

Borough of Jefferson Hills  
Regular Meeting of Council  
December 12, 2022

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:02 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, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Engineer Glistler and Consulting Engineer Minsterman were absent.

Mrs. Steffey stated I am going to take this opportunity to switch our agenda around for this evening. We are going to go down to agenda item number ten, motion to promote John Haas to the rank of Sergeant within the Jefferson Hills Police Department from the current Civil Service Eligibility List for Sergeant Candidates.

Mrs. Budd moved to promote John Haas to the rank of Sergeant within the Jefferson Hills Police Department from the current Civil Service Eligibility List for Sergeant Candidates, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Chief Dziezgowski stated good evening, ladies, and gentlemen of our court, and to you at home. I appreciate everyone in attendance. I would like to take a few moments to publicly recognize the promotion for Officer John Haas from the rank of Patrolman to the rank of Sergeant.

Council, promotions are an investment in your police department. The department seeks to maintain adequate levels of staffing and continues the ongoing process of replacing or promoting when vacancies occur. Administration must keep in mind when deciding to hire or promote, the complexity and the range of requirements to which it must respond and choose the most appropriate candidate to meet those needs. Our collective goal and vision have not changed, which is to bring this police department to a distinguished level of performance. But if the JHPD were to remain status quo in structure, we would limit our ability to perform as a department and provide the levels of protection this community deserves and demands. The department thanks you for having the trust in allowing the JHPD to continue in its never-ending quest for that distinction.

Ladies and gentlemen, getting promoted is a major accomplishment in the career of a police officer. While candidates prepare for the process in all that they do through training, education, and job experience. They are also required to compete against other qualified officers during a multistep assessment testing process. It is a challenging and stressful process. I can remember each time I was promoted through my police career, the stress that comes with the testing process, the apprehension that comes with being placed into a new role, wanting to excel and prove to everyone, including myself, that the promotion was deserving. That process is the easy part. The actual promotion brings on a whole different dynamic. Family, friends, and colleagues here today, Sergeant Haas will need your support now more than ever. Be there for him. The job is not easy. He will have some tough days ahead of him. Some days his colleagues will drive him crazy, maybe even on purpose. He can only be as good as your support and our support allows.

Sergeant Haas, a promotion is an indication of your quality of work, your dedication to the department and community. It is unquestioned that you possess the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a successful sergeant. I must remind you never to forget the awesome responsibility that comes with being a police officer and the additional responsibility that is about to come with your new role as a first line supervisor. Your span of control and responsibilities have increased significantly. I have confidence and faith that you will succeed no matter the hurdles you may face down the road.

As the Chief of Jefferson Hills Police Department, I am placing a special trust in the integrity and the abilities of this officer. I am proud to promote Officer John B. Haas to police sergeant.

I want to introduce a very good friend of the police department in this community. Judge Thatcher please come forward to do us the honor of administering the oath of office to Sergeant Haas.

District Judge Mike Thatcher stated good evening, everybody. My name is Mike Thatcher. I am your district judge. This is a very special, important event for the police department, for our community, and for you and your family, Sergeant Haas. Just a note to the elected leadership, being on the bench now and working with this team, you should be proud of what we have in this community. Jefferson Hills is a place where we can raise our families and pursue our American dreams. We can do it safely because of the men and women that are wearing the badge in the Jefferson Hills Police Department.

For the Haas family, for Hannah. Congratulations. This is a big deal, and you should be very proud of his accomplishments. John, this is very special for me. You may or may not remember when you were sworn in as a Jefferson's police officer, I was shadowing as the district judge and was able to see you guys in your ceremony. It has been wonderful to work with you for almost 5 years and see you grow and mature as a leader and as a police officer. Seeing the sergeant stripes on you is awesome. Always remember the responsibility of leadership and integrity, courage, and respect in what you do. I am looking forward to seeing you do great things.

District Judge Thatcher stated raise your right hand and delivered the Oath of Office to John Haas.

John Haas stated his oath.

