

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Polick at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Bucy, Budd, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Steffey, Vice President Montgomery, and President Polick answered to roll call. Mayor McCaffrey, Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Borough Engineer Glister, Public Works Director Volpe, Police Chief Dziezgowski and Borough Manager Stinner (via Zoom) were also present. Mr. Minsterman was absent.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEMS:

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

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

Mrs. Steffey moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting December 8, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to approve minutes of regular meeting December 13, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve minutes of Special meeting December 28, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

No motion was made to open the position of Borough Solicitor, motion fails due to no motion.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved ratify 2022-2026 collective bargaining agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and Laborers Local Union No. 1058, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to appoint Tom Donohue to the Planning Commission (Term ending 12/31/25), seconded by Mrs. Steffey. 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 Polick	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES

Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds stated just want to say one thing first. This has nothing to do with the individuals on these next couple of items. But I am not going to vote to appoint somebody to a board or commission of this Borough without a background check to make sure that we're not obviously putting a pedophile on a Recreation Board or criminal on a Planning Commission. Until we institute background checks for these appointments, I'm going to vote no, I think it's common sense.

Mrs. Steffey moved to appoint Lisa Oeler to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Committee (Term ending 12/31/25), seconded by Mrs. Budd. 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 Polick	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds asked maybe I should ask; president was a background check done?

Mrs. Steffey stated I can answer. The majority of the Rec Board has already sent in both their acts 33 and 34 to both myself and Mr. Stinner. I have not received Ms. Oeler's as of yet, but the next individual that's going to be, motion to be appointed on Rec Board has turned his in as well.

Mrs. Steffey moved to appoint Greg Palmer to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Committee (Term ending 12/31/25), seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to appoint Vickie Ielase to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/24), seconded by Mrs. Bucy. 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 Polick	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Montgomery does she have her background done?

Mr. Montgomery stated he will check but believes she does with the Clairton schools.

Mr. Reynolds asked how long ago was that?

Mr. Montgomery stated I don't know, 25 years ago?

Mr. Reynolds stated then my I vote is no.

Mrs. Steffey stated I do want to make a point that Library and Rec Board both do work with Children. So, I am also in favor of the Act 33 and 34 is being provided by the individuals.

Mr. Montgomery moved to appoint Holly Schrum to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/24), seconded by Mrs. Budd. 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 Polick	YES
Vice President Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I don't oppose this at all. But I do have a question before we vote since Miss Ielase does not serve on Council anymore, would I be able to be the liaison to the Library Board like she did when she was seated up here.

Mrs. Bucy stated I don't think that any of those positions have been appointed yet so, I would just ask.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated then I'm asking.

Mr. Montgomery moved to hire Josh Zombek as the Public Works mechanic position, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 01-2022 for final approval for a subdivision known as S-8-2021, Deer Hollow Phase 2, conditional to field resolution for ingress and egress through Arch Street for secondary access, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 02-2022 accepting the additional Right of Way acquired by Allegheny County Public Works for the reconstruction of the Lick Run Bridge No. 2 on Wallace Road, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 03-2022 amending the salaries, compensation and wages for Borough employees for the year 2022, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company in the amount of \$16,000.00 for work completed on the November 2021 Lick Run Emergency Repair Project, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated December 28, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for general planning assistance in 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously

Mrs. Ruscitto stated last week Mrs. Bucy had mentioned that they don't necessarily spend the 10,000.00 but it's on our agenda every month.

Mrs. Bucy stated maybe Mr. Glister would like to address that.

Mr. Glister stated this particular project, which this is for the General Planning Assistance for 2022 is an annual work authorization. This specific project is only on here once a year. Throughout the year we do have annual projects that we have such as the paving program, our annual operation and maintenance, our general CMA or general WESA. There's a lot of projects that run every year annually and this is how we've always handled it in the past for transparency's sake so that every work authorization we provide for Gateway or approved for Gateway is on the agenda.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked, Mr. Drager, other than the \$10,000.00 that's listed here on the agendas, do we get the breakdown of that specifically in our budget?

