

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:00 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, Borough Engineer Glister, Public Works Director Volpe, Police Chief Dziezgowski and Borough Manager Stinner were also present. Mr. Minsterman and Mayor Cmar was absent.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS

Brian Hutson 420 Old Clairton Road, I just wanted to clarify something that was mentioned at the previous meeting about the Gill Hall Volunteer fire Company, that they would not submit their books for an audit. Karen, you know, that's untrue. We've always said we would, the books were ready. We said we would submit them once everybody else submitted theirs, and we had verification of that. So, I want that to be clarified for the record. We didn't at no time, did we ever say we refused to submit our books for an audit. In the past, I believe the fire company was probably one of the first of all the organizations involved to submit theirs for prior audits in the past. So yeah, I just wanted that to be clarified because people seem to get stuff wrong from time to time.

Mr. Reynolds stated Thanks Brian. So, what you're saying was what was stated at the meeting on Wednesday was 100% false?

Mr. Hutson stated correct.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Sockman moved to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting November 3, 2021, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve minutes of regular meeting November 8, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to advertise two seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Committee – Term Ending 12/31/2025, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated Mr. Stinner, for both the Recreation Board position and the Library Board position. Could you remind our residents how to go about applying for those positions?

Mr. Stinner stated they'll be advertised both via the website and social media as well as the newspaper. They may email me at [jstinner@jeffersonhills.net](mailto:jstinner@jeffersonhills.net) if they are interested. Please email a letter of interest and if you would like a resume discussing your professional qualifications.

Mrs. Bucy asked, Mr. Stinner, when's the last date that they can submit those?

Mr. Stinner stated the last date they can submit those are Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, as the agenda meeting will commence on January 5, 2022.

Mrs. Ielase moved to advertise two seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Library Board of Directors – Term Ending 12/31/2024, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved advertise position on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission – Term Ending 12/31/2025, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to ratify Resolution 42-2021 to appoint Brian Haberstock to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board (Term ending 12/31/24), seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to ratify Resolution 43-2021 to appoint Scott McCarrison as an alternate to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board (Term ending 12/31/24), seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to ratify Resolution 44-2021 to appoint Mark D'Angelo as an alternate to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board (Term ending 12/31/25), seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to permit Boy Scout Troop #210 to adopt a portion of Peters Creek Road, coordinated through the "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful" organization, beginning from the western Borough of Jefferson Hills boundary with South Park and ending at Waterman Road (approximately 1.1 miles), seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 886 establishing the base Real Estate Tax rate for the year 2022 at 5.66 mills (General 5.226 mills; Fire 0.355 mills; and Ambulance 0.079 mills), seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to retain Rhoades Law, LLC to provide legal representation to the Borough of Jefferson Hills on all Borough employee pension plan-related matters and assist in the formation of a pension-review board to meet quarterly beginning in 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey asked, after going through all of the information, this is not a contractual position, is that correct, it's at will?

Mr. Montgomery stated yes, it's at will.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 37-2021 appointing the Finance Officer/Treasurer of the Borough of Jefferson Hills as the Chief Administration Officer with responsibilities relative to all pension plans of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously

Mr. Sockman moved to conditionally approve 2022 Borough of Jefferson Hills budget in its current form with adoption of budget in final form taking place Tuesday, December 28, 2021, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Bucy	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Vickie Ielase	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mr. Sockman	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds stated on page 10, there's what I believe is an additional expense this year. \$35,000.00 for the Southeast Regional EMS contributions. Is that new this year? In addition to the fire tax? I have an issue with the \$35,000. Mr. Pascoe and I spoke at different times, and he said that he was going to ask for \$15,000.00 from the surrounding eight communities. Were you asking for the \$15,000.00 or the \$35,000.00?

Chief Pascoe stated I don't believe I asked said \$15,000.00 from each community. For the past two years what we've been trying to do is have an equal and fair contribution from all of the municipalities which we serve. The board has worked on that. Mayor Cmar was part of that process over the past two years. You would have been too if you'd have been at the meetings. However, it got stalled out by COVID. So, I have been personally going to each and every community and the ask is based on \$5.00 per resident per community. We have been successful in Elizabeth Township and Clairton. We've been to Union Township two or three times. I'm going to Lincoln Borough, and I can go on and on. But the bottom line is, the contribution for everyone is \$5.00 a head. So, if you take our millage tax and you add in that amount of money, you will come up with \$5.00 per head.

Mr. Reynolds stated my concern with that is like I stated before, the manner in which the ambulance service generates revenue. For the residents that don't know, you get the millage from your fire tax, a portion of that goes to support their organization. On top of that, they send out a mailer in which is a subscription based.

Mr. Montgomery asked, they're going to eliminate the mailer altogether with this money.

Mr. Sockman stated Doug is saying no, you're not going to do that.

Chief Pascoe stated we were at a higher rate, but some of the other communities could not afford the higher rate. The mailer is not a donation, it is a subscription. It is optional. There are

many benefits for that subscription, such as not paying copays. Let's start with this. You're going to mention about money. So let me give you a quick education on EMS 101. If a company bills \$10 million dollars right off the bat Federal guidelines between Medicare and Medicaid cripple that to under 50%. So, you take the 10 million, now you're at \$5 million. From that, if you're lucky, if your billing company is proficient, if your residents have health insurance, you're lucky to get 30-31% of that money. So, this is a drop in the bucket. I don't get, and you said fire tax, I don't get a dime of the fire tax. We have our own millage which you see the fires at .33 something or ours is at at .079.

Mr. Reynolds stated well I always say that because what it was my understanding was when the fire tax was put in, the fire tax was divided between the EMS and the fire.

Chief Pascoe stated that's not true. You can see right on the paper, there's three separate taxes. It's called an Ambulance Rescue Tax under the Borough Code.

Mr. Reynolds stated but when it was put in, I know the discussions were that it was going to be at .5% and they would get .035%.

Chief Pascoe stated I'm not aware of that and I've been part of the negotiations from the beginning.

Mr. Reynolds stated all right, but so what you're saying is that \$100 subscription fee is part of the revenue that you generate as an ambulance, so you get tax dollars, you get the subscription fees, you bill the insurance companies.

Chief Pascoe stated yes, we try.

Mr. Reynolds stated and whatever money is left over, then you send a bill to the residents.

Chief Pascoe stated if they're not a subscriber.

Mr. Reynolds stated stated no, I know that not being the case,

Chief Pascoe stated there are certain things that you cannot write off Keith. I could be up here all day to educate you on it and again, you've had the opportunity for the last two years as an alternative to come to our meetings and this is why it's so important for whoever is appointed to come and to learn.

Mr. Reynolds stated Jan was there, Jan was our representative.

Chief Pascoe stated So, then you should be schooled. You shouldn't be asking me questions. You should already be informed.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm asking you questions just to make sure a residents get a better understanding.

Chief Pascoe stated certainly if they're also subscription terms that are available. If you are a resident and you subscribe and the ambulance takes you to the hospital and let's say you have a copay, it is written off. The only thing we legally cannot write off our deductibles and you would get a bill for that because the deductible is part of your responsibility through your insurance carrier, whenever you elect your coverage. we can't write that off. That must be absorbed either by the hospital or by us. That's why we do a favor to the residents and anyone that's transported into January, we try our hardest to hold those bills if we know there are deductibles. So that it can be absorbed by the hospital or what have you.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm just trying to.

Chief Pascoe stated I know what you are trying to do Keith.

Mr. Reynolds stated what am I trying to do?

Chief Pascoe stated you're trying to cause confusion like you always do. What's new? Seriously, why do you think all these people sit here? People are done with it, we're sick of it. As residents Keith, we're sick of it.

Mr. Reynolds stated you may be, but there are other people.

Chief Pascoe asked where are they? They never come to these meetings.

Mrs. Busy stated I think we have clarified the issue enough.

Mr. Reynolds stated I just want the residents to know that on the 990 that the Southeast Regional filled out in 2019, their revenue was over \$3.7 million.

Chief Pascoe stated and you have a copy of our budget, and you get a copy of our 990.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm just a little bit worried because as I looked at that, as we all know on a 990, the top earners need to be declared on their salary. In 1990 you were paid \$121,000.00. I looked it up on zip recruiter, a national company what that position would pay for and use the zip code so that it would bring it to a more of a regional basis that position pays \$81,000.00. So, I'm a little bit worried about how the money is being spent, Doug.

Chief Pascoe stated I would like to address that.

Mr. Reynolds stated no, no Doug, hold on, I got the floor right now. I do have a problem with the way that you came up here and I see it is you take public funds, but yet you've created monopoly. Nobody else is allowed to come.

Mrs. Bucy stated excuse me, I am now exercising my right as the President. You, Chief Pascoe, have answered the questions. This is not a dialogue. This is a voting meeting. It is not a dialogue. Chief Pascoe, you have provided the information. We will digest the information. This budget has already been placed on this agenda. There has been time to go over this. You could have asked these questions at that point in time, Councilman Reynolds. So, I am now moving on.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I do have a question. But it's not about that. It's not about this item but it's about the budget not about the ambulance. I was thinking of bringing this up at the at the last meeting, however, I just wanted to look at it again to assure myself. I see that there are positions, if you look on page four that are getting raises, and their well-deserved, I don't question those people that are getting the raises at all. I was just wondering there are two positions in which their salaries are staying the same and not going up.

Mrs. Bucy stated that is a personnel item and I am not at the liberty to discuss that. If you would like to speak about it afterwards, all right.

Mrs. Ielase moved to adopt Resolution No. 38-2021 amending the salaries, compensation, and wages for Borough employees for the year 2022, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to adopt Resolution No. 39-2021 amending the fee schedule of the Borough of Jefferson Hills for 2022 to include additional recreation fees associated with Borough facility rentals, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously

Mr. Montgomery asked, on the grove at Gill Hall Park is it able to be rented by itself?

Mrs. Bucy stated, do you mean without the building?

Mr. Montgomery stated Without the building.

Mrs. Steffey stated the pavilion itself was a separate rental so you can rent that on its own. Just as an outdoor, you wouldn't have access to the building or bathroom.

Mr. Sockman moved to ratify 2022-2025 collective bargaining agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and Teamsters Local Union No. 205, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 40-2021 granting preliminary approval for a subdivision known as PS-5-2021, Pleasant Grove Plan of Lots, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked, did we get final confirmation with Pleasant Hills regarding the questions they had?

Mr. Montgomery stated asked in regards to what?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated the sidewalks and lighting.

Mr. Montgomery stated they are going to do the roads as per Pleasant Hill's specifications, so they will have concrete curbs and sidewalks through the whole plan. We're going to confirm that the sewage will flow through the Pleasant Hill system because it would be rather difficult, it could be done, to split off that those six houses to go to our system didn't make sense.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Soli Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$34,226.40 for work completed on the November 2021 Lick Run Emergency Repair Project, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 30, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous Borough engineering and consulting services in 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 30, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2022 related to the Clairton Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Reynolds asked, do we have an idea of how much we've paid in consulting fees so far for Gateway to monitor the folks down at CMA?

Mr. Montgomery stated this has nothing to do with that. It's for general sewer issues for Clairton Sewershed. The other has its own work authorization, this is not that.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 30, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2022 related to the West Elizabeth Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Resolution No. 41-2021 authorizing Borough staff to investigate application for financial assistance in the design, acquisition, and construction of a fire and emergency services facility in the Borough of Jefferson Hills and authorize payment up to \$5,000 to secure an option on potential sites for said facility, seconded by Mr. Sockman. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Bucy	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Vickie Ielase	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mr. Sockman	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm obviously going to vote no to this because this is the first in what will be a long line of expenses that this Borough is going to have to incur when we already have a perfectly good fire hall in a perfectly good position. And obviously I'm not going to support this because there's a long line of expenses coming.

Mr. Sockman moved to distribute Real Estate Fire Taxes in two, separate payments of \$40,000 to Floeffe Volunteer Fire Company and to 885 Volunteer Fire Company with remaining funds to be allocated to the Jefferson Fire Rescue (JFR) Truck savings account, seconded by Mrs.

Ielase. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Bucy	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Vickie Ielase	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mr. Sockman	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I have no problem with this distribution of funds. However, I do think it is a valid point that with the gifting of the money presented that we do have some sort of account of how it's spent, where it's spent. That's the only thing that I asked for.

Mrs. Bucy asked, would anybody from the fire company like to address what they turn in?

Mr. Thatcher, the President of Jefferson Hills Fire and Rescue, stated this money ultimately to be distributed to our organization and just like we did last year, we gave a full accounting of the \$80,000 that were given us to us previously as required by state law. We intend to give that full accounting of this money at the end for 2022's funds. This money here will be accounted for in early 2023.

Mr. Reynolds stated I just want to know why it's listed here as Jefferson Fire Rescue. Is it JHFR or is it JFR or is it JFR and EMS, or is it 885? What is it? What's the proper company now? I mean you guys officially merged or at one time it's merged and one time it's not. I just trying to get an idea where we're at here.

Chief Chalfant stated the final money will go to Jefferson Fire Rescue and EMS. Where it says will be deposited for the truck fund. So, \$40,000.00 to Floreffa and \$40,000.00 to 885 with the remaining money to the fire truck fund.

Mr. Reynolds asked if Gill Hall was still a member of JFR and EMS?

Chief Chalfant stated I'm not answering these questions. I'm not here for this.

Mr. Reynold asked are they or not?

Mr. Sockman moved to distribution of Real Estate Emergency Medical Services Tax of approximately \$65,000 to Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services (SEREMS), seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to authorize and appropriate funds for two, two-person shift crews to be placed at Jefferson Hills Fire and Rescue stations 180-1 and 180-2 for 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code,



which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Bucy	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Vickie Ielase	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mr. Sockman	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds asked, what is the final total for this Mr. Drager?

Mr. Drager stated \$455,000.00

Mr. Reynold stated well I'll just say it now. we obviously know which way I'm going to vote for because like I stated, whenever we have brought this up, I cannot in good conscience vote for a shift crew to be stationed in another portion of the Borough, that actually covers my territory that I that I live in, that my family's in, when the residents of Gill Hall are still without adequate fire protection. I can't vote to give myself something that they don't have. So obviously my vote is going to be no.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve final settlement agreement and mutual release between Jefferson Estates HOA and Zokaitis et al., contingent upon Frank Zokaitis' approval, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I just had a quick comment to thank our solicitor for his hard work and getting that to where it needed to go to.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated December 6, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to prepare and submit the follow up General Permitting of the Lick Run Emergency repair permit not to exceed \$5,000.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

#### REPORTS:

Fire Chief

Nothing further

EMS

I would just like to thank Council as a whole for the increase to the EMS. I would just like to state a few facts because we like facts. I would like to state number one that we have not asked for any increase from this Borough since the initial EMS Tax was instituted. Back in that day, I believe the two on Council were Mr. Militzer and Mr. Hartman. If I my memory serves me correct, it was back around 2000 to 2004. I want to thank you for that. I also want to thank you, Mr. Reynolds for bringing to attention my salary. That's great. During Covid when we were all working upwards of 80 hours per week, and my salary, which incorporated those hours into the

base salary. But I would also like to point out that since Mr. Reynolds previously made reference to how it should be \$80,000, correct? I think the responsible thing to do is what our board did. What our board did was when we merged, they appointed a finance committee which was comprised of Council people in the Boroughs that we serve. They went around and they got reports from local equally sized EMS agencies and I'm still under most of them. To let you know, I have a degree in nursing. I will have a degree in accounting in less than nine months, that is also incorporated into that to work double duty. Thank you anyway, I really appreciate that during these incredibly difficult times. I would also like to let you know that even with the increase we are under, what this Borough gives us, is under 4% of our total revenue of everything, subscriptions included. The 3.6% is your contribution to get 24-hour, seven day a week, advanced life support. It's a home run. No one should be complaining. You should be thanking our men and women that respond to 23- 40 calls a day to risk life and limb.

Next, I'd like to thank a few of you. Mr. Sockman, I cannot thank you enough for your dedication, not only the EMS, but as a resident and your dedication to this community over your long tenure. I know it's been hard, I'm certain it was. I know you've sacrificed a lot of time away from your family. I sir, appreciate that and for those that don't know Mr. Sockman was very instrumental during the merger of Jefferson Hills and Elizabeth Township EMS. He sat in meetings with me, I kept him informed, along with the Council President at the time, and Mr. Khalil, who was sitting on our board at the time as our representative.

Mrs. Ielase, I want to thank you for all your dedication to EMS. People don't know what you do behind the scenes, they only know what they see up here for an hour or two a month. But I know for a fact that you stood fast with us when the votes where it counted. You've been a friend, and we appreciate you.

Lastly to our mayor, Jan Cmar, who is no longer going to be on our Board of Directors, effective January. I'd like to thank her if she was here. Because as it was pointed out at the last meeting I attended, she did come to meeting after meeting after meeting, she would zoom in, she participated, she was very vocal, and she looked at for the best interests of Jefferson Hills while she served on our board, which is what we expect.

I will just leave you with this. Once the new Council reorganizes, I look forward to meeting with them. Number one to see who will replace Jan Cmar and number two so that we can eliminate this foolishness in a public setting. I'd like to offer to every member of Council to come up to our SERegional headquarters, I will sit down with each and every one or as a group to fully educate you on why we do what we do.

Mr. Reynolds stated just to repeat for the residents out there that may be listening in on zoom. The scenario that happened last week where all four of your ambulances that were on duty at one point, they were all down in the McKeesport area. What is the protocol on how our residents will be taken care of?