I, John Haas, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and the Ordinances of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, and that I will discharge the duties of police sergeant with diligence and fidelity. I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our action, and I do further swear that I will uphold, obey, and enforce the law without consideration to a person's race, color, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation, age, natural origin, ancestry, handicap, or disability, so help me God.

District Judge Thatcher announced ladies and gentlemen, Sergeant John Haas of Jeffersons Hills.

Chief Dziezgowski stated we have one final phase in this promotion process. I will John's fiancé, Hannah, to perform the pinning of the badge ceremony. I will remove his patrolman's badge and his fiancé will be given the badge from Mayor McCaffrey that she will pin on his uniform to signify that he has been promoted to sergeant. Congratulations Sergeant John Haas.

Mrs. Steffey congratulated Sergeant Haas and his family.

## REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Blane Allan, Recreation Board Member, stated Madam Mayor, Madam President, ladies and gentlemen of Council, thank you for having me. I represent the Jefferson Hills Recreation Board. I am here to recap some of our high points from 2022 and give you a look into our collective plans and ideas for 2023. For 2022, we started the year with a new event, the Jefferson Hills Jog. That particular event, we considered a large success. We had 110 runners. And we grossed \$4,570 and \$2,313.50 was what we totaled after expenses. We plan on rescheduling the Jefferson Hills Jog again for 2023.

Community Day this year was a huge success as well. Judged by the vendors and the attendants for the day.

Kids Camp was another huge success for the rec board. We've increased the number of days, the locations, and the number of children from four weeks and 100 children to eight weeks and 200 children.

The Summer Concert Series, which we scheduled this past year for June, July, and August, was a success. We have discussed the possibility of changing the July date. We struggle with what a lot of people deal with in the summer months, mostly July with vacations and such, and attendance sagged a bit for the July show. But June and August were both big successes for us.

We continued with our annual donation to the JHRI Scholarship Fund, and that is for one male and one female senior from Jefferson Hills. The JHRI Scholarship represents \$1,000 each.

We helped facilitate the painting of Huber Field baseball dugouts. We have pictures available; I am sure many of you have seen those in the recent editions of the Borough Magazine.

We contributed and helped facilitate the ADA application for bathroom improvements at 885 Park.

Most recently, we just partnered with the Mayor on Holiday in the Hills, which was a huge success. We hope this will be the first of many great holiday events in which we combine our efforts.

For 2023, we are looking at a potential date of April 30th for the 5K. We are proposing a Fish for Free Day on Saturday, April 22nd. For Community Day, we are looking at June 10th. The Concert Series to be held on the last Thursdays of May and August. Kids Camp would be scheduled for June 19th through August 11th. Holiday in the Hills, which will sneak up on us, will be, Saturday, December 2nd.

Looking at 2023 and beyond, our recreation initiative would like to partner with a comprehensive team and see how we can move our wish list items as well as the community forward in 2023 and beyond. We are looking at topics regarding Lobb's Cemetery, pickleball, and basketball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in in our country, and we have concluded that we need more courts in our Borough, or possibly a pickleball center and basketball center. For Tepe Field, we are looking at the prospect of new basketball hoops and paving of the courts, and possibly a pavilion structure. For Route 885 Park we are considering that the batting cages possibly moved and/or replaced, concession stand upgrades, and fields redressed or fixed. For Beedle Field with regard to soccer and the turf field and the entire complex at Beedle, and the plan for phase 2 for Beedle. We are discussing a new home for youth football. There are some basic maintenance issues with regard to Gill Hall Park and the play area upgrades. These are the items that are on our collective agenda that we wanted to share for 2023 and beyond.

## BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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. Bucy moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting November 9, 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve minutes of regular meeting November 14, 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to advertise two seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term expiring December 31, 2028, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise three seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise three seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to advertise one seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2027, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise two seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Board of Library Directors for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2025, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to advertise three seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2025, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize the Borough Solicitor to file a “Petition to Redivide and Increase the Election Districts of the Borough of Jefferson Hills”, pending final approval of the map by the Borough Engineer, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to ratify the 2023-2027 collective bargaining agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills Clerical and Laborers Union No. 1058, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to purchase 90 traffic cones and 60 safety vests for a price of \$6,581.00 for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Emergency Management (EMA) and contributing agencies to use in vehicle and roadway related emergencies, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Ordinance No. 894 establishing the base Real Estate Tax rate for the year 2023 at 5.66 mills (General 5.226 mills; Fire 0.355 mills; and Ambulance 0.079 mills), seconded by Mr. Lynch. 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.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Reynolds stated the reason why I voted no was because I feel that the residents in the Gill Hall area that are not receiving adequate fire protection should not have to pay it.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved for the distribution of Real Estate Ambulance Tax of \$68,000.00 to Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services (SEREMS), seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to distribute the remaining balance of the annual ambulance services agreement to Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services (SEREMS) per the annual contract, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to distribute 2022 Real Estate fire Taxes in two, separate payments of \$40,000.00 to Floreffe Volunteer Fire Company and to 885 Volunteer Fire Company with remaining funds to be allocated to the Jefferson Fire Rescue (JFR) Truck savings account, seconded by Mrs. 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.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Reynolds stated the reason why I voted no was for years now, the residents have been told that the reason why Gil Hall was shut down is because they would not participate in a merger. As you can see, Floeffe and 885 are still not merged. If they have merged, why are we writing a \$40,000 check to organizations that do not exist. We have JHFR operating as the recognized fire department for this Borough. Yet we are still paying two other fire departments, which I don't understand.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 45-2022 amending the fee schedule of the Borough of Jefferson Hills for 2023, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to adopt Resolution No. 46-2022 amending the salaries, compensation, and wages for Borough employees for the year 2023, 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.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Reynolds stated I see far too much wasteful spending in this budget. The biggest thing is we have neglected our duty to supply adequate fire protection to those residents. We are moving forward, and nothing has been done for Gill Hall area residents.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve the 2023 Borough of Jefferson Hills budget, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the Public Works Department to place an order for a 2023 F-600 Ford Dump Truck Chassis from Laurel Ford for \$ 63,235 under the COSTARS & SHACOG contract pricing, due to current truck shortages and manufacture's deadlines. COSTARS contract No. 025-043.

Funding for the purchases will be in the 2023 Budget, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve the Public Works Department to place an order for the dump bed and snow removal equipment for the F-600 chassis. Order will be placed with U.S. Municipal Supply for \$ 48,559 under the COSTARS Contract No. 025-E22-441, due to supply chain shortages. Funding for the purchase will be in the 2023 Budget, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Ordinance No. 893 amending Chapter 27, Zoning, of the Code of the Borough of Jefferson hills, to provide for a five-member Zoning Hearing Board and permit No-Impact Home Based Business accessory uses by right in all districts, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Ordinance No. 895 adopting the 2021 edition of the *International Property Maintenance Code* including amendments recommended by the Planning Commission, unanimously approved by Council by legislative action at its August 8, 2022, Voting Meeting, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve a sanitary sewer Right of Way agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission premises at approximate milepost M50.7 at the northbound access ramp off Gill Hall Road, near the Jefferson Hills State Police Barracks for the consideration of \$1.00, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 47-2022 for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the PICCO Pump Station Project, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to enact Ordinance No. 896 accepting Woodwind Drive and Harlin Drive in the Jefferson Estates Phase 1 through 3 Plan as public streets of the Borough of Jefferson Hills; further accepting the infrastructures of storm and sanitary sewers serving said streets, in addition to the stormwater detention facility situated on Parcel ID# 662-D-100, and authorizing the appropriate officials of the Borough of Jefferson Hills to execute any and all documents necessary to approve such acceptance and dedication, pursuant to the settlement reached at GD 17-011526, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery asked Solicitor Gabriel could you explain the changes?

Solicitor Gