

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

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

none

5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Mrs. Steffey read a letter from Jeanette McCambridge, 501 Stilley Rd.

“I live at 501 Stilley Rd, Clairton, PA 15025. Verizon just left my residence. I had to call because my service went out. The technician found that the overhead wire had been broken. I mentioned that trucks have been hitting the wires when coming up and down the road. After he finished rerouting my line, he told me that he noticed 3 trucks hit the other lines as he was working. I have asked for more noticeable “no truck signs” be placed at top and bottom of the road. I have had to call police when wires were pulled down. I have also had to help direct semi’s back up Stilley Road when they get to the bottom and realize they can’t make it in the tunnel. I would like the boroughs help with either enforcing “no trucks”. Placing new signs in multiple locations for better visibility or having lines raised. The low lines are located at Snee & Stilley.”

Chief Dziezgowski stated ironically, I've been working with Mr. Volpe and Mr. Glister in preparation for the 2023 budget. When the county closed part of Old Clairton for their construction project, we saw an abnormal amount of truck traffic coming up Stilley Road. We did some investigating. We also spoke with Gateway, and there must be a traffic study done on the roadways to prevent trucks from going on there. My proposal, with the advice from Mr. Glister and Mr. Volpe, is to get an idea of what it would cost for a certain number of streets. We have identified certain streets for a study to be done on. If warranted by the study, we will get signs posted for trucks above a certain tonnage cannot use except local deliveries. We are in the process of trying to resolve some of those issues, especially with the tunnels, to prevent those vehicles from damaging the roadways or getting stuck. It is going to take some time. We are in the process of budgeting for this expenditure.

Brian Hutson, 420 Old Clairton Road, stated this is regarding the ordinance number 889. It was passed on May 9th of 2022. This is the one that the Borough passed to decertify Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company. I recently had a right to know that was completed. I wanted to read you something about it. This is coming from John Stinner. It says “John Stinner, the designated right to know officer in the Borough of Jefferson Hills herein under the penalties of perjury to the following. I have performed, in good faith, diligent search in response to Mr. Hudson's request solely to this certification.” I asked for is I asked for all the certificates of certification for all fire

companies that are in the Borough and what the criteria was. It says for each of the volunteer fire departments within Jefferson Boroughs. This is his words, not mine. "Such records are not within the possession of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, and if such records do not exist. Furthermore, I would note that the volunteer fire companies are not Borough entities, but rather governed by the PA Department of State, the Auditor General, and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." How does that ordinance stay on the books? Clearly, it was passed having no teeth.

Mrs. Steffey asked are you talking about certifications of training officers versus the word decertification?

Mr. Hutson responded this is your ordinance saying that you decertified Gil Hall Volunteer Fire Company under the ordinance number 889, it was done on May 9th of 2022. This was decertifying, saying that you were no longer recognizing Gil Hall Volunteer Fire Company. You have no authority to do that. How does this ordinance stay on the books when you have no authority to do it?

Solicitor Gabriel stated the ordinance speaks for itself. Each borough can recognize or not recognize a volunteer fire company. The nature of your right to know request, it was a little unclear.

Mr. Reynolds stated what Mr. Hutson is saying, and what John confirmed for him, is that we spent years up here arguing over whether Gil Hall was going to be decertified or certified. There was no certification in the very first part. We spent a couple of years arguing to decertify these individuals. We didn't have anything to take away from them in the beginning. Then what I think Mr. Hutson is elaborating on is the fact that since there was no certification for the actual fire hall, why is this ordinance even in place? There is no magical certification to have, gain, or hold, but we've made an ordinance that essentially is outlawing a unicorn that doesn't exist. Everything that we did and everything that we argued over, is 100% false. Council creating a narrative the whole time so that the residents would believe this certification. Floreffe is not a certified fire hall, 885 is not, Pleasant Hills is not, none of them are. There is certification on the actual firefighters that they attain through training, but not for the actual fire hall. We fought for years whether to certify or decertify.

Mrs. Steffey stated the bottom line is that we no longer, recognize Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Department.

Solicitor Gabriel stated there is a certain process for challenging an ordinance if somebody wanted to challenge an ordinance.

Mr. Hutson stated this ordinance never should have been passed. There's nothing to challenge. It never should have been passed.

Solicitor Gabriel advised Council not to answer because there is active litigation that was brought by Pennsylvania Attorney General that we are not going to be able to comment on. There is also active litigation in the court to call and please that the Borough was joined in as a party to it. I am advising Council not to respond in any further fashion on this matter.

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

Mr. Montgomery stated there is a bill in there for paving tennis courts from Alex Paris.

Mr. Volpe responded we rented the paver from them for one day to pave Wray Large Hill.

Mr. Drager stated when we pull up prior bills in the system, it will bring up the previous description. In this case, I forgot to adjust the description. The account is correct. The description is not correct.

Mrs. Steffey asked about Bethel Park printing. Zoning notices. Three hundred and twenty-four dollars? Are those the green signs that are put on stakes?

Mr. Drager responded there was more than just one sign. They were for planning.

Mrs. Steffey stated that is just printing, no advertising. It just says in the description it is advertising.

Mr. Drager stated the account title was advertising and printing, but it was just for printing.

7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting September 7, 2022
9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting September 12, 2022
10. Discussion to present a Proclamation honoring Brian Verbanik for his lifesaving efforts in the community
11. Discussion to approve new job descriptions and evaluations for Borough of Jefferson Hills at-will employees
12. Discussion to approve new five-year ambulance services agreement with SouthEast Regional EMS (SEREMS) in the amount of \$528,020.00 or \$105,604.00 per annum

Mrs. Budd stated I had spoken to Chief Pascoe earlier, regarding the agreement. On page 3, it says make available committed standby ambulance service at municipality-sponsored events at the request of the municipality in agreed upon rate of blank. We talked about before regarding that blank spot. Chief Pascoe explained to me what exactly that meant and the varying rates and difference between a paid EMT versus a volunteer EMT.

Chief Pascoe stated I apologize that there was not different wording. Up till now, we have not ever charged the Borough for standbys. We do, however, charge other entities for standbys due to overtime that is incurred. When we cover community days, we cover with duty crews to avoid that expense. We hired Special Council to create this agreement because EMS is a unique situation as far as the laws governing us. The agency we use, Page Wirth and Wolfberg is a nationally accredited attorney firm that just deals with EMS. They said that we should probably have something in the agreement. My thought would be that we handle it on an individual basis because not every standby requires the same amount of time, nor the same vehicle, nor the same trained personnel. If we can cover an event with a duty crew, there is not going to be any cost to

the Borough. I can have that wording changed. But my thought process would be that I would meet with the Public Safety Committee, and together as a group, we would decide if there would be any charge, what that charge would be due to the expectations for the event.

Mrs. Budd stated I did have one more comment about this on Page 4. Termination under item nine, either party may, in its sole discretion, terminate this agreement without cause by giving the other party at least 30, and then in parenthesis, it has 90 days prior written notice.

Chief Pascoe stated that was a typo that I didn't catch prior to forwarding it. Pennsylvania Department of Health requires all EMS services to provide a written, as well as a publicized announcement to any borough or municipality upon cessation of services. In compliance with that, it should state we would be required to not only notify the Borough 90 days prior, but also put publication in normal advertising fashions.

Mrs. Steffy stated the Public Safety Committee on does not meet until the last week of the month. Just to clarify, the public safety committee is a non-voting committee. We can discuss, but we would not approve anything, and it would be in front of Council for approval.

Chief Pascoe suggested that the language simply state that any required standbys must be approved by the Public Safety Committee and then brought forward to Council.

13. Discussion to pay proceeds from the 2022 Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation to the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of Jefferson Hills in the amount of \$79,554.95 within 60 days of September 21, 2022.

14. Discussion to distribute the remaining 2021 Real Estate Fire Tax of \$30,814.02 to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue & EMS

15. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 33-2022 directing distribution of the Borough's allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid for 2022 in the amount of \$316,007.56 as follows: Police Pension Fund \$528,635.00 and Administrative Pension Plan \$9,498.00 with the Borough's contribution being \$222,125.44

16. Discussion to move \$_____into a short-term CD through PLGIT account

Mr. Drager stated with interest rates rising, it would be good to invest in some short-term CDs to get extra interest revenue. It is a good time right now too, because we are getting a lot of our tax revenues. Our reserve fund is growing. We already have an account with PLGIT.

I was using was \$2 and \$3 million. They would be in different vehicles, all FDIC backed. The difference in the rate for the CD versus our current liquid prime rate, would incur approximately \$31,000 more in interest over that 6-month period. I was looking at mostly 150- and 180-day CDs. With the increased CD rates, it would generate a significant amount more interest revenue.

Mr. Stinner stated it is a savers economy right now. The Borough fortunately has money that it does not have to use right now. The projects designated or earmarked for this money is not going to be utilized until probably late 2023, if not 2024. We vetted it through legal, and it is a

way to make up a serious amount of revenue in a short period of time. I would like to applaud Mr. Drager for the research on this investigation.

17. Discussion to partially reimburse the Public Works staff for fees to obtain CDL in the amount of \$_____

Mr. Montgomery complimented Councilwoman Bucy and President Steffey for coming up with a creative way to handle this issue.

Mrs. Bucy explained when we had hired some public works employees in February, the state changed the CDL license requirements. To obtain a CDL license the cost went from \$400 to over \$3,000.

We got in touch with Dr. Mike Kulish to assist us in helping our employees obtain their CDL license. It will be a considerable savings to the employees. They will be prepared to take their CDL test. At this point in time, we do not feel that there is any money that we need to allocate because we are proceeding with a resident of our Borough rather than a private company. If the individual employee does not have the money upfront, they could possibly have the initial payment of \$1,000 be taken out of their pay \$100 every month.

18. Discussion to renew Ford IT Contract for _____ months at a rate of \$1,389.00 per month

Mr. Montgomery stated I would like to put 24 months in the contract.

Mr. Drager stated locked in at that price for 2023 and 2024.

19. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 2 and Final from SHACOG for Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$10,479.37 for work completed on the CD 47 Tepe Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 1 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG

20. Discussion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare all necessary “Declaration of Taking” documentation for Parcel ID 1134-J-116 for the PICCO Pump Station Project

21. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 34-2022 for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the subdivision plan known as S-2-2022 and S-5-2022, Mill Stone Village

22. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 35-2022 authorizing the proper Borough Officials to file the (GEDTF) Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund Grant application in the amount of \$172,500.00 for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Bathroom Renovation Project

Mr. Stinner stated Mike Gister and I put the application together. I would like to thank Mike for his help on it. They provided a very short window for the application and are allowing us to pass the resolution retroactively and submit it as soon as it is passed next week.

23. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 36-2022 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$86,157.00 for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 5 Project

24. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 37-2022 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$45,175 for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 6 Project
25. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 38-2022 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$35,100.00 for the Demolitions at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road
26. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 39-2022 declaring the structures proposed for demolition at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road as blighted structures
27. Discussion to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning the SHACOG Joint O&M Preventative Maintenance Project-Year 12
28. Discussion to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning CD 48 7.5 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 4
29. Discussion to approve the Work Authorization dated September 30, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough in the preparation of plans and specifications for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades Ph. 4 project in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.00
30. Discussion to approve the proposal from McLean Architects, LLC dated September 30, 2022, to assist the Borough with preparing conceptual plans and cost estimates for renovations to the Borough building in the amount not to exceed \$6,500.00

31. Reports

Fire Chief

Nothing Further
EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Nothing Further

Consulting Engineer

Mr. Minsterman stated one update to my report regarding the law Lobb's Run stream restoration project. The bid documents have been signed, the bonds and insurances have been submitted.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing Further

Public Works Director

Nothing Further

Police Chief

Nothing Further

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey congratulated and welcomed Officer Honick to our police force. It was an honor to be a part of her swearing in yesterday morning. Halloween Trick or Treat this year will be held on Halloween, which is Monday, October 31st, from 06:00 to 08:00.