Chief Pascoe stated first of all we handle in excess of 95% of the ambulance calls in this Borough ourselves. There is absolutely no one service that can handle 100%. Even our police department has something called mutual aid. If all three of our officers were down at the Floreffe Hotel and let's just pretend there was a shooting down there and something else happened. They would call Pleasant Hills or South Park. In our case, we would call Baldwin EMS. Baldwin EMS

would be here timely, and we would also dispatch first responders. If it was a high priority call responses would be handled. We also have a paramedic supervisor off the truck. So even if the transport trucks on there, he or she can go in advance and has the same equipment minus a cot and a couple other things that are in that ambulance and can start the care and get the ball rolling until a transport unit comes. But I think I've stated this to you before and I'll say it again, we don't have a problem with the EMS in Jefferson

Mr. Reynolds stated Doug, I just want to, because some residents have asked me what, well this is this public Doug. This is public meeting, and I have the right to ask this question for the resident.

Engineer

I've got the Jefferson Estates Homeowners Association here, I just wanted to thank them for their patients over the last couple of years going through this whole process. I'm looking forward to working with you guys on moving forward in 2022.

I also wanted to say thanks to Councilwoman Vickie Ielase, Mayor Jan Cmar and Councilman Frank Sockman. It's been nice working with the three of you for over the last, I think six or seven years. It's definitely been nice.

Since this is also our last meeting for the holidays, I want to wish happy holidays to everybody out there.

Consulting Engineer

Not present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing further

Public Works Director

Nothing further

Chief Dziezgowski

I would also just remind the residents out there that you have a couple more days to donate to the Police Toy Drive. The donations are overwhelming right now. A heartfelt thank you to everyone out there that has taken their time for any donation that they have given to this program.

To the JHFR, thank you for all your help. It was a great coalition this year. I look forward to further years.

I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and thank all the first responders, fire and EMS for all your help.

Manager Stinner

I would like to just let everyone know that the reorganization meeting will be Monday January 3, 2022, at 6:00 P. M. here in the Council chambers. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call me at the Borough office.

I would also like to personally thank Mayor Jan Cmar, Vicky Ielase and Frank Sockman for the years of service to the Borough of Jefferson hills. It's been a pleasure working with every one of you. And I wish everyone happy holidays.

Solicitor

It's like to state for the record Council did not meet in executive session prior to this meeting. We covered the items last week in the executive session.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Reynolds stated:

One thing I'd like to bring up, while we're here, Doug, like last year I did not accept your gift card. I do not accept gifts. So, I doubt very highly if I'm on your mailing list this year, but if I am, please take me off because I do not accept gifts as a city Council member. I would hope that the other members up here would follow along that line too.

Second thing I'd like to discuss is Mr. Khalil, I was unable to attend the first part of the meeting, but I did have a chance to review your statements. I will let the residents know that in terms of that outdated technology with the iPads, it's still ongoing. There's an appeal process that's being taken part as of right now that I will refuse to speak on because of the appeal process.

The second part of your comment was that you brought up that you are going to go to the DA's. office or you did to bring up criminal charges against myself. I would be more than glad to go down there with you if you can get us an appointment. If you need a ride I'll drive, I'll even buy your breakfast that day because I definitely would like to discuss a lot of things with the DA's. office. I have proof of 885 stealing public utilities and so forth. I have all the pictures I have. The residents that we can also discuss that. I would most certainly like to finally get the DA's ear to clear up and unburied some of the skeletons that have been buried here for a number of years; and I'd be more than glad to go down there with you. So, if you have an appointment, just let me know.

I would also publicly again like to thank Jan Cmar for all of her years of services. You know, whether she was sitting on Council as a mayor, she represented this community in an outstanding fashion. I think she's one of a kind person.

And great holidays to everybody.

Mrs. Ielase stated:

I just want to say over the years, I've ran into various acquaintances through SHACOG or up at Seven Springs. Those meetings where you learn, often took me out of my comfort zone. A lot of you know that I was never a public speaker and I've grown a backbone the last couple of years. I'm good with it. I have enjoyed working on programs with Mrs. Steffey, for the mental health awareness. We've had our Fish Day that has grown over the years. We made a lot of progress here. Not everyone is up here to get along with everybody. What we're here for is to support our residents and do what is right for our residents. I've always put the elderly first to support them because they are on fixed income. Whether you believe it or not, I have always taken the information and contacted and spoke to the people. I made a conscientious decision in my own gut that I could live with not with and not what other people tried to force me into voting their way on a certain issue. It was always about the residents. I'm about ready to close this chapter. I would have liked one more term to finish a little crossing off the list of things we did not finish together. But I'm okay with it and my family is okay with it, but I am always going to be here for the members in this community. I've met some amazing people and learned so much over the years. I've been blessed with the friendships that's come out of it, and I have had support unbelievably. Even though we have our disagreements up here, we're not in high school anymore, we need to learn to respect everybody's boundaries, everybody's opinions and find a common ground where everybody works for the common good of the citizens. Thank you for the years that you shared with me; they will be endearing to me. Merry Christmas to all.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

I would like to send my well wishes out to the outgoing members. Vicky Ielase was an integral part of me when I started volunteering on the Rec Board more than 10-11 years ago. We did have a lot of programs that we work together on. It was a very amazing and good learning experience for me. You always had your family involved, you always encouraged me to have my family involved as well, doing programs within the Rec Board. I feel that's very important when your family, your children see you volunteering your time for your community.

Mr. Sockman, you've always been a great support in me getting my feet wet on Council here. You've always had my back. I appreciate your words of encouragement and your words of kindness and your humor as well. I hope you enjoy your time away from this, but you definitely will be missed.

Chief Pascoe, I'm really sorry that you felt the need to come up back up to the podium to defend yourself, your salary, your position, and your establishment that you run. When I first started on Council two years ago, you were one of the first sites that I visited with my daughter. You gave a very detailed tour of everything that you do, and I have no qualms with anything that our EMS service provides. In fact, even if you were giving out Jelly of the Month subscriptions, I don't think one should go to a member that doesn't attend board meetings at all. So, thank you for what you do and I'm very sorry that you had to go through what you did tonight, but as usual you stood your ground. You're a solid guy so I appreciate it.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I'll send my sincere well wishes to the people that are leaving when I see them on the 28th. But I didn't want it to go by without my opportunity to thank them as well and having the

opportunity to work with them as well to. It is a selfless, thankless job and you've all done it for a very long time, and I wish you well on your next chapter.

I know that it said that the Toy Drive was ended on the 11<sup>th</sup>, however, I don't think the Chief or Tara Revis are going to say no if you come up there was some extra money or toys that you might have for the kids. I'm sure they would welcome those. Also, Mr. Floyd Hughes's diaper drive, let's not forget about that as well.

I'd like to wish our whole community Happy Holidays and just keep in your thoughts and prayers to people in Kentucky.

Montgomery stated:

Well Frank, Vicky and Jan, it's been a privilege to serve with you. I mean that sincerely. I've been involved with Frank with the Finance Committee and the Engineering Committee, and he's been invaluable. Highly competent, great partner to work with, accomplished many great things, solved a lot of problems and just got it done. I just want to thank him for being there. He never missed a meeting. It was phenomenal relationship. Frank also oversaw the Public Works Department. We never had any complaints about that because it was competent leadership. Frank was involved with the collective bargaining agreement negotiations with all three units, he was involved with interviewing public works, clerical staff and managerial personnel. Most of the hiring we made were excellent. Thank you for that part of that.

Vicki has a great interview skill, especially when it comes to Public Works. She has an insight. When Vicki tells me her gut says something, I used to not listen, I listen to that now because it's always right and we've had some great employees. Vickie has actually gone out and recruited people that we needed. She knew what we needed. She found the right person and you kept telling me these are the people that we need to hire, and they've been great, so thank you for that. That's a big load off of our minds Vicky was also involved with the collective bargaining negotiations with Public Works and the Clerical staff, worked on the budget last year, and founded the Fish for Fun Day, and brought it to a major recreational vet in the Borough. So, thank you for that fact. It's going to go on with your leadership in the future.

Jan is the longest serving public official up here and she did a tremendous job as a Council member and as mayor. She was never afraid to take on a challenge or difficult to ask. she actually worked on the summer recreation program when it's falling apart and kept it going for several years. That's not an easy thing to do, by herself. So, I want to give her credit for that, I wasn't in office, but I thought how in the world is she going to do it? But she did it and it worked. So, congratulations to that and I've just been honored and thrilled to work with such high-quality people.

Mr. Sockman stated:

There are a lot of people I'd like to speak to. First of all, I'd like my wife Joyce, would you please stand and be recognized? She's been my wife and best friend for 57 years. Anyone who can live with me for 57 years deserves a lot of credit, believe me. She's also sat in his seat for eight years. So, she knew what I dealt with from time to time. Sometimes I'd come home and really not

too good a mood, but somehow, she kind of smoothed things over and went from there. For that, my dear, I certainly appreciate your thoughts and your efforts.

Next person I would like to thank is Mr. John Thatcher. John, you remind me of Fred Rogers. No matter how bad things got, John always came to this meeting with a real firm smooth tone. He went through negotiations with that fire group for over a year and come back to us and said everything's fine, all of a sudden, the bottom fell out. But you would never know it by John. You put hundreds and hundreds of hours into this, and I certainly appreciate what you have done, along with other members of this Council and for that, John, thank you very much.

I'm not sure I should thank you or not, Tracy Khalil. Tracy, you got me into this mess six years ago when you got me appointed to this position. But in all seriousness when I served with Tracy on this Council, he was very helpful, extremely knowledgeable and would do anything to help anyone. For that Tracy, I appreciate what you have done. Not only for me, but for the Borough of Jefferson Hills.

To thank you the next person, it's going to be difficult for me to describe this guy because adjectives, there aren't enough of them and that's Mr. Brian Chalfant. Brian, let me tell you this. You're an extraordinarily human being, but on top of that, you're an exceptional firefighter. What you have done for this community is unbelievable. When you take on a task, you remind me somewhat and please take this as a compliment, of a bulldog. You sink your teeth into it with ferocity and intensity and won't let it go until you get the results you need. For that Brian, I thank you very much. You are certainly appreciated.

Next one, Don Withers, but Don's not here. I look at Don as the quiet giant. There was a move on years ago, to close Floreffe down. But, Don and his crew with Jay Girman and Chuck and the rest of them got together knew that they did not have enough people and merged with 885. It really got them things together. You have had a lot of exceptional events there and have done a lot of things for the community and for that Don, although you're not here, I thank you very much.

Justin Allen, the Chief of 885. Justin is a very quiet guy that gets things done. He is an exceptional leader. Justin, I appreciate what you've done.

The next person to Mr. Doug Pascoe. Doug, I don't know where in the hell you got your speech, but I'll tell you what you should have been in speech therapy or something because you have done an exceptional job. I don't care what they pay you, it's not enough for what you have to deal with. Not only from the public but from people sometimes up here. Doug, you are very dedicated, well organized, and you run an exceptional group of people, well trained and well disciplined. For that Doug, we thank you sincerely.

Chief, you've only been with us a few months. But I can see a growth in our department, and I can see a lot of things have changed for the better. You made our community very safe and secure and I appreciate what you've done. I thank you for all of the things that you've done for the Borough. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jon Dragger. Jon come into a very difficult situation, and I mean that sincerely. Jon had very little if any Borough experience, COVID hit, the bottom fell out and there stood Jon in

the life raft. So, Jon I know it's been tough for you. But hang in there and I think things will go better for you. I know working with you, you have the capability of doing it, get her done.

The next I call him our Macgyver of Jefferson Hills. Mike Volpe, all you have to do is tell this guy what to do and it's done. Mike is extremely organized. He has updated our equipment, brought professionalism to the organization and is extremely good with men. He does an exceptional job for the Borough. Mike. I can't thank you enough for what you have done with the Public Works Department. I thank you.

Mr. Glister, it was Dave Montgomery's idea to hire our own Borough engineer and by doing so, we have literally saved thousands of dollars. It's through Mike's effort, his intensity of what he does, the scrutiny of the jobs that he provides, and the information he gives us is exceptional. Mike, for that, we thank you very much.

Mr. Reynolds, to quote you, let the residents know. You know every court has a jester, you certainly have been ours. You live in Floreffe, the smallest part of our community, the absolute smallest. Yes, they have a tough time putting a fire department together because they don't have a lot of people. What do they have to 300 people at most? They'd have to go out and join with 885. But you continually have put them down, which is a very unfair thing. You picked up the cause of Gill Hall. You put signs out, don't reelect anybody on current Council and the corruption. Well, the people in Gill Hall even saw through that because none of those candidates got elected. So, when are you going to wake up and smell the roses? Because signs don't make a difference, people do. Several months or maybe years back, there were three members of Council that said they were going for their essentials and fire training, Karen, Melissa and you. Two of them went and finished and I don't think you did. Is that another one of your boasts that you made that you didn't fulfill? You know, it's better to be thought a fool, Keith, then open your mouth and prove it like you. It's a shame I have to say that. But sitting here on the Council all those times, I'm tired of hearing it,

Vicki, it's been a pleasure working with you. She's the type of lady that sits back and doesn't say a lot, but when she says something, you better listen because you know, she's going to give it to you and give it to you from the heart. I appreciate that.

The next one is the Energizer Bunny. I mean, you talk about double A. That woman is triple A. She never stops and any time she puts herself into a problem or a situation it gets solved and get solved correctly. That, my dear, I appreciate very much.

John, I've worked for a lot of superintendents and supervisors, you're the best, the absolute best. It's tough when you see the object of criticism he takes and the things that he has to endure. But that man does it in such a way that he's very professional about it. He knows all the latest legislation. He attends every meeting in this district, every meeting. I've never seen an officer like that do it before. Before maybe they attended one, but John attends everyone. For that, John, you will be commended.

Karen Bucy, I relate her to Judge Judy. How in the world can you keep track of this crew? But she does it, and she does it with professionalism and ease. And on top of that, she has done hundreds and hundreds of hours towards this community and towards this Council. Karen, I thank you very much, and it's been a pleasure working with you.



Mr. Gabriel, you were literally thrown into the fire buddy. I'll tell you what with all the things going on with the Jefferson, things with the fire rescue and everything you held your head above water and done a great job there and for that. I appreciate it.

And there's Nicole, I'll never know her as Ruscitto. She's always the Stoicovy to me. That's my buddy, very intelligent young lady, likes to get things done, has really deep thought processes, but sometimes that little emotion up there kind of squeaks out on her and she gets a little bit involved, but she kind of rights herself to in the end. Nicole I'm going to miss you.

Well, last, but not least. Mr. Montgomery. Dave's been on Council for 18 years. I think he's vying for a pension. Tell you the truth, he's Vice-President here, President of SHACOG, Chairman of the Planning Commission. If you want to know anything about Jefferson Hills or Jefferson Borough, that's the guy to ask. You know when roads were paved, knows the budget, and he knows when the machines were bought. Dave has been a wealth of information and a great person to work with. He is one person I can truthfully say has dedicated his own life to Jefferson Hills. For that, I thank you.

Madam Chairman, with that I wish everyone a happy holiday. It's been a great time serving the public here and I'm going to miss it. Thank you.

Mrs. Bucy stated:

It's tough being last all the time. Everybody always says everything that you might want to say. But I did ask the Council and I asked Mr. Stinner and some other people, because I wanted to do something for the people that were leaving. So, I'm going to say a couple words about our two exiting Council members and the mayor and then I want to remind everybody that we do have refreshments in the community room for you.

So, at this time I would like to recognize the public servants of our departing Council members Vicki Ielase and Frank Sockman and Mayor Jan Cmar. These three individuals have had a total of 40 combined years serving our community. I have to repeat that sentence, 40 combined years. That's an unbelievable amount of time to dedicate to our community. Mohammed Ali has been quoted as saying, "The service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." As far as I am concerned, all these individuals have taken this saying to heart and have spent hours of their time serving the members of Jefferson Hills community. Their rent has been paid in full.

Jan Cmar first began her service to the Jefferson Hills community when she was elected to Council and began her term in 1998 and served in that capacity for approximately 14 and a half years. In September of 2013, she filled the vacancy for Mayor Mike Green and then was elected to the position in November of that year. She has served as a mayor, planning and implementing Light Up Night, Memorial Day ceremonies and community cleanup events. She's performed wedding ceremonies for happy couples wishing to be married throughout this Borough. Throughout her years of service, she has been a member of SHACOG, PSAB, served on the EMS Representative and the Ladies Auxiliary for the fire departments.

Vicki Ielase was elected to Council in 2009 and served for 12 years on numerous committees. Her work on the personnel committee has led to the hiring of many competent individuals in public works and in the clerk positions. She has served as a delegate to the library Board, the Rec Board, Fire liaison, and West Jefferson Hills School District. She has also coordinated Fish Day, a family fun event in this community with the Triangular Association of Peters Creek for years. She's contributed to reaching contract agreements for the clerical in 2019 and is currently serving on the laborers collective bargaining negotiations, proving that she's working to the last day of her reign.

Frank Sockman was appointed to Council in February of 2016. He was then elected to Council in 2017 and served as a Council member for a total of six years. Throughout his years of service he has served on finance, engineering, public works and the personnel committee. He has been an essential component in reaching collective bargaining agreements for the police in 2017 and 2021, He assisted in reaching collective bargaining agreements for Public Work laborers in 2017 and the Clerical staff in 2019. His prior management's working in the educational field has been an asset in dealing with a wide variety of union and at will employees.

All these individuals have given their time, 40 collective years of time, and effort and used their skills to assist in making Jefferson Hills a better place to live and raise a family. So, it is with this conclusion that on behalf of the Jefferson Hills Council, I would like to thank them as well as all the people that have already spoken, for your service and contributions. We invite you and your family members and members of the audience for a brief piece of cake and coffee reception in the community room following the adjournment of the December 13, 2021, Council meeting.

Residents, please take care and enjoy yourselves and families over Christmas holidays and New Year.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m. on motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager