.

Mr. Thatcher stated the Bylaws were drafted with the thinking that a volunteer fire service is way better than the Borough paying for it. Mr. Thatcher indicated documents are in the process of being filed to obtain nonprofit status for the new organization to allow merging of the assets into the new organization. Mr. Thatcher stated, as far as who will actually run the company, there are provisions in the Bylaws that state it is still, ultimately, the volunteer firefighters that pick the officers and executive officers and appoint the chief. Mr. Thatcher indicated the Bylaws also include a provision that every year the treasurer has to provide a full accounting of all money sent to the fire service. Mr. Khalil asked, during the transition, each organization had a two-year term to appoint their local chiefs and trustees before merging into the new organization. Mr. Thatcher stated that was correct. Mr. Khalil asked if everything was voted upon and will be voted upon by the members. Mr. Thatcher replied that was correct. Mrs. Reynolds asked why it is not working. Mr. Thatcher stated he feels the Chief Don Wither's statement at the agenda meeting about the cooperation of Floreffe VFC and Jefferson 885 VFC is the perfect example of how it is working. Mrs. Reynolds stated, when she listens to people from Gill Hall VFC, it is not working and something else has to be done. Vice President Weber asked if Gill Hall VFC has reached out to the Task Force to reopen dialog. Mr. Thatcher responded not that he is aware and the Task Force reached out to Gill Hall VFC in October and December for this purpose and has never received a response. Vice President Weber stated unless Gill Hall VFC would provide access to their facility, he feels there is nothing to gain by recertifying them. Mr. Thatcher stated he would have concerns about the status of the equipment if they are not readily willing to provide access. Mrs. Ielase stated she feels Council is backing Gill Hall VFC into a corner by asking them to allow other firefighters to use their facility. Mr. Khalil stated he does not feel that is the case and feels it would be a good will gesture on Gill Hall VFC's part to open the facility to the other fire companies unless there is some negative reason unknown to him. Mr. Thatcher stated he wanted everyone to be aware that, at the June 2018 Task Force meeting, a motion was made for the President of Gill Hall VFC to be the President of the new organization and he declined and, at the July meeting, the same motion was made and his response was he would think about it and get back to them. Vice President Weber asserted it does not take Council to say or do anything for Gill Hall VFC to reach out to the Task Force and state their intention to consolidate.

Mr. Brian Chalfant, President of Jefferson Fire Rescue, stated Gill Hall VFC did attend every Task Force meeting until October. So, if there is anything in the Bylaws they do not like, they put it there because not one section of the Bylaws was moved on from until everyone agreed with it. Mr. Chalfant indicated Mr. Calvin Felix and Mr. Tony Latorre gave great dialog and provided a lot of good ideas that were put in the Bylaws. Mr. Chalfant commented the ladder truck sitting in the Gill Hall VFC was totally paid for by taxpayer money through Jefferson Fire Rescue. There is a key code on the door that has been changed so that no one else has access to it and cannot get to the truck. Mr. Khalil asked about the rescue truck in their possession as well. Mr. Chalfant stated that truck is titled to Gill Hall VFC. Mr. Khalil stated he feels all equipment and vehicles should be shared with the other fire companies. Mr. Chalfant stated as a member of the Task Force, they never wanted Gill Hall VFC to close. Mrs. Reynolds asked why the keys of Floreffe were taken from new firefighters. Mr. Chalfant said he could not answer that and she would have to ask the

Chief of Floreffe. Mr. Khalil stated rehashing all of what has happened in the past is not being productive to moving forward and mending fences.

Keith Reynolds, of 1313 Collins Avenue, apologized to Mayor Cmar about how she was treated last week on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson Hills. Mr. Reynolds asked how many Floreffe firefighters have access to Jefferson 885 VFC. Vice President Weber and Mr. Khalil responded all of them. Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Gulla, who is a member of the Floreffe VFC, if he had his key card. Mr. Gulla responded he did not have a key. Mr. Chalfant indicated the key is mounted on the outside of the building. Mr. Reynolds claimed Mr. Gulla did not know that and does not have access. Mr. Reynolds stated Council complains about money spent by Gill Hall VFC regarding mailings, but the Borough sent out a mailing about Gill Hall VFC after the decertification. Mr. Reynolds asserted he heard a motion to recertify Gill Hall VFC and a second, but no vote. Mr. Shimko noted Mrs. Ielase said she did not know where she was going to work this in tonight and was going to make a motion, but did not officially do so and Mrs. Reynolds said she was going to second it.

MINUTES:

Mr. Sockman moved the minutes of the agenda meeting April 3, 2019 be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved the minutes of regular meeting April 8, 2019 be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS:

Mr. Montgomery moved the April bills be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY PAYROLLS:

Mr. Sockman moved the payrolls for the month of April in the amount of \$228,399.18 be approved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Montgomery moved to enact Ordinance No. 875 amending Chapter 18, Part 1, Subpart A, Section 18-112, and Chapter 20, Part 1, Subpart A, Section 103.2 of the Borough of Jefferson Hills Code of Ordinances providing for (1) low income sanitary sewer fees discount; (2) low income garbage collection fees discount, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to adopt Resolution No. 12-2019 granting approval of a Land Development Application Sewage Facilities Planning Module for Gill Hall Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-2019 granting final approval of the land development plan known as SP-4-2019, Gill Hall Elementary Land Development Design, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to ratify Street Opening Permit to Peoples Natural Gas Company for the purpose of natural gas mainline extension to serve Betler lot plan for a distance of 640 feet on Independence Drive, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to authorize payment to Floreffe Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$35,760.00 upon satisfactory installation of a vehicle exhaust Extraction System by Air Cleaning Systems, Inc. (COSTARS Contract #008-047), seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve bids for the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance 2019 Spring Commodities, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from Roto-Rooter Services Company in the amount of \$55,718.03 for work completed on the SHACOG Sanitary Sewer O&M Point Repair Year 7 project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Invoice #2019-18 from Soli Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$2,992.10 for restoration work completed on the Shady Timber Storm Sewer Sinkhole Repair Project, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Application for Payment No. 5 from A-1 Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$24,764.40 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract B, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 7 and Final from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$43,484.81 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract D, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Invoice #19-120 from D & D Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$2,564.50 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Electrical Engineering Design Services, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Invoice #90848069 from Norfolk Southern Railway Company in the amount of \$12,558.21 for shoring plan review and flagging/inspection services on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to recommend to SHACOG the award of a bid to State Pipe Services, Inc. for Joint Municipal SHACOG O&M CCTV Year 9 Project in the amount of \$151,237.30 with the Borough's share being \$57,258.80, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to recommend to SHACOG the award of a bid to State Pipe Services, Inc. for Joint Municipal SHACOG Sanitary Sewer O&M Point Repairs – Year 8 Project in the amount of \$247,255.00 with the Borough's share being \$29,410.00, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to recommend to SHACOG the award of a bid to State Pipe Services, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – Year 13 – Contract A (Spot Lining) in the amount of \$54,884.00 with the Borough share being \$17,582.00, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to recommend to SHACOG the award of a bid to Jet Jack, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – Year 13 – Contract B (MH-MH Lining) in the amount of \$207,977.50 with the Borough share being \$98,825.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve purchase of a 4500Z Ventrac Tractor, Model WG972-GL with attachments, from Krigger & Company, Inc. in the amount of \$34,234.00 utilizing Sourcewell Contract #062117-VPI held by Venture Products, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve an agreement with Ford Business Machines, Inc. to provide for electronic document management program, ConnecteDocs Muni, in the amount of \$9,600.00 annually based on a 3-year commitment/agreement (COSTARS# 006-135), seconded by Mr. Khalil.

Mr. Sockman asked Mr. Bennett what type of in servicing would be provided on this equipment. Mr. Bennett replied the company would provide three (3) site licenses and provide all training. Mr. Montgomery expressed his desire to have training. Mr. Bennett explained that will come in time.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Shimko commented the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act requires the Borough to make a subsequent public notice of the award of this contract because a member of the Recreation Board of the Borough of Jefferson Hills is employed by Ford Business Machines, Inc. and the contract is over \$500.00. Mr. Shimko stated the Ford Business Machines, Inc. proposal was the lowest of three (3) quotes received. Additionally, the Ford Business Machines, Inc. proposal was from COSTARS contract and therefore could have been awarded directly, but the Borough sought further proposals because of the employee issue and to ensure the best price.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve a public hearing date of Wednesday June 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for the CU-2-2019 Beedle Park Concession Stand/Restroom Facility conditional use application, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Cmar thanked Mrs. Ielase for her work on Fish for Fun Day.

Mayor Cmar congratulated Chase Winovich, a Jefferson Hills resident and Thomas Jefferson High School graduate, for being selected in the third round of the NFL draft by the New England Patriots. There was a consensus of Council to have Mr. Winovich come to a meeting to recognize and congratulate him.

Mayor Cmar stated she is hoping to recertify Gill Hall VFC before a tragedy happens.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery stated there is a program to combine pension administration by using PSAB Municipal Trust. Mr. Bennett stated this is a good idea, but it would be best to do this after the audit currently being performed by Mockenhaupt. There was a consensus of Council to move forward after the audit is complete.

Mr. Sockman stated he hopes the fire company consolidation can move forward.

Mr. Sockman congratulated Brian Chalfant on his recent marriage.

Mrs. Reynolds wished everyone a nice Memorial Day and hoped that Gill Hall VFC could be recertified.

Mrs. Ielase thanked everyone who helped with Fish for Fun Day.

Mrs. Ielase asked who would be attending the CMA meeting on June 5. Vice President Weber stated Council should talk about this. Council discussed and there was a consensus to request Kurt Todd from The Gateway Engineers to attend the CMA meeting.

Vice President Weber asked for a brief executive session to discuss legal/real estate matters.

Mayor Cmar recognized the scouts for attending the Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Weber adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m. with an executive session for legal/real estate matters to follow from which Council would not return on a motion by Mr. Sockman, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Charles W. Bennett
Secretary/Interim Borough Manager