Manager

Nothing Further

Solicitor

Solicitor Gabriel noted for the record Council did meet an executive session prior to the meeting discuss personnel matters.

32. General Business

Mrs. Ruscitto stated September has passed. It was Love Your Library month. I wanted that to continue it into October. Please stop by the library and see the great programs that we are offering the community. If possible, donate. The library is an integral part of every community.

Mrs. Budd stated I wanted to congratulate Officer Honick. I was sorry I could not be there yesterday, but I am happy to welcome her to our police department. I wish her long and successful career. I also wanted to thank everybody that participated in Fall Fish for Fun Day on September 24th. It was a nice turnout. We had beautiful weather. There was a tie for 16-inch trout for the first place. I especially want to take time to thank Jefferson Hills Police, Southeast Regional EMS, Jefferson's Fire and Rescue for helping us out and spending some time there. I especially need to thank Jon Drager, Public Works, John Martelloni, and Miss Vicki Ielase for coordinating this event.

Mrs. Bucy stated I would like to just bring this to your attention. Every member of Council has their strengths. One of the strengths that Councilman Montgomery has is that he scrutinizes every bill that goes through this department. He noticed, a couple of months ago, that we were paying for the police to use the turnpike during emergency calls. He brought it to our attention.

This was then discussed, and it was brought to State Senator Devlin Robinson's attention. There might be possible legislation that could come out of this. We feel that emergency operation vehicles should not be charged on a turnpike when they are assisting on a call.

Mr. Montgomery thanked Mrs. Bucy for her kind words.

Mrs. Bucy stated thank you for scrutinizing those bills. It could turn into something that would benefit every single emergency operation vehicle throughout the whole state.

I would also like to thank both Mr. Stinner, Mr. Glistler and Mr. Drager. There was a deadline, and they did meet the deadline with submitting a grant. We have a lot of grants that come through SHACOG and other organizations that work to improve our community with no cost to the taxpayers.

I would like to address something on number 30 on the agenda. Sometimes, people realize that they need more space or things need to be renovated. I am very much into taking our existing structures and seeing how they can function much better. We have some needs in the library. We have needs in the administrative office of the Borough building. We have needs in the police department. On number 30, we are going to have an examination of this building to see if we can restructure it different ways to achieve maximum productivity. We have a very nice facility here. Due to the growth of many of our departments, we need to investigate if this building can be restructured in another way to be more productive. Especially unused space like these front foyers. If we could redesign this building to be more functional, it would benefit our community.

Mr. Lynch congratulated Officer Honick on being added to the Jefferson Hills Police Department. Best of luck to you. We are thankful that you decided to join us.

In addition to the Fall Fish for Fun Day, the Tri-County Anglers are going to be having their own Fish Day this Saturday, which was rescheduled from last Saturday. If you are in the neighborhood or if you missed the Fall Fish for Fun Day, come on down, check it out, and get some fishing in before the snow sets in.

Mr. Montgomery gave the SHACOG report. The vactor truck is set to be delivered in mid-October. It is 20-year-old vehicle that they have replaced with their own financing. Very well done on Louis Gorski's part. The police chiefs met this month and there was active shooter training, December 22nd, defensive driver training November 1st and November 2nd. Of the team call outs, the cert team had two, the investigative team had two and, the accident reconstruction team two. The fire chiefs met and are going to jointly purchase a flow-test kit. They discussed training and recruitment like they do every month. Firefighter training was held on September 22nd. The solid waste specifications were sent to municipalities for review. The projected time to award the bid is second quarter of 2023. We will have to evaluate to go to automated pickup to save costs. Bethel Park does it, Upper St. Clair does it. White Hall does it. Automated is the way to go. Republic and Waste Management are the bidders They both want to go automated.

Joint purchasing fall commodities is to open October 6th. Cargill salt meeting has not been yet set. For the police vehicles, Ford ended the orders on September 9th. Chevrolet opened and

had one day of orders. Dodge did the same thing, one day. There is a shortage of vehicles on all sides.

Act 152, they are to decide on the demolitions in early October. CDBG 47 are all under contracts for completion. Number 49 pre applications were due September 9th and are the demolitions we will act on with the resolutions discussed tonight. The dinner is October 20th at Nevillewood.

SHACOG got an authorization to do a storm water study from the Borough to Route 88. I do not know how involved this is, but it's \$150,000 through Senator Devlin Robinson.

I ran into Bob Karcher, who is a member of the Pleasant Hills Planning Commission. He said they were going to start their comprehensive plan and that one of their bidders was Paschek. We talked about doing a joint plan with either South Park or Pleasant Hills. I talked to Jenny Easton to find out if they are going to use them. To get a grant for a joint study is much easier to do than a single community.

Mr. Reynolds asked Brian Hutson to take the podium for a question. I want to ask Brian if we met his rights with the right to know on the timeline, because when he handed me those papers, it doesn't look like we did. That is a violation of his rights.

Mrs. Steffey stated public comments are for the beginning of the meeting. The right to know was extended. I can answer it for you because I was in the entire process. He appealed it with the state. He lost the appeal.

Mr. Stinner stated we received notice from you that the Internet or the computers had been faulty at your home. That was the delay in the time. We have all the email coordination that delayed our ability to deliver.

Mr. Hutson stated no, that was at the very end.

Solicitor Gabriel advised we should not have this back and forth. I am going to advise that the comments from the public on that periods set for public comments.

Mr. Reynolds stated that is the resident's rights. If he fills out a right to know, to be responded in a timely fashion.

Solicitor Gabriel responded yes. He must go through the right to know process. There is an appeal process.

Mr. Reynolds stated to Chief Withers I want to address this right here in public. Somebody from your family is coming up taking a picture of my family's residence, posting it on Facebook, and making negative comments. It is extremely disrespectful to our right to privacy. I would ask that your wife take it down, please.

Chief Withers responded I am not sure that this has to do with the Borough. Let me ask you this question. Why did you go against our fire department when we sold our mums? You cut our throat.

Mr. Reynolds stated I did not do that. I raised money for a couple of organizations. I have the right to do that.

Chief Withers asked why is a Council member going against its own fire department?

Mrs. Steffey stated I am going to follow the same procedure that I did with Mr. Hudson. We are not going to have the back and forth.

Mrs. Steffey commented on the mum sale. There was a very fine line, Councilman Reynolds, that you almost crossed. It had to do with an ordinance. The ordinance requires that you are a grower of those mums on your property to be able to sell them. The Fire Department sold mums on commercial property which is allowed.

Mr. Hutson, as far as right to knows go, every taxpayer in this Borough is through their process allowed to file for a right to know. We do try to coordinate and get everything to you as much as possible. Otherwise, you have the process to go to the state and appeal just as you did. In 2022, we have broken down how much, on staff time and cost, it has cost the Borough to complete your right to know requests. At this point, not including the one we were just discussing, the cost has been \$1,648.58. It is your right, but I would also like the taxpayers to know how much it is costing the Borough.

I would like to commend the fact that the Council is collaboratively making strives to save money. Councilman Montgomery with the turnpike issue. Thank you for that. Councilwoman Ruscitto came up with a brilliant idea to approach Senator Robinson. Possibly in the future, coming up with a landslide insurance for our residents, just like we have mine subsidence. We have been experiencing a lot of landslides in Jefferson Hills, and all over Pennsylvania. Mrs. Bucy with the CDL issue. I think we do all make up a good team. We all have something that we strive to achieve. I think we have been working well together. I just wanted to give kudos to everybody.

I think for our residents, we just want them to know that we do branch out. We do try to find other options, cheaper options. We always have our eye on the finances, particularly, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Bucy, myself, and the finance committee. I like the new ideas that everyone is coming up with. We can hopefully keep making things a little bit better around here.

33. Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Budd, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner
Secretary/Borough Manager

Executive Session: *Personnel, Lawfully Privileged/Confidential, Public Safety Preparedness, Litigation 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, 328 WAL 2021, 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; threatened litigation from WESA.*