

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
January 5, 2022

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

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions
5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Rod Campas, 611 Cochran Mill Road stated I think it's a big mistake to connect Deer Park to Arch St. Cochran Mill Road is already too dangerous with truck traffic and automobiles that never travel the posted speed limit. Making Arch St. as throughway to Deer Park is asking for more accidents on Cochran Mill. Only way I can see this connection is if speed limit from Waterman to Stilley, where there are numerous businesses, be made from 25 mph to 30 mph. I know Cochran Mill Road is a county road and they are responsible for speed limits and Jefferson Borough is responsible for enforcing it. Maybe Jefferson Hills can work with the county to resolve this and do something about this stretch of road that seems to have accidents yearly.

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road stated first I would like to congratulate the new mayor and the new Council members and wish you and the other members all good luck for the upcoming year. I came here to talk about the fire departments. I'm sure you all know, a big concern for many residents is adequate fire protection for all. It's a question we were all asked during the 2021 elections. Some of you gave the standard answer that you know there's a plan in the works to put up a \$250,000.00 prefab steel building. I had some questions about this plan, such as how much will the lot cost? Are there any lots in the Gill Hall area zone for such a thing, if not, what will it cost to rezone? Will that result in legal fees and lawsuits, how much will it cost to excavate a lot run utilities to the lot, how much to run electric plumbing and gas throughout the building? Will it include a fire hall that can be rented out to help relieve some of the burden on taxpayers? How much will it cost to purchase trucks, equipment, and gear to outfit the new station. How long is it going to take? Unfortunately, nobody had any answers and I know we've asked those here before of the Council previously and never were able to get any answers.

One thing I just wanted to point out, I think it was the last agenda meeting, John Thatcher made a comment that we have time to look into grants and try to get some grants so that the taxpayers don't have to pay for this. I just wanted to point out that grants are actually taxpayer money. The state doesn't just make money and hand it out that, actually does come from our taxes. So, one way in one way or another, taxpayers will be paying for that.

I'm asking if before we go down this road, if we could finally do the work that should have been done before Gill Hall was ever decertified. Can we pull all the records from maybe five years before the closure to the present date? Get the response times from all fire departments for all 911 calls within the Borough. We can create a database and easily run reports to see what the reality of their performance was. We can see how the response times were, what the response times were in the Gill Hall area before the shutdown versus after. We can even run reports to check the time of day and see if maybe response times were good except during peak hours and volunteers were at work. It would give us a broad picture of all departments performance and where we might need more focus.

A few meetings ago, Councilwoman Steffey mentioned two specific calls prior to Gill Hall being shut down. One where the response time was eight minutes, another where it was 12 minutes and used us to say why she feels they should remain closed. That's two calls out of probably thousands they responded to in their 72 years of service. As a resident of the Gill Hall area, I'd be more than happy with 8-12 minutes, compared to the 16-19 minutes, which are accurate times of a few calls since they've been closed. We shouldn't be looking at a case here or there that allows people to push a false narrative. We should be looking at the overall true picture. I'd be more than happy to volunteer my time to help in this effort. I also believe we should have someone from both sides to give the residents faith that neither side is swaying the results in their favor. I know Councilwoman Steffey, you've been pushing strongly to keep them closed. I'd be more than happy to work with you in this effort. I think the residents could feel confident that our results, whichever way they felt are accurate and true. I think not only do the residents deserve this research before we spend millions of their tax dollars on building a new department, I think the volunteers of Gill Hall, who spent 72 years building a department also deserve this effort.

Douglas OzVath, CMA Board Chairman, I am at present Chairman of the Board at Clairton Municipal Authority. I wish to address certain statements the Mayor of Clairton made to Jefferson Borough Council at their monthly meeting in November 2021. February 2019 I was appointed to the board of the Clairton Municipal Authority (CMA) by Clairton City Council and the Mayor. At the end of the Council meeting, I was escorted into a anti room by the mayor and a member of City Council where I was told to look into selling CMA and get rid of the present law firm and engineering firm KLH at CMA. My response was I will do whatever is in the best interest of the citizens of Clairton.

It took me a year to understand what was going on at CMA and after looking into selling CMA I realized it wouldn't be in the best interest of rate payers in the community's serviced by CMA to sell the plant. Now I would like to comment on the mayor's statements to Borough Council. I agree with the mayor when he stated he doesn't have a clue on what was going on at CMA then in his next statement he was confident the City would be taking over CMA and lowering Jefferson sewage rate CMA hasn't increased rates in nine years can't say as much for PUC rates.

Get rid of the current management team then get together a management team to run CMA. A management team with no idea how to run CMA and to get rid of plant manager with 17 years' experience working at CMA is ludicrous. The current finance director has the knowledge that a new finance director would take months if not a year to understand. The employees the next day after your Borough council meeting requested time at next board meeting to address their concern about working for the city. Their concern was of course job security and what would happen to their pension fund which is currently funded at over 100%. Ask the Mayor about the letter he received from the State of Pennsylvania to do something about the city's three underfunded pension plans. How do I know about this letter CMA was cc on the letter? His statement about two pension plans is wrong there is only one pension plan the only other retirement account is an employee savings plan.

I would now like to address a statement in regard to finance concerns voiced by the mayor. Yes, we do have a reserve fund, but those funds can't be used for anything but capital improvements such as Phase 2 demanded by DEP and EPA increasing CMA treatment capacity from its current two million gal per day to over ten million gal per day.

Other funds in the Capital improvement are monies needed to insure we would be able to make payments to our Debt Service. Without these funds in place borrowing monies for Phase one and Phase II wouldn't have happened. The City of Clairton has received a letter from the DEP outlining their concerns that the city is not in compliance with the Long-Term Control Plan and the Wastewater Treatment Agreement both signed by the city. What does this mean FINES that the city can't afford and a consent decree eventually forcing the City to move forward with Phase II upgrades at a substantial higher cost. Why, because the city's bowering power is in

the toilet causing concern from our debt owners and the upstream community's serviced by the CMA who have already agreed to the Phase II upgrades. Four minutes is up, rest of letter was not read.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked Mr. Minsterman, did you attend the Board meeting the other night?

Mr. Minsterman stated it wasn't a board meeting it was the committee meeting for Phase Two.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked, were you in attendance?

Mr. Minsterman stated it was a virtual meeting and yes, I attended.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked were there several changes made yesterday at that meeting?

Mr. Minsterman stated I thought you were talking about the meeting that I attended a couple of weeks ago. So no, I did not attend the meeting the other day.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked Mr. OzVath, is he still on the board or did the board changed yesterday.

Mr. Montgomery stated I have no idea.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I just wondered if he was still around.

Mr. Montgomery stated I don't know.

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills
7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting December 8, 2021
9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting December 13, 2021
10. Discussion to approve minutes of Special meeting December 28, 2021
11. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Planning Commission (Term ending 12/31/25)

Mr. Montgomery stated we have one applicant, that's Tom Donohue.

12. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Committee (Term ending 12/31/25)
13. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Committee (Term ending 12/31/25)

Mr. Montgomery stated for Recreation we have three applicants, Greg Palmer, Lisa Oeler, and Vickie Ielase.

14. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/24)

Mr. Montgomery stated for the Library Board there are two applicants, Vickie Ielase and Holly Schrum. Mr. Doel, your application was received after the December 30th cutoff date. We will keep it on file for future vacancies.

15. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/24)
16. Discussion to hire _____ Public Works mechanic position
17. Discussion 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

Mrs. Ruscitto stated at the planning commission meeting I believe we discussed the situation and there would be one person that would be affected by this road change that lives and uses Arch Street, am I correct?

Mr. Montgomery stated the main part of the discussion was to make sure there's a secondary access and the only road there is Arch Street.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, there's one person that lives there that needs that correct? Have we contacted this person or talk to this person?

Mr. Montgomery stated when it gets down to doing that the engineers are going to work it out, that's what is in the resolution.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked, Mr. Glistler, have we contacted that person that lives down there because I really think that they should be kept abreast or at least be part of the conversation to a degree.

Mr. Glistler stated I haven't contacted them personally myself. I don't think the applicant's surveyor engineers here or a representative from Mele to see if they have contacted them. I think they did reach out to all those folks there on Arch Street though that's part of the initial design process.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I would like to make certain of that before I decided to cast a vote because one resident is still a resident, and they deserve that.

Mr. Montgomery stated the access that there will be down there will not be the same as on Arnoni Street because of the tunnel, but we definitely do need the access because of the size of the plan. The way the ordinance is written, after you build 25 homes, you have to have a secondary access. This plan is a little bit difficult because the only access is Arch Street. Arch Street's biggest problem is the tunnel. You can get passenger vehicles through it, and you'll have something, so they're going to do what they can to make it as best as possible.

Mrs. Bucy stated I wanted to incorporate this for the residents to understand about this comprehensive planning that's coming up. I asked Mrs. Lewis, our Clerk to put up the zoning map of Jefferson Hills so that people understand how the Borough is zoned.

I wanted to clarify a couple of things for everybody in Jefferson Hills. This is a sample of the zoning map. The emerald green, that's an R-4 zone. Every one of these zones has already been predetermined. I'd really like to have a big accessible zoning map when people are going over the comprehensive plan. We have one in our Conference room, and I would like to have one at the library also. At the bottom of this map, you would see, it states R-4 is a high-density residential district. That means that not only could that Deer Park section have single family dwellings, but it also could have had town homes. Town homes would cause more traffic and people living there. I live in Deer Park at 410 Deer Park West Drive. I looked at my deed, my house was built in 1977. There's only been two people that lived in that house, the previous owner and myself. In 1978, there was occupancy in

that house, it's 2022. This is the final phase of Deer Park. That's 45 years later, they're finishing this project. It was already zoned 45 years ago, when none of these people were sitting up here. When this developer or any developer comes before Planning and a preexisting zoned in that area, there are certain criteria and standards that has to be met. As a result, the Planning Commission makes them adhere to this, and they follow the Pennsylvania Municipal Code. After that process is completed, then it comes to Council to approve.

In the past we had another development on Gill Hall Road called Washington Square. The Council previous to us sitting here, went to court with that developer, and it went down to Judge James of Allegheny County. Judge James asked if it was Zoned R-4. Yes, it was. Did the developer meet the criteria that was established for him to build these homes? The answer was yes. Now, we as taxpayers all paid for that zoning project to go down to the court. Judge James said he ruled in favor of the developer, and he said the Borough will not have any control over this anymore. Therefore, anything that happened in Washington Square was under the control of Judge James.

The reason I'm telling you this is, I want the residents to understand if there's any development in this Jefferson Hills area our Council wants to have control of this development, not a judge. If we would have taken this to a court hearing, past practice would have ruled the same way it ruled under Judge James. It's to our benefit to work with the developer. Now this company the first Deer Hollow Development was out of Virginia, and then it was sold again. Now, this person that is developing this land is a Jefferson Hills resident. I want people to be educated on this process. This zoning map controls how this is done. There is a procedure that's in place that has to be followed, and if it's not followed, I'm told from the Planning people it's sent back to be redone. I just want people to understand that I know that there's been woods there. But, this project was started 45 years ago because my house was built in 1977. This has been a long time in the making. Since we have residential populations on that zoning that's why it's important for people to be involved in things. This comprehensive plan is something that we haven't had a whole lot of people sign up for. If you're interested in the way this community is going to be developed in the next 10 years, then sign up for the comprehensive plan.

Mrs. Steffey stated if I can add to that some words of advice for people moving into any Borough at all. When you purchase a home, you're given a due diligence period. It's usually the first 10 days of signing a contract. It is your responsibility to do your due diligence and to look around and pull up the zoning maps and see if there's commercial property that's going to be next to the home that you're purchasing, if there is land that can possibly be purchased and developed. That is your responsibility as a home purchaser. So just word to the wise, if I can help anybody out there, not necessarily just in Jefferson Hills, but anywhere you should be asking your real estate agent and you should be looking into things like these as to what the municipality requires.

Mrs. Bucy stated and, on that note, if you're interested in the comprehensive plan, submit your application to the Borough Manager, John Stinner to be on comprehensive plan.

18. Discussion 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

Mr. Glistler stated that Lick Run bridge No. 2 on Wallace Road, which is at the border of Jefferson Hills and South Park off of Cochran Mill Road next to the Pleasant Hills Authority treatment plant. It was built by the county, and it's owned by the county. It was built as an incentive to the research park back there that the Department of Energy has. They built, one or two bridges and it's an old timber span that has seen better days and it's time for it to be replaced. The county's planning appropriately to complete this work. They're not looking to complete the bridge replacement until 2023, but they are well underway in their design. Part of the bridge replacement requires that they take some additional right of way to make sure that all the components of the replacement span is within right of way. The county doesn't keep that right of way per PennDOT guidance, that

additional right of way has to come to the Borough on our half of the bridge. The boundary between South Park and Jefferson Hills is pretty much right down the center of the bridge through Lick Run. When the work is done that right of way is going to be dedicated to Jefferson Hills on our side of the bridge and the South Park on their side of the bridge. Any additional improvements that were made as part of this work that aren't associated with the bridge will then become the responsibility of Jefferson Hills and South Park's on their respective side of the bridge. What that means for us in talking with the county engineers is that we have to sign off on the right of way plans that the county prepared. We also have to pass this resolution generally giving the Borough Manager the authority to sign off on the right of way plans. We were waiting for confirmation from the county that we weren't going to be responsible for any components of the bridge and or the gabion basket walls that they're proposing to line the banks of Lick Run prior to the start of the bridge. We didn't want to take over any responsibility of any in stream structures because in stream structures tend to have a limited lifespan and then doing any kind of in stream work tends to be expensive.

We were able to get confirmation from the county earlier this week that, they're going to maintain the bridge and everything that's in stream associated with the bridge and they'll maintain the bridge afterwards. The only thing that will change for on our side will be right now there's some existing guide rail that they're going to replace. The cost associated with the replacement isn't going to be the Boroughs, the county will replace the guide rail and then it will be our responsibility to maintain that guide rail in the future, but we're already responsible for that guide rail so, there's really not much of a change there. Then on the Wallace Road portion coming up to the bridge on the approach, there's currently a catch basin there that belongs to us. That catch basin is going to be replaced and then on top of that they're going to add an additional catch basin and then both of those catch basins will become the responsibility of the Borough. Out of all this work and that lengthy explanation, the only thing that's really going to change for the Borough is that we're going to take up an additional catch basin that will become our responsibility when the work is done. If anybody has any questions or anything more specific, they want to know about this, I can certainly try to answer it.

Mr. Montgomery asked it is just the catch basin and guide rails, correct?

Mr. Glistler stated the guide rail and catch basins already there, the difference will be that there will be two catch basins instead of one. There's really not a lot of liability or change or difference for the Borough in this case.

Mr. Montgomery stated the county is going to pay to install that and then we'll maintain it, is that correct?

Mr. Glistler answered correct. Mr. Volpe and I had a meeting with the county back in April 2021 regarding this when they were in their preliminary design. The portion of Wallace Road that belongs to the Borough between Cochran Mill and the bridge needs to be paved. We are going to try to coordinate with the county to get our portion of the road paved right around when they're doing the bridge replacement so there will be a new road from Cochran Mill to the bridge and to the other side in South Park. The paving of Wallace Road isn't really part of this resolution, but that is something that we are planning on doing.

19. Discussion 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

Mr. Glistler stated this is the follow up from the December meeting when I talked about the emergency repair, we had on Lick Run in November of 2021. We had an application for payment from Soli Construction and they were the contractor that we brought in through the SHACOG emergency repair contract to repair the broken manhole within Lick Run. We've already closed out that contract. There was also an authorization for Gateway

to work on the follow up GP11 permitting that DEP is requiring us to do as a follow-up to the emergency permit that we obtained to get into Lick Run to do the work on the manhole. This particular item is associated with the remaining work we had to do to finish that repair because after we repaired the broken manhole, the downstream segment from the broken manhole that's a 400 ft segment of 15-inch sewer line had 300 ft of that line was plugged solid. Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company, as their name sort of implies that's one of the things they do, and they're part of the SHACOG emergency contract as well. We were able to get them out there and it took them a little over five full days of continuous heavy cleaning to get all the debris removed from the line. They were pulling out rocks and bricks and sediment. As you can imagine, 300 ft of 15-inch diameter pipe that's a lot of sediment that we can't allow to continue to flow down the line and into the Peters Creek interceptor. All the material they were pulling down, Public Works was there assisting, this all had to be shoveled out of the manhole and disposed of it was a lot of work. But the \$16,000.00, that's out of the emergency repair contract, that was the time it took for Robinson to be out there and heavy clean that line.

20. Discussion 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

Mrs. Bucy stated I did a little informational fact finding because I do like to have a comparison of numbers. I just wanted people in the audience and Council members to know that this number of \$10,000.00 does not always get spent. In 2021, we spent \$4,656.55. We have it at \$10,000.00 in case we need more money. In 2020, we spent \$6,989.25. I only looked up the two years that I've been here. I don't think we anticipate using this whole amount and based on the two previous years. I wanted you to see about how much money we are spending.

Mr. Reynolds stated before we move into the reports, because we moved through these items pretty fast, I'd like to see if I could have a moment to discuss the appointments. As we talked in our executive session, I think the proper thing to do is to push these appointments back to February. None of these appointments here are critical to the life of each of those boards or committees. I would like to put on the agenda that we perform a background check on anybody that we appoint to any of our boards and commissions. That would make us in compliance with our own Code of Conduct policy. I would think that the residents would expect for us to before we put somebody on, say for example a Planning Commission that we do a background check on them because they are in fact a representative of us controlling the future of their community. We should at least be doing our due diligence and I think we should require that before we make any more appointments, that background check be done on each and every one of the appointments. For the residents, just so that the residents know, when a resident comes up and they want to fill out a permit to use one of our facilities, we require that they have a background check. So, I think it's only makes common sense for us to also have that for any of our appointments.

Mrs. Bucy stated maybe the chief can answer this for us. Does the person who has the background check, do they have to apply for it themselves and then show proof of that, correct?

Chief Dziezgowski stated they can do it that way yes. In certain organizations when we have an employee for the Police Department, we do the background checks. We can hire an agency to do that for employees outside of the Police Department, but in most cases, they can do background checks on their own by going to Identigo, similar to the backgrounds for crossing guards.

Mrs. Bucy stated so the individual person initiates it.

Chief Dziezgowski stated they can, they don't always have.

Mrs. Bucy stated okay that's what I wanted to know.

Chief Dziezgowski stated yes if it's an employee of the Borough, the Borough can conduct those backgrounds themselves through a security agency. They would do all the backgrounds for you. Or you can have people for these commissions go out and do their backgrounds on their own such as we do with the crossing guards and go through the FBI clearances and stuff like that? There are multiple ways of doing it.

Mrs. Steffey stated are we just talking about act 33 and 34? That can be done online, correct? For volunteers it's just Act 33 and 34.

Chief Dziezgowski stated yes, if they are involved with children, they would have to get those backgrounds.

Mrs. Steffey stated are you saying that when people come up to rent a pavilion, they have to do a background check?

Mr. Reynolds stated no, it's in the Code of Conduct that you have to do a background for a permit?

Mrs. Steffey stated for renting a facility?

Mr. Reynolds stated I said filling out for a permit.

Mrs. Steffey stated but not for a birthday party.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated maybe a League or something like that. Whoever is in charge of that League has to turn in to use the facility. Whoever the sponsor is of a league has to turn in their clearances. I don't disagree with that at all. I think that anybody that steps foot in this building or works with any of us here in some capacity should have a background check.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think they should be supplying it to us.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I only compare things to how teachers do their jobs and when you apply for a teaching degree, you have to provide your clearances to the school district.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think they should be coming up and saying, here's my background check.

Mr. Reynolds stated Karen, I don't understand how we're turning this into such a huge discussion. If we have somebody on the Planning Commission, we should be doing a background check. We should not want anybody with any felonies or any kind of criminal background coming onto any of our appointments.

Mrs. Bucy stated but you want the Borough to do it.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated no,

Mrs. Bucy stated I want the person to do it, that's applying.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated the person that's applying should turn it in. That's what I'm saying. You have to pay for those clearances. So, the person that applies should have it.

Chief Dziezgowski stated if I could clarify, just so everybody understands, we're talking about two different clearances. We're talking about mandated clearances for individuals that are, mandated by law that they have to have clearances to be around kids, that's Act 33 and 34. You're we're talking about just general

backgrounds that they have no criminal history to hold a position so they can get that on their own, but it's not mandated you guys have to decide.

Mrs. Bucy stated that's all I'm saying? I think they should be paying for it and saying I want to volunteer. I remember when I taught CCD, I had to have a background check and I had to prove that I had the background check done.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated there's no doubt that it should be the person responsibility for paying and turning those in. But I don't disagree that we should have people do that. I mean everybody in this room should have it done and I'll be glad to turn mine in on Monday.

Mrs. Steffey stated so what does that mean? Does that mean it's going on an agenda?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated he made a motion that people that are on boards, committees and commissions.

Mr. Reynolds stated this is where we discuss. I'd like to see that added to the agenda for Monday I would like to see this discussion for these appointments be tabled to next month so that the residents have an opportunity to get their background checks.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think they can get it in a day. We could contact them and say if you can bring it up by Monday.

Mr. Reynolds stated Karen, the discussion that we had earlier was that it needed to go on and it needed to be voted upon before we could require it. So, we have to put it on there before we can require it.

Mr. Montgomery asked what if these people have clearances?

Mr. Reynolds stated we never required it before and I'm asking that we start to require it.

Mr. Montgomery stated some of them may have it. If they have it they should be able to be appointed.

Mrs. Steffey stated there's no sense in pushing off voting on these appointments for another month if in fact these people have clearances, and they can present them before Monday's meeting. So can we please have somebody call these appointments and see if they have clearances that can be presented before Monday's meeting, then we can vote on them.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated this is something that we should discuss as a Council because there's a lot of terminology and verbiage that could be put into this as far as you know, do we want to require our appointed board members right now to have them as well. The ones that have been appointed and you know, as Carrie just stated what if someone leaves and is getting reappointed? Do they have to turn in such paperwork?

Mayor McCaffrey stated there's some things that is on planning now, do they have to miss a meeting?

Mr. Montgomery stated I think it's a valid point. A valuable member of the Planning Commission.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated all these people are valuable. They're volunteering their time to do something for free. I just don't want to see anybody get slighted. I also don't want to see anybody not have the proper opportunity. I do believe that they should have clearances for sure.

Mr. Montgomery stated I think you put it on the agenda. Put these names on there and then also put about the clearances on there and let them come up with the clearances.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I think these people that are going to be appointed, possibly we could give them some time to get them in if they don't have them right now, maybe like on that addition to the agenda, we could state that, given the amount of X amount of time to supply Council with such information.

Mr. Reynolds stated I don't see the hang up, obviously if anybody looked at the budget, we obviously overspend our revenue by a sizable amount? Why would we not when these individuals are trying to volunteer their time. Why would we not reimburse them for the cost of their background check. For us and our residents peace of mind that people on these committees are worthy of being on these committees. You can look in neighboring communities, and I will leave the names out, there's a committee in a neighboring community that I know he convicted felon that's sitting on a board. I would think that our residents would not deem that acceptable here. I think we should be doing a criminal background check.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated people need to have clearances. There's a clearance that you can get that states whether or not you have a criminal record. So, we would know that these people had or have a criminal record. I don't have a criminal record. In my school district, for example, they don't reimburse me for my clearances I have to pay for my own clearances out of my own pocket.

Mr. Reynolds stated you're working there; these people are donating their time working here as a volunteer. We should respect the fact that they're a volunteer.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I don't disagree with you. However, I mean it's a very small fee and most people have them if they want to work.

Mr. Polick stated we can put this on the agenda and discuss it later on the fees.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated but we definitely need to have that.

Mr. Polick stated so, we'll add this to the agenda

Mr. Montgomery stated there's two items on the police salary that needed to be corrected on the resolution, fixing salary resolution 38-21 added to agenda to reflect the inaccuracy of those two items.

Solicitor Gabriel stated that Mrs. Daily stated there are two Collective Bargaining issues that were not available when the resolution was voted on that needed to be amended.

21. Reports

Fire Chief:

Chief Chalfant stated maybe I can shed some light on a criminal background check. Jefferson Hills Fire and Rescue requires it annually for all of our volunteers. If you go to Pennsylvania State Police website, it's free. You click on volunteer, you put your information on, if you're records clean, you have it within five minutes and your email you printed off. You could submit it. There's also a free one for volunteers for child clearances. Mrs. Ruscitto, I agree with you from my employment with the county and all the ETA'S that I teach for, I had to pay to get fingerprinted and everything else from my child clearances and my criminal background check. There is a fee for employment, however, it is free to be a volunteer. I know that because I just sent the letter out today to all

of our members. They have until the end of the month submit their criminal background checks to maintain their membership.

Mr. Montgomery asked does that include fingerprints or anything like that?

Chief Chalfant stated you get your child clearances, so you file your criminal background check through Pennsylvania State Police, and you can also file your child clearances. It doesn't require fingerprints unless it's for your employment. There were three clearances I needed to get for employment and one of them was the federal one that I needed to have my fingerprints for.

Mr. Montgomery stated so this this clearance could be in five minutes. We can tell them how to do it. It only takes five minutes.

Chief Chalfant stated absolutely, I can give you the links right after the meeting.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated we should probably just have them added to the website in case anybody needs them in general for their employment or anything else.

Chief Chalfant stated I submitted my report to Borough Manager. For the month of December, fortunately for Jefferson Hills Fire and Rescue was a slow month. We responded to 39 calls for assistance. For the year we responded to 511 incidents. For the year of 2021 we documented 2,460 hours of training. In your report it goes from training at the County Fire Academy to FEMA, to online training, fishing boat, State Fire Academy and our weekly drills. That's my monthly report and my annual report for 2021.

Mrs. Bucy stated I would like for you to talk about the class that's going to be offered the EMR class and the purpose of that working with the fire departments and the emergency services.

Chief Chalfant stated to give the shift crews additional responsibilities and for the taxpayers to get more for what they're paying for, Jefferson Hills Fire and Rescue's going to start responding to emergency medical calls for assistance, E1's and E0's. With doing that our EMTS and paramedics we already have, we're sponsoring an emergency medical responder course which is really is a basic training for running medical calls. That class starts next month. Currently, I have four additional members enrolled in EMT classes starting next month. In additional members enrolled in emergency medical response course next month. We've already ordered the additional equipment that was needed, as far as updating the medical bags, which Department of Health requires us to carry. Our license or applications are in the process is being filled out, and as soon as we get the application and get licensed through the Department of Health, we will start running the QRS, which will be automatic dispatch.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked when and where will this class be held?

Chief Chalfant stated it's going to be held here at the Borough building. I can't tell you dates off the top of my head.

Mrs. Bucy stated it's going to be every Thursday night. I have the application form too, if you would like to have it Councilwoman Ruscitto. Every Thursday night from like 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and every other Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It starts in late January. It's offered through Community College so there is a fee if you're interested in attending. I think it was \$250.00 for the class, then the book was \$108.00. I would like to also attend. If the other Council members and mayor would also like to attend with me, you can. I talked to Chief

Pascoe today and he thought the class was almost going to be up to about 30 people. I think it's a very big plus for us in the Borough to have all these people trained in those kinds of medical emergencies.

EMS:

Not present

Engineer:

Nothing further

Consulting Engineer:

The only update to the Engineer's report that I would have is that it appears there's progress being made by the solicitor to schedule a meeting with PICCO regarding Hercules. I believe that's going to be happening on February 9th. I just wanted to mention that the work we're doing regarding the layout of the options, more options for the conversation and then that will be completed and presented at the engineering committee meeting. I think is February 8th, so the engineering group who will be able to review those and be prepared for that.

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Nothing further

Public Works Director:

Nothing further

Police Chief:

On behalf of the JHPD, I want to wish everybody a happy new year. Also, through the generosity of many, JHPD was able to help 11 families and 23 kids through our annual toy drive. We hope we made the holidays a little brighter. The community really stepped up this year and it was one of our best toy drives ever. I can't thank the community enough and everybody involved. Special thanks to our secretary, Tara Revis, who coordinated sorted, shopped, and prepared the gifts for distribution. She really spearheaded that and like I said, made a lot of families and kids happy. It's a great event and I hope to continue this year.

Mayor:

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a happy new year.

I would like to thank extend my gratitude to the community with entrusting me as your mayor. I'm excited and eager to work with the Council and our residents over the next four years. Also, I would like to thank the Borough staff for helping me to transition into this position. Everybody has been so helpful in getting me settled in.

Chief Dziezgowski, I look forward to working with you closely to continue the strong relationship that we have between the community and our police department.

Manager:

Not present

Solicitor:

I would just like to note for the record council did meet in executive session prior to this agenda meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Chief Chalfant stated I apologize, as I sat back down, I remembered something else I wanted to say. If you didn't see the news today or maybe you did, there was a pretty bad fire in Philadelphia today where seven Children lost their lives and six adults at 6:30 this morning. Through the investigation, they found out there were no working smoke detectors. I posted a lot of information online, reminding the residents about the importance of smoke detectors. The American Red Cross, the Pittsburgh chapter, I posted their link as well, they offer free smoke detectors and they'll come out and install them. To any of the elderly residents in Jefferson Hills, if you purchase your smoke detectors or you need your batteries changed or you need some help to be put up, please reach out to the fire department. We will come out and help install them for you. Smoke detectors do save lives.

22. General Business

Mr. Reynolds:

Nothing further

Mrs. Ruscitto:

I'd like to welcome the new members of Council and our new mayor and congratulate them and I look forward to working with all of you and a happy new year to everyone out there.

Mrs. Budd:

Nothing further

Mr. Montgomery:

The SHACOG Board of Directors did not meet in December. There are some events I would like to encourage Council to attend. We have the County Boroughs Association Banquet on February 5th, and the deadline is to register is January 27th. It's at the River's Casino. The other item would be the ALOM Spring Conference, which is from April 7th to April 10th. I don't have a deadline on when you have to register yet. My advice is, if you can go, register as fast as you can so you get better accommodations on those two items.

I was going to ask Mrs. Lewis, did Waste Management ever give us an idea when the recycling calendars will go out for 2022.

Mrs. Lewis stated I have not gotten an answer back from them yet. We did post it on our website.

Mr. Montgomery asked if they were going to mail them out as in the past.

Mrs. Lewis stated they were supposed to, but they didn't, so I don't know if they are or not. We usually mail them out with our trash bills, but they said they would mail them out with the notification of the Hazardous Waste Program.

Mr. Montgomery stated if you don't hear back from them, let me know and I will reach out to them. Next week is recycling week and I don't want the residents to not know when recycling is.

Mr. Reynolds stated, Dave, question for you. When's that new recycle program start where they come out and pick up the recycling items.

Mr. Montgomery stated it started at the beginning of this year. That's not really a recycling program. It's a program to get rid of the TVs, the lightbulb, and other hard to dispose of waste.

Mr. Reynolds asked, how have we gotten that out to the residents to know what the number call.

Mr. Montgomery replied, Waste Management sent a letter out for that.

Mr. Reynolds stated I live in the Borough, and I didn't receive it.

Mr. Montgomery stated I did, but we'll check into that. It is on our Borough website. I want to get that calendar out because people get confused on recycling enough.

Ms. Duda stated there was an article in the In Community Magazine telling the residents about the Hazardous Waste Program also.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, they usually mail them, correct? My mother was very upset that she didn't have hers yet.

Mr. Montgomery stated I know that's what I know that this is coming. This week is not a recycling week, but next week will be, that's what I'm concerned about. I know how this goes. So, we'll get on it.

Mrs. Bucy:

I just wanted to repeat what Ms. Duda said, there was an article in the December In-Community magazine in case people didn't hear her, that talked about this recycling program. I did have a resident sent me a thank you note regarding that recycling program because she took her fluorescent light bulbs to a recycling plant, and they charged her \$5.00 per light bulb to recycle those. I did not know that was the cost of a fluorescent light bulb to be recycled, and \$.79 cents per month is pretty reasonable. She said she had probably about 20 light bulbs.

I would like to have this in for the spring, but I'm going to bring it up now, I checked with the Code Enforcement, we do have a policy on high grass. I talked to many people in the past year about homes that have overgrown shrubs, overgrown trees that are blocking entrances so that they cannot have access to emergency vehicles. There is also the fact that some people just don't live in these houses anymore and they become vagrant places for people. We do not have anything in our code enforcement about shrubbery or trees. I checked it thoroughly. I think we need to have some designated stipulations written in there, especially with spring coming. I went to a house on Gilmore when a resident called me, and the shrubs were completely blocking the entrance, and nobody lives in this house. It would be a great place for anybody to hide. In order for the Code Enforcement Officers to do their job, the resolution must state specifics about not only grass but also shrubbery height and blocking these entrances. I would like to investigate that further and to have that done.

Mr. Montgomery asked, can I suggest something? There is an ordinance you're referring to is noxious vegetation. That could be amended to include that as well. That's for grass that gets over 6" high. If you could just amend that to add shrubbery to it.

Mrs. Bucy stated for the people that don't understand, if I send a request to the Code Enforcement Officer, they have to be able to write it up with an infraction. This community shouldn't be having houses that you can't even find the front door.

Mr. Montgomery stated the name of that ordinance is noxious vegetation.

Mrs. Bucy stated I'm going to investigate that further and make a recommendation for that.

Mrs. Steffey:

Nothing further

Mr. Polick:

I just want to thank the Borough Council for having patience with me as I get going here. I appreciate it. Happy New Year to everyone.

Mr. Polick adjourned the meeting at 8:09 on a motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Personnel, Lawfully Privileged/Confidential, Public Safety Preparedness, Litigation (Jefferson Estates Homeowners Association v. Zokaites Properties et al., Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Docket No. GD-17-011526; Peters Creek Sanitary Authority, et al. v. Clairton Municipal Authority, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, GD-17-017711; AUUE, Inc. v. Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County Appeal No. 871 CD 2020, SA-19-000748; PICCO Superfund site- potential litigation involving WESA and Ashland; Potential acquisition of real estate.