Mr. Drager stated I provide those in my monthly finance report, all the Gateway bills.

Mr. Reynolds stated here's a suggestion, I think it would be highly beneficial for the residents, so they have even a better understanding of it. When these Gateway ones come up here, you know, for \$10,000.00, maybe we should put for the amount of \$10,000.00 bringing our yearly total spent with Gateway and then announced the figure that we've spent because we spend an exorbitant amount of money, even though we have an engineer here, we spend a lot of money with Gateway and I'm sure the residents would like to know how much money we give Gateway a year. That would be a running total.

Mr. Montgomery stated there is, there is a spreadsheet that comes out with the work authorization for the project involved as how much is spent, is it overspent under spent? We do have a report.

Mr. Reynolds stated if that report's there, then it'll be really easy to add it to the agenda because we already have it say, okay, this is how much money we spent.

Mr. Montgomery stated you get the report.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm saying to add it to the agenda so that the residents can see it follow along.

Mr. Montgomery stated we can put it out there. The spreadsheet explains the whole thing.

Mr. Reynolds stated we could very easily take that number off of there and add it to the agenda.

Mr. Montgomery stated I'm just explaining that at one time the engineering costs had no controls. If you made a call to the engineers, you got this big bill. So, we had, we came up with the work authorization system that they have to spend, and if they go over that they have to come back not just keep spending.

Mr. Reynolds stated they come back all the time and we don't stand in their way of writing another check. I'm just saying the residents it would be nice for them to know what the running total is. You know, for the year how much money you know we're authorized another \$10,000.00 and then this is bringing our yearly total up to date to a certain number. What is wrong with that with letting the residents know how much money we're spending. Do you see anything wrong with that?

Mr. Montgomery stated we should just post the spreadsheet, it's all there.

#### REPORTS:

Fire Chief

Nothing further

EMS

Not present

Engineer

I do have one thing I'd like to add tonight. With the corrective action plan that Clairton Municipal Authorities is under, every year we have to submit a tap request to the PA DEP through the Clairton Municipal Authority requesting the taps that were anticipating that we need throughout the year for the various developments and projects that are going on in the Borough. I just got the approval this morning that are 2022 request for taps was approved by PA DEP so, we should be good for taps for throughout the rest of the year.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked how many did we request?

Mr. Glistler stated 159

Mrs. Ruscitto asked didn't we discuss at one point buying more and having them readily available in case something like the tap freeze happens again?

Mr. Glister state we did, and we can certainly look into that again. One of the things that we were a little hesitant on was that if you buy more than you use in the year, the letter from DEP specifically indicates that you can't carry these taps over into the next year. Last year we had requested 160, I think we only utilized 29. I think there was some discussions on buying approximately half of this. We were talking about buying potentially 80 taps. So that would have would not have worked out last year. It's definitely something we should continue to look into in the future, maybe once the market and inflation and some of that stuff stabilizes. Because I think with some of those items, we were seeing last year, we had less houses built than we've seen on a typical year prior to the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Polick asked do we get any refund back from those ones we don't use?

Mr. Glister stated the way we're doing now it's an allocation so we're not actually buying them. If we didn't utilize, there's no penalty for that, but if we had purchased approximately half or so, then we potentially would have been out a decent amount of money.

Consulting Engineer

Not present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing further

Public Works Director

Nothing further

Chief Dziezgowski

Nothing further

Mayor McCaffrey

I would like to take a minute to talk about the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation. The foundation is run by Jacklyn Girman. She is a lifelong resident of Floreffe. Geo was her cousin, neighbor and a 2004 graduate of TJ. After graduation he joined the army. Staff Sgt Mackulin was a highly decorated member of the army special forces who served in Iraq along with additional destinations that earned him numerous awards and honors. Unfortunately, in Oct of 2015 Geo committed suicide.

His cousin and lifelong friend Jacklyn wanted to do something to honor his memory and give back, thus forming the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation.

