Borough of Jefferson Hills

Agenda Meeting of Council

November 4, 2020

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:01 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Ielase, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Sockman, Steffey, Vice President Montgomery and President Bucy answered to roll call. Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Roach, Borough Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Mayor Cmar was absent.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Carol Ann Bucar, 733 Waterman Road, regarding Beam Run Valley Tour. She did not give permission for the tour to go through her property and does not want anyone on her property.

Lisa Buckiso, 3041 Shady Timber, read into record email sent to Council regarding the October 12th Borough meeting and Mr. Reynolds behavior, asked for an apology or his resignation. Mr. Reynolds stated there will be no apology or resignation at this time. Mrs. Buckiso asked for a show of hands if anyone else thinks this behavior ok? No hands were raised.

Chris Zacur, 2364 Ridge Road. Gave an update on the sewer tap issue. Stated no taps have been issued since the October 16th agreement has been signed. He stated one of the reasons why is due to the meeting that was scheduled between all municipalities with the Judge was cancelled. We as builders and community members were told it was cancelled because the judge had a conflict. After a few conversations with our attorney and Judge’s assistance, we were informed it was cancelled by Mr. Gabriel and should be noted. Mr. Gabriel stated it was true it was cancelled due to him having official business with Allegheny County but that the issue was resolved without having the conference the same day. Consent order was reached on Friday and memorialized on Monday and it incorporates a settlement agreement as officially part of the consent order. CMA wanted us to release them without protection. Peters Twp. already received sewer taps and wasn’t interested in the extra protection. South park and Jefferson Hills got the additional protection put in place.

Flip Benack, 205 Fawn Drive, expressed his concerns regarding the Blackwood Plan of Lots that is being proposed directly behind his property and wanted to clarify a few things. The swell would be the first phase and there will be around 20’ buffer that would remove all vegetation. Developer stated he would plant grass and that takes time to take hold. They also said they would plant trees along the line to make it nice. He is asking to please make sure it’s in writing. Also, a discussion who’s liable to adjacent properties during this project. At that meeting no one would guarantee that the work being done would be covered if their property was damaged. Would it be the developer? Would it be the Borough? Homeowner? Or the HOA for this Plan? You can’t use my homeowner’s policy to make this right? Our Borough keeps approving these developments to expand our tax base and our taxes are continually going up even if new houses are going up. I will lose $20-30,000 property value once the trees are gone. When is enough going to be enough?

Mrs. Ruscitto replied, if something happens on your property it will be your responsibility and she did not recommend for this for approval.

Mr. Montgomery replied it is in the plan they have to mitigate all stormwater and it shouldn’t happen and if it does, the developer is responsible.

Jennifer Ratica, 216 Orchard Court, expressed her concerns with the Beams Run Trail tour. She was told at an Environmental Advisory Council meeting that her concerns were invalid and was very concerned that they would not inform her of what their plans are for using her property. She told them she would like to be at the next meeting about this and they did not contact her like she asked and was told by someone else. She wants contacted first.

Sandy Benack, 205 Fawn Drive spoke regarding Blackwood Plan. She is concerned about the development. She asked Council to deny the development. She asked can arch street was a viable road as a second road. Emergency and road maintenance can not get through there. She was told they just had to attach it to a Borough road, and it was up to the Borough to maintain the road. She also has concerns about storm water.

Bob Gulla – 1301 Collins Avenue spoke regarding Gill Hall Fire Dept. Stated he feels the lawsuit needs dropped. Wants Council to open Gill Hall. Also that the money should be split 50/50 Between Jefferson Fire Rescue and Gill Hall Fire Dept.

Lauryn Sacha, 1089 Antler Drive. echoed concerns of Flip and Sandy Benack. Feels it illogical for the HOA to understand the maintenance of a repiran buffer. This area that they are proposing would be monitored and maintained for one year, but DEP rules say four times a year for at least four years after development and has very specific rules on maintaining it. A forested area can absorb 40x the water than a lawn or driveway can absorb.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there were any official meetings held by the developer or the engineer? Would like to put a group together to voice their concerns.

Mrs. Ruscitto reminded her she did vote no and she is listening and hearing what everyone is saying.

Mr. Montgomery stated it’s always been a concern of his that the HOA would maintain it. Borough adopted a stormwater management plan. He agrees it is a problem.

Mrs. Bucy asked if Ms. Sacha would be willing to hold an informational meeting about repiran buffers? Ms. Sacha stated she would be.

Joshua Rogers, 128 Wray Large Road, stated it is embarrassing for Council members to act the way they are on Social Media. He supports Mrs. Ruscitto stating she is honest and asks questions and fights for us. He is concerned why hospital is still a topic. It was turned down. Why isn’t the new zoning being done? When it comes to fire hall, why do people have to fight so hard to have a fire hall? Said Council serves the public and it’s a privilege to represent them. It would nice to get a commitment for council members to refrain from social media bashing.

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road spoke on nepotism and social media. Feels things are going against the rules compared to other communities. Consider updating our policies to not allow this. Last Council meeting was a complete circus. Mr. Reynold’s comment was inappropriate but wasn’t how it was portrayed. For Mrs. Steffey to bash him on social media is disgraceful. Council needs to get under control. Made a comment of the lawsuit that involved Mr. Sockman where he made a comment to the female employee.

Mr. Sockman addressed the lawsuit. He stated it was an alleged remark. Remark was made in executive session in front of the other Council members and she took the phrase I said and turned it around. The case was dropped by equal opportunity committee. Did not cost $200,000

Mrs. Steffey in regard to nepotism she would like to have Council’s opinion, we have not had any votes that I participate in that helped me funnel money to Floreffe Fire Hall or JFR. Mrs. Bucy confirmed this.

Mr. Gabriel stated we do have a nepotism policy in the form of Resolution.

1. Motion to approve the monthly bills

Mr. Montgomery asked if the bill for the vacation of Cherry Alley was taken out of escrow?

1. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
2. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting October 7, 2020
3. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting October 10, 2020
4. Motion to tentatively adopt the proposed 2021 Borough Budget
5. Discussion of awarding contract to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Borough Fire Company Internal Financial controls
6. Discussion of Resolution 20-2020 increasing the size of the Environmental Advisory Council from seven to nine members
7. Discussion of appointing Joseph Lynch to the Environmental Advisory Council (Term Expiration: 12/31/22)
8. Discussion of appointing J. Alexandra Hakala, Ph.D. to the Environmental Advisory Council (Term Expiration: 12/31/22)
9. Discussion to open Request for Proposal for dual entry system
10. Discussion to open Request for Proposal for security cameras
11. Discussion to open position of Police Chief

President Bucy stated Chief Roach’s last day Dec 30th 2020 and the first day for LT king to operate as the OIC will be Dec 31st 2020

1. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 19-2020 granting modification request to Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section(s) §22-609.1, §22-609.2, §305.1 and §305.b and preliminary approval for a subdivision plan known as PS-2-2019, Blackwood Plan of Lots

Mr. Don Housley, 4024 Castor Lane, Triangle Engineer & Planning Services, presented the Blackwood plan.

8:45 Keith Reynolds left the meeting

1. Discussion to approve Change Order No. 1 from Swede Construction Corporation dated October 29, 2020 for installation of the grease trap as required by the Allegheny County Health Department Plumbing Division in the amount of $1,878.33
2. Discussion to approve Change Order No. 2 from Swede Construction Corporation dated October 29, 2020 for installation of an electrical transfer switch and external generator input receptacle to provide a backup power source for the grinder pump as required by the Allegheny County Health Department Plumbing Division in the amount of $2,973.30

8:48 Mr. Reynolds returned

1. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 6 from Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of $18,091.17 for the work completed on the Beedle Park Concession Stand (17-GEDF-09) Project
2. Discussion to accept a proposal in the amount of $8,700.00 from Thermal Solutions-Ohio, Inc. for providing and installing insulation with a poly weather barrier on the 800’ of temporary gravity bypass at the PICCO landfill
3. Discussion to purchase Mine Safety Appliances Tri-Gas Lite 3 Gas Flow Panel System for the new State Route 837 pump station facility in the amount of $14,006.00
4. Discussion to accept a proposal in the amount of $4,500.00 from Lanco Electric, Inc. to install the Mine Safety Appliances Tri-Gas Lite 3 Gas Flow Panel System at the new State Route 837 pump station facility
5. Motion to approve Work Authorization dated October 29, 2020 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services related to the West Elizabeth Sewershed in the amount not to exceed $3,000.00
6. Discussion of Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company Probationary Plan Options
7. Discuss approving the distribution of the Pennsylvania Foreign Fire Insurance allocation in the amount of $66,258
8. Reports

Chief Chalfant

* Report was submitted

Engineer Glister reported:

* + - Pointed out that the CDBG year 47 application ADA upgrades for 885 and Tepe park were approved to go to full application

Calvin Felix spoke regarding their proposed budget for fire dept and relief association. Page two shows $40, 875.75 based on the last year of full operation before being decertified and they had 298 calls at that time.

Page three will be the Relief Association, with the total of $18,338. A lot of that is for the equipment owned by the league association that needs maintenance every year and recertified.

Mrs. Bucy asked on April 20th I receive an email that you were the official spokesman for GHVC and she wanted to clarify that she is to talk to him and emails should go to you? Yes, unless we allow someone else to be the spokesperson.

Mrs. Bucy said we met as a fire liaison committee earlier this month and we have asked repeatedly to have your linemen and we still have not received that. Mr. Felix stated she received the list that they have three linemen. Elections as always are om December and it will be decided upon then. That was tole to you via email by Joe Floriolli. Mrs. Bucy said that he told her he would give them after you have opened them up. She has done a lot of research and can go to different webpages and actually put your lineman on a website. The reason for that is the safety feature. We want to make sure you are protected; the residents are protected and the other people that are coming to assist you are protected. It would be very advantageous to us to know who your linemen are. Mr. Felix stated the by-laws state the elections are in December and we cannot change that.

I don’t do social media, but I have had people show me things and I was told that you said you were not interested even going on under 180-3 because you feel you would have one foot in the door of the merger and I would like you to assure your people we as a council, are not interested in having you merge. We have repeatedly said that over and over. However, we would like to make sure that in that independence we are funding a great deal of money and we want to make sure that that tax dollar money for all three are held accountable and used wisely. I personally would like to see two things happen. You up and running on calls. There was actually three in the past month that you could go to in your area, one on Spaniel Dr. I actually got in my car and went there. The first person there was JHFR and the second person was Broughton with two people. It was 9:30 in the morning not a lot of people were coming. I want every company to be self-reliant. Mutual aid is a plus but that’s all it is. Mr. Felix said he doesn’t see that happening if everyone doesn’t have a paid crew. Just like there was a survey for a community center I think there should be a survey on how they want to spend their money for fire. We have to make sure that we are protecting you and any other fire coming your way and the residents.

Mr. Reynolds JHFR was first on the scene was that members or the truck. Mrs. Steffey stated it was the truck. He asked how long did it take? Mrs. Steffey stated it wasn’t too long.

Mr. Reynolds stated regarding #26, distribution of fire allocation, how that going to be distributed? Mr. Reynolds recommends evenly third/third/third.

Mrs. Ielase stated we already paid bills they got money. This is reimbursement for what they did during the year on wear and tear on their vehicles. So why would we give them the same amount as the other two.

Mr. Reynolds asked are you 100% sure that the foreign fire tax is to pay for past performance or is it funding for the following year.

Mrs. Busy asked that numerous times. Mr. Drager can it be used now or 2021. It’s heavily audited. Mr. Reynolds asked if you have a contact to call them. I would like to know how it’s supposed to use for whether 2020 or 2021. Mr. Drager could you please find out by Andrew McCreary and ask him. Mr. Reynolds said we should ask the state not someone from Mt Lebanon.

Mr. Sockman told Mr. Reynolds Gill Hall did not get an $1. My recommendation was to get 10% which they got and the other should be divided between the companies. It would be my recommendation to do the same this year since Gill Hall has not made any runs this year.

Mr. Reynolds said to say Gill Hall did not receive a $1, maybe Mr. Stinner could get minutes from last year to see how it was dispersed. Mrs. Ieslase said she thought it was 10%. Mr. Felix said it was $1 to Gill Hall, and the year before was $6,000.

Mrs. Bucy stated, what I would like to see is that Gill Hall gets up and running on 180-3 and simultaneously work on run cards. We don’t want to have them merge. We also have a responsibility to make sure these calls and everyone are working together and are coming Jefferson Hills. The other thing I feel is a stumbling block besides the lawsuit that is out of our hands. After this is done, that everybody has access to everybody’s station in the event of an emergency. As long as those are done, I’m good to go. Mr Reynolds stated they met every part of your probation plan.

Mrs. Ielase stated from April to July they did not attend one training until we pushed the issue. Tasks not completed in timely manner and no communication. They bring in a proposition two minutes before meeting and expect us to vote on it. Why can they give it to us a week before so we could review it not two minutes before meeting.

Mr. Reynolds stated that statement was false.

Community Relations reported

* + - Nothing further to report.

Finance Officer/Treasurer Mr. Drager reported:

* + - Nothing further to report

Public Works Director Mr. Volpe reported:

Nothing further to report Police Chief:

* + - Report will be here for Monday
    - Press release last week, on October 28th Zachery Fultz age 23 of South Park, was arrested are arranged on charges of Homicide by vehicle while DUI, Homicide by vehicle and involuntary Manslaughter and on the accident that killed Officer Provins in June of this year. November 13, 2020 there will be a preliminary hearing
    - Basic recruit class creates a plague every year that they dedicate to the academy. This year it will include Officer Provins name and picture. They contacted Lt. King and I and we gave them permission.
    - I want to recognize Officer John Haas for his 2020 Top Gun award efforts of removing impaired drivers from the road. This is the second year in a row that he was honored. There are over 25,000 police officers and less than 100 are recognized.
    - Police chief position is open. On August 30th, I notified Council that December 30th will be my last day. December will be my last Council meeting where I will give a brief farewell.

Mr. Reynolds made suggestion to we should find a way to work $10,000 into budget as a contribution to the memorial fund for Officer Provins, Jr.

Borough Manager:

* + - Nothing further to report

Solicitor:

* + - Council met in executive session and will return at the conclusion of agenda meeting.

1. General Business

Mr. Montgomery:

Updated on what was discussed at the SHACOG meeting this month.

Recognized Borough resident Sgt. Joe Budd for saving several lives by his actions as a Police Officer

Thanked everyone for their civility during tonight

Mrs. Steffey:

Asked Mr. Volpe what the old Public Works building is being used for. Mr. Volpe stated utilizes it for dry storage.

Asked if a mirror could be put at Wakefield and Beams Run Road at the request of a resident? Mr. Volpe stated there is a procedure go through with Penndot.

Mrs. Ielase:

The Library Associate Director secured a $8,800 grant from Jefferson Regional Foundation for virtual programming equipment and equipment for the outdoor theater. Additional WIFI hotspots have been issued for residents. Virtual programing and book pickup is continuing.

Mr. Sockman:

Eventually, we would like to propos to put cold storage here

I would like to ask Mr. Glister and Mr. Ministerman if they could take a look at the Blackwood Plan to make sure all the problems that the residents have spoken about are addressed.

Mrs. Ruscitto:

Agreed with what Mr. Sockman had said

I have gotten calls about speeding on Chamberlin and asked if there could be a stop sign there to stop it.

Mrs. Steffey added a dog was hit there and took off.

Council of Neighbors are regrouping to help for the holidays if anyone wants to donate please take money to the Borourgh building to be used to shop. Due to COVID, we are not accepting food donations

Mr. Reynolds:

Nothing to add

Mrs. Bucy:

It is important for everyone to acknowledge their mistakes to allow change to occur. Mr. Reynolds I would like to apologize for interrupting you and will make every effort not too again. I also think it would go a long way if you would extend same curtesy to Mrs. Steffey

Mr. Reynolds stated he didn’t appreciate being put on the spot, this was already addressed If anyone deserves an apology it’s to the residents I apologize to the residents. I get so frustrated to sit there and look at residents that we are being put in jeopardy. That was me expressing to Mrs. Steffey whenever Gill Hall was doing a completely selfless act she wrote a post asking people to purchase from her friend and not them. By her doing that and not make reference to that event that was there they thought you were a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was blown out of context. When I see so many wrongs I will fight for the residents and clear the corruption that has been plaguing this council for years. We can work together but will never friends

Mrs. Steffey:

I apologize if you or residents of Gill Hall took my post that was put on there for a generous resident stepped up to raise money for the fund.

President Bucy adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m. on motion by Mr. Sockman seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Executive Session: *Personnel, Lawfully Privileged/Confidential, Public Safety Preparedness, Litigation (Jefferson Estates Homeowners Association v. Zokaites Properties et al., Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Docket No. GD-17-011526; Peters Creek Sanitary Authority, et al. v. Clairton Municipal Authority, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, GD-17-017711; AUUE, Inc. v. Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, SA-19-000748;* *PICCO Superfund site- potential litigation involving WESA and Ashland.*

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John P. Stinner

Secretary/Borough Manager