

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
November 3, 2021

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Ielase, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Sockman, Steffey, Vice President Montgomery, and President Bucy and answered to roll call. Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Dziezgowski, Borough Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Volpe were also Present. Mayor Cmar was not present.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

Tom Donohue, Environmental Advisory Council stated we had our meeting in October and another meeting also with US Steel Clairton plant. Just as a brief overview of those two meetings, U.S. Steel Clairton plant hosted us at their general office building. We didn't actually tour the plant, we met with the plant manager, Mike Rhoades. He showed us a power point presentation which covered the plant equipment operations and focused in on the air quality programs. Mike's the Mon Valley Environmental Manager and is also a chemical engineer. He met with us and the plant technician. I don't know their exact title, but he was a chemical engineer too. We had some very good discussions. We asked some questions, and we'll post those minutes on the Borough website. They also invited us to do a plant tour. We don't have to put hard hats and steel toe boots on since it'll be through a car, so we're going to take them up on that and we'll report back.

During our October meeting, we were presented about a program by Mr. Christ from Waste Management, called the Hazardous Waste Disposal Program for the community. They have a proposal into Borough Council. For a small fee per month for residents, they would pick up a host of hazardous waste at individuals' homes upon receiving a call from any individual homeowner or resident of the Borough. We had questions for him after he made his presentation, he answered those and with a unanimous vote we felt that this was a good program that we'd like to recommend.

I don't know if you've heard his presentation yet, but I just will say that personally earlier this year I paid \$60.00 to get to rid of two big screen flat screen TVs. I had to schedule an appointment two months in advance, had to put them in my car and drive the T.V. to another location to dispose of them and I really would have liked to have this program personally. They come to your home, and it's a lot less costly. Plus, it's more than just T.V.'s there's a whole host of things Mr. Christ will explain. Just as a side note, some guy I know had to get rid of his T.V.'s, he pulled out his saw and cut them up and dispose of them with his household waste and made a mess. It's not really safe and I wouldn't necessarily recommend that. I'll defer to his presentation later, but that was our recommendation after we heard that.

In addition, it appears two people or two groups that want to adopt sections of Peters Creek Road. We'll finalize that in the near future. They're working on the applications through the state right now through the Pennsylvania Clean Ways Program.

We're also still proceeding with beneficial use of mining. Mr. Terry Ackman on our group has worked with the Department of Environmental Protection, The Bureau of Mines, and he's come

up with 150 digitized files of mines below Jefferson Hills. He's spoken with our Borough Engineer, and he is going to speak with Gateway to see how we can view these because with the software that we have right now in the building, we can't see them all.

The last thing, we're looking into these things called Forever chemicals they're called PFAS Chemicals that are kind of a new generation of chemicals from Dow Chemical. Back in the eighties they were put in everything. They're in clothing, water, potentially drinking water, and they're in fire extinguishing materials. We do have somebody on the committee that actually is very knowledgeable about these, and we'll be talking about that more. Were just garnering some information right now from the fire department and trying to get our local water company too give us some test results that they would have been taken of the intake water. So, we hope to have more in the near future on that.

Mrs. Bucy moved item 14 up on the agenda since it was brought up.

14. Discussion to adopt Waste Management's At-Your-Door Special Collection of Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHW) at the monthly rate of \$.79 per household in addition to the current household trash collection rates and fees

Mr. Michael Christ, Waste Management, Public Sector Services. Our program is At Your Door H.H.W. Program. It's completely separate from our trash and recycle service. It's a separate service for all your electronics, your TVs, computers, et cetera, keyboards, fluorescent bulbs, oils, paints, thinners, everything that's been in your basement for the last 10-20 years or whatever. A resident will call a separate number and explain what material it is that they wish to dispose of. At that time, we'll give them a date of when we're going to come to their house to pick up the material. In the meantime, they're going to receive an envelope in the mail with instructions, a bag et cetera. If they are liquids they put them in the bag, and we'll give them a date when we're coming to their house. You just leave this material at your front door, or your garage and we'll get the material. It's unlimited, a resident could call every two or three weeks. But we would be in the area at least once a month to go throughout your municipality to pick up the material. At this time, 98% of the material goes back to manufacturers that material is recycled. John, as you know for the D.E.P., you report your recycle tonnage, so on a monthly basis, you'll get an itemized list of all the material that was picked up within your municipality explaining that tonnage we picked up. That's pretty much an overview if anyone had to have any questions.

Mr. Montgomery asked, on the recycling part of it. Some of these items aren't on the recycling items to be recycled. like their TVs.

Mr. Christ stated that is completely separate from the recycle. 98% of material goes back to manufacturers. It doesn't have anything to do with your regular trash it isn't part of the report for the materials.

Mr. Montgomery stated so it isn't a part of the report from the regular recycling.

Mr. J. R. Petrick, Sr. Route Manager, Waste Management stated I think you're asking question is this still returned back. This can still be submitted at the end of the year on your DEP report.

Mr. Montgomery stated that's what I'm asking is this tonnage or pounds or whatever the weight is?

Mr. Petrick stated it is addition to the single stream recycling that is actually an added program to recycle. So yes, this is reported on a monthly basis for all those materials.

Mr. Montgomery stated so we got a credit for that correct? Mr. Petrick stated yes,

Mrs. Bucy stated this is only for these items and I can read them out loud. So the public knows. Automotive products: antifreeze, brake fluid cleaner, hydraulic fluid, transmission fluid, motor oil, oil filter, polish, wax, gasoline, diesel fuel. Paint products: latex, oil base thinners, artists paint, spray paint, stain, sealer, caulk. Mercury: thermostats, thermometers, switches. Household cleaners: ammonia, cleaning compounds, floor stripper, drain cleaner, tile/shower cleaner, rust remover. Flammable and combustible materials: kerosene, solvent, certain cleaners. Swimming pool chemicals: pool acid, chlorine tablets, liquid. Garden chemicals: insect sprays, weedkillers, herbicides, fertilizer, pesticides. Miscellaneous household: batteries, hobby glue.

Then they have exactly how you're supposed to package it. Would one of these go to each individual home?

Mr. Christ stated yes. As a as a resident would call in. We'll get their address and name. and we're going mail an envelope with a plastic bag and full instructions about how to place the material at the front door or your garage?

Mrs. Steffey stated once we adopt this it's a \$.79 increase for every resident per month, correct?

Mr. Montgomery stated so you can use it unlimited?

Mr. Christ stated correct.

Mr. Montgomery stated so you could use it once a week if you wanted to?

Mr. Christ stated we probably won't be out every week, but at least once a month. It would depend on how many people need the pickup. We condense everything to get them at one time. At the beginning we may be out there every two weeks; depends on how many calls we get.

Mrs. Bucy stated there are also acceptable materials for outside the bag as well and includes the following. Vehicle batteries, (up to 3), Fluorescent Tubes and CFL's (up to 8), placed inside their original sheaths or taped together, televisions (up to 1), one computer system: 1 each-CPU/tower, monitor, keyboard, mouse, desktop printer. Electronics: (with circuit boards): CD Rom, VRC, cellphones, DVD/CD/Tape player, related cords (up to 25 lbs.)

Mr. Christ stated it's an excellent program and right now we have between 85-87 Municipalities that take advantage of this program.

5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Mayor Rich Lattanzi, Mayor of City of Clairton, 152 Pennsylvania Avenue, Clairton, I met with you guys about a year or so ago to talk about why the City of Clairton wanted to take back the sewage authority and some of the problems that I thought we both shared. Moving forward just recently, I heard some other rumors about if the City of Clairton gets the plant, they're going to sell it to Pennsylvania American Water, and everyone's going to get a rate increase so on and so forth.

I want to go back to the beginning about four years ago where you were at a luncheon with the Steel Valley COG in Munhall and we shared the table with the guys from Pennsylvania American Water and they started asking about our sewage authority. We said we didn't own it, we have an authority and he said, well we're getting in the business, if you guys ever get ownership of it, we're buying some sewage authorities and we could do a nice deal. We just started talking small talk and basically said Phase I that we were doing for the sewage authority at the beginning was roughly about, \$28,000.00, when it was said and done it was \$40 million. So, the price went up. I know the garage down there, just the maintenance garage was \$700,000 when it was done it ended up being \$2.4 million. So, we had some concerns.

When I was talking to a guy from the water company. I said well I got to do a Phase 2 and we already got a flat fee that's going to go up and they are talking possibly double I'm talking about the City of Clairton residents paying around \$100 a month before they even turn the faucet on. We are a poor community that was a problem, and I was just expressing myself. The guy from Pennsylvania American Water he said we wouldn't have to borrow any money to do Phase 2. I said what do you mean? He said we have 700,000 customers across Pennsylvania that get water from us. He said we could put a nickel to eight cents on everybody's bill and that would pay for the whole Phase 2. Obviously, that was enticing. I went back to my Council, and they said this is wonderful and maybe this is the route we got to go. There are some issues with the sewers authority and they act like you know they're struggling for money. Low and behold the City of Clairton filed a suit last year in November to take back our assets, which is our plant, and we knew we would have some apprehension and there is litigation going on right now. It was expected and we do feel pretty confident that eventually we're going to get our assets back.

But moving forward, we found out some interesting facts. The sewage authority is doing quite well and there's \$14 million dollars in a reserve fund. They got two over funded pension funds for the workers. They got collections from everybody from sludge to anything that anybody could drop off down there. So, we found that the plant is doing better than we thought.

So, I just wanted to dispel any rumors, Mayor Lattanzi, you're hearing from me today saying that if the City of Clairton would take back the plant tomorrow, I feel very comfortable that we would run the plant ourselves. The city of Clairton, in cooperation with the upstream communities. We may have to go out and get somebody that specializes in sewage and maybe put a team together that would be like a manager and some people that can be an operator and a maintenance guy that would run the plant for us because we don't specialize in that, but it would be under the city's wings and anything that we would do would be transparent with the upstream communities. I just want you guys to hear that for me because I was running my election again yesterday and all these things came up at election time about what we're trying to do to our constituents. We want to sell our best asset so on and so forth. But anyway, the election is over. I look for things to get better moving forward. I think at the end of the year we're going to see some differences. I just want to let you guys know there was a time that we were contemplating

on selling the plant because we thought it was going to be a disgrace and the plant was so bad. We found out some things there, like I said recently, that we believe otherwise right now. We think it would be very profitable and when we think that it would be a good situation for the city to keep it under control. We may just have to have somebody manage it for us, someone who specializes sewage, and we would be more than welcome to have you guys work with us, like I said in the past, we've had somebody from Jefferson, Don Housley, three years ago that was on the board. The sewage authority fought it the whole time, but he was here for four years. There were threats of a lawsuit that never happened. I'm transparent if we're going to work together as neighboring communities, we need to actually work together so you guys see what's happening. I have asked guys on the board right now that I asked him about what they're voting on tonight and he said, I don't know, we won't know what we're voting until we get there at the meeting. That's not the way I do business. So, I'm just letting you guys know if the City of Clairton, Mayor Lattanzi and Council would take over the plant transparent. We plan on keeping it working with you guys to do what's best for our community and your community.

Tracy Khalil, Secretary, JFR & EMS, Members of Council, I am providing this evening an update to you on the situation concerning the return of the iPads. You may or may not be aware that JFR & EMS did file a civil complaint against Mr. Reynolds concerning his failure to return the iPads. The case was heard by Judge David Barton and Judge Barton ruled in favor of JFR & EMS. Mr. Reynolds was ordered to pay for the three iPads as well as the court costs. During the first hearing Judge Barton asked the question if the iPads were paid for with taxpayer funds. Evidence was provided showing that was the case. He went on to mention because the iPads were paid for with taxpayer funds that this case may have risen to not only a civil offense but a criminal offence. Because the Judge mentioned this may have risen to a criminal offence, we are filing a criminal complaint with the district attorney's office for their review. We will keep you posted on that case. As a side note we presented numerous documents as well as video evidence at the hearing. Mr. Reynolds failed to present any physical evidence in his defense at the trial.

Mrs. Ielase as a point of clarification Mr. Reynolds at the September Council meeting stated that I told Judge Barton that you were in possession of the iPads. That is completely false. It was Mr. Reynolds who stated that you were in possession of the iPads at the trial. When Mr. Reynolds made that claim I asked the Judge who previously watched approximately a minute or two of the video to watch the remainder of the video as Mr. Reynolds testimony in the hearing was contrary to what he stated at the Council meeting. The judge watched the remainder of the video and then made the following statement to Mr. Reynolds. The judge stated the following. We are talking about a finite item, you took on a finite date, to a finite location and gave to a finite person. Judge Barton again asked Mr. Reynolds about the iPads, and he stated he left them at the Borough building but didn't give them to an individual.

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills
7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting October 6, 2021
9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting October 11, 2021

10. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board, finishing the term for G. David Parme (Term ending 12/31/24)
11. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Recreation Board, finishing the term for Michelle Zacur (Term ending 12/31/22)
12. Discussion to adopt Employee Assistance Plan; a no-cost benefit offered through Municipal Benefits Services (MBS) to be utilized during personal and/or family emergencies by Borough of Jefferson Hills employees
13. Discussion to open and advertise the position of mechanic in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department
15. Discussion to authorize the Jefferson Hills Public Works Department to place an order for one (1) 2022 Utility truck under state contracted or government regulated pricing to be paid for on or after, January 1, 2022, and applied to the FY2022 Borough Budget
16. Discussion to approve the distribution of the Pennsylvania Foreign Fire Insurance allocation in the amount of \$59,454.96 to Jefferson Hills Fire & Rescue Relief Association
17. Discussion to enact Ordinance No. 885 accepting Chesapeake Drive in Phase 1 of the Hunters Preserve Plan of Lots as public streets of the Borough of Jefferson Hills; further accepting the infrastructures of storm and sanitary sewers serving said streets, with the exception of any Phase 1 (1) stormwater detention pond, and (2) storm sewer-related improvement within a (a) stormwater detention pond, and/or (b) private stormwater easement as depicted on the recorded plans for Phase 1 which shall be owned and maintained by the homeowners' association; and authorizing the appropriate officials of the Borough of Jefferson Hills to execute any and all documents necessary to approve such acceptance and dedication
18. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 35-2021 granting final approval for a subdivision known as SP-2-2021, Chamberlain Ridge Plan of Lots – Phase 5
19. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 36-2021 granting final approval for a subdivision known as S-5-2021, Pinecrest Estates Plan No. 2
20. Discussion to approve the Work Authorization dated October 28, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough in the Lick Run Pump Station Emergency Repair project in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00
21. Reports

Fire Chief:

Chief Chalfant stated today I received a phone call from PA American Water. A resident at 1057 Waterman Road is looking to have a fire hydrant because she wants one closer to her residence. PA American Water is saying they need my blessing. I don't believe I have the authority

to do that. I'm not sure who on our council does but I don't think I have that authority to just go ahead and put fire hydrants in wherever. If someone can call.

Mr. Montgomery stated Chief I think we have to vote on that. They'd have to have to be an agenda item. I think it would be considered a placing a fire hydrant X address. And then we vote on it.

Chief Chalfant stated they called the fire station today. The message was relayed to me, I said I don't have that authority just to say hey I'm going to put a fire hydrant here. The last one we had put in place, I had to go through the proper channels with Council, so I just wanted to bring it to your attention. If someone can contact them.

Mr. Stinner stated I'll get that on the agenda for Monday.

Chief Chalfant stated I'm sure everybody is aware of the major accident we had on Route 51. Police, fire and EMS were tied up for over 13 hours. I just want to say it was the first major incident we got where the Chief and I got to work together. Things were very smooth; we are going to be doing after action discussion and an overview on everything. So, if any member of Council would like to attend, I'll extend the invite to you, and we can go ahead and do that. That would be involved in police, fire, and EMS.

EMS:

Not present

Engineer Glistler:

Nothing further

Consulting Engineer:

Nothing further

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Nothing further

Public Works Director:

Nothing further

Chief Dziezgowski:

I echo the comments that Chief Chalfant said, and I appreciate the citizens and the motorists being so cooperative that night for a major artery being tied up.

Also, just a couple of things from a law enforcement standpoint for the residents out there. Over the last month, month and a half, and a trend that has been ongoing for at least a year now, there have been youths, minors, young adults preying on residential areas looking for unlocked vehicles, taking stuff out of the vehicles to include money, guns and other items of value. Ross Township, Scott Police, and Bethel Park arrested a few of these individuals. But my point to this is, even though we live in a very safe community, we need to lock our doors. If you lock our doors, these types of criminals are only looking for open avenues, if we close those avenues by locking our doors, it's going to be a lot safer and we're not going to have the crimes occurring in our town. Our officers in the twilight hours are being very vigilant out there to try to make sure that we're identifying anybody walking our streets that are up to no good. The JHPD is out there in force trying to stop this behavior before it happens.

Secondly, about a week ago on our Facebook page and on the Borough's Facebook page, we put out a fraud squad alert that was given to us by the Allegheny County District Attorney. They're red flags for the scams that are out there either via phone, email and what one of the best practices for any residents to follow in the event that they are getting these calls. They're getting these emails to avoid any chance of that they are becoming a victim. So please check the websites for these red flags and how to recognize a scam. And of course, if you have any questions contact the Police Department.

Mayor Cmar:

Not present

Borough Manager:

Nothing further

Solicitor:

Council did meet prior to meeting for executive session for personal and litigation matters prior to this meeting and will continue after the meeting.

22. General Business

Mr. Reynolds stated:

Nothing further

Mrs. Ielase stated:

Thanked Mayor Lattanzi for coming out and sharing information with us. It's always easier face to face when somebody's not getting the rumor mill.

Also, the library director will be here Monday night to make a presentation to Council and the citizens.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

Nothing further

Mr. Montgomery stated:

I just want to thank John Stinner and Jon Drager for working on the budget. It's rather complicated this year due to the to the ARPA money and how is to be spent. The regulations are changing rather constantly. So, the special budget, it will be the end of the year due to all these new regulations. I just want everybody to be aware of that. It won't be at the regular meeting like it usually is has been the last few years. But that that's certainly within the protocol that's allowed.

Mr. Sockman stated:

I'd like to thank Mr. Stinner, Karen Bucy, Dave Montgomery, and Deron Gabriel for all their efforts with the police negotiations to get that settled, which will be on the agenda for Monday night.

I would also like to thank Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue, the police and EMS also for their efforts in that fatal crash on Route 51. That was a terrible scene, it was handled very professionally and thank each and every one of them for what you have done.

I would like to congratulate Dave Montgomery, Melissa Steffey, Keith Polick and Hilary Budd for their victories in the election. And to Mayor Nuss-McCaffrey, congratulations, and best wishes for the future.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I echo the sentiments of Councilman Sockman.

Also, thanks to our police, EMS, Fire and Rescue for Halloween for making it a safe evening for the kids and an enjoyable evening for the community.

Mrs. Bucy stated:

I also echo the concerns and the appreciation for the fatal crash that was on 51 that tied up 51 for a long period of time. We really dodged a bullet with hazard materials not being added into on that occasion. It takes a team to work together, and I think we saw that on that evening.

I'd like to give a personal shout out to junior firewoman, Faith Hoke, who assisted in getting myself dressed to go on the October 9th burn expedition and emergency training up at the old Mathews bus garage. I did have my 65th birthday and looking down on a man's coat to try to get that zipper up isn't always the easiest thing to do. When I was at the fire academy, one of my little tips was I painted my whole zipper with red nail polish. So, I had a perfect sight of how I was supposed to zip it up. Faith, who's a junior firefighter and a young woman up at JHFR, assisted me and with getting all my apparatus on. I personally would like to give a special shout out to Faith and tell her thank you. It's very acknowledging to me to have a young woman in that situation.

When I was a young woman her age, I was asked to bake brownies. I wasn't afforded the opportunity that many of these young women have and young men even, to work in a fire department. I certainly think she's a role model for other young women that might be thinking about coming up in the ranks.

Lastly, I will always be promoting a litter free Jefferson Hills. I try to on a weekly basis pick a road and clean up this community. I did clean up Chamberlin Farms yesterday and when I drove here, there was already garbage on it. I just asked people, this is our environment, this is the place that we live, please just keep your garbage in your cars until you can come to a garbage can. This garbage is just getting flung out all over the place. We live here, we should take pride in our community, I would like to see this littering not happen in Jefferson Hills.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy at 7:37 p.m. adjourned the meeting on motion by Mrs. Ielase, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Personnel, Labor Negotiations, Collective Bargaining, 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 Appeal No. 871 CD 2020, SA-19-000748; PICCO Superfund site- potential litigation involving WESA and Ashland.

John P. Stinner
Secretary/Borough Manager