The program collects monetary donations to fill care packages for the veterans at the VA hospital. In 2021 she was able to fill 940 bags. I would love to see us as community help her surpass her goal for this year of 1,020 care packages. The donation to sponsor a bag is \$5.00. There are many ways to donate this year. We will have collection boxes at the Borough building. One

will be in the library and the other downstairs near the office. Donations are collected until January 31, 2022.

You can also utilize Paypal, Venmo or can mail directly to her. All the information will be available on the Borough website as well. Thank you again, I hope we can make this her most successful year yet!

Manager

Not present

Solicitor

For the record council did meet in executive session discuss personnel matters tonight and I would request that council would remain for just a few moments council.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Reynolds:

Thank you to the Jacksonville Jaguars. Big Ben rides on

Mrs. Ruscitto:

Along with the Geo Mackulin Veterans Foundation, which is an honorable cause, I just wanted the public to know that Reverend Floyd Hughes's diaper drive will continue throughout the year at the Borough building. Those of you that have maybe some extra diapers that you could drop off, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Budd:

I had a resident contact me that lives on Dale Street off of Stilley Road. He was concerned about a rumor circulating on his street regarding the Deer Hollow plan of homes. The rumor indicated that Dale was going to become a main or secondary access for the new homes as opposed to a cul-de-sac, as planned. I spoke with Borough Manager Stinner and Councilman Montgomery who confirmed with me that Dale will indeed be finished as a cul-de-sac.

Mr. Montgomery:

I have some highlights from the Finance Committee that are positive. The total expenditures for the year were \$14,500,000.00. We actually budgeted \$15,700,000.00, which is very good for spending less than we expected. I just wanted to congratulate Jon Drager on his negotiations with Cintas for a further reduction in newer uniforms at \$1,400.00. The pension audit will be on the 12th of January at 10 a.m. here at the Borough building. Any Council members more than welcome. Once that's complete, then we can start the Pension Board once all the audit is complete. Because of the market situation, our Borough police pension fund was funded at 76% and now it's on 100%. I asked Jon if this was possible, we have a minimum municipal obligation due of \$500,000.00, for 100% funded. I don't think we need to pay anything. So, if that happens,

it's a substantial savings as far as expenditures in the Borough. When the audit is done, we're going to start the pension board up so we'll have a better control of the expenditures and so that we stay a 100% funded and not go back the other way.

Mrs. Bucy:

At the last meeting, I had talked about the zoning map. I had both Mr. Glistler and Mrs. Lewis make a map and that map is sitting right over there. It will be here in case anybody wants to ever look at anything. We will also have another one by the library.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated it's also online on our website.

There was a question about Waste Management, and I had Mrs. Lewis put copies in the back if you need to have a Waste Management schedule. There's also Waste Management schedules by the library and in front of the office's downstairs, if anybody needs those. Today I received the recycling Waste Management flyer that was sent. I'm assuming the rest of the Borough will also be informed about that recycling program and we're hoping to get that off the ground.

In addition, with what the mayor said, if you read the paper on Sunday in section G they had a two-page article about the Girman Foundation helping with Geo Mackulin and the Veteran Support Group. If you would like more information about that, it's right in Sunday's paper about our local community Jefferson Hills and what we're doing to help veterans.

Mrs. Steffey:

I'd like to thank my cousin Jacqueline Girman again for spearheading the Geo Mac Foundation. It overwhelms me every year, how many caddies she gets sponsored by the generous people of this community and friends and neighbors close by. I'm so very proud of her.

I'd like to congratulate the hardworking Thomas Jefferson high school cheerleaders. The varsity competition got their bid from the WPIAL competition this weekend and they're moving on to the state championships. So, we wish them good luck.

Mr. Montgomery:

Mrs. Bucy, this plaque is in recognition of your services as Council President. Thank you for standing up for this community. I'm very proud to serve with you.

Mrs. Bucy stated thank you very much, I'll be able to use this at home maybe a little more effectively.

Mr. Polick:

Nothing further

ADJOURNMENT:



President Polick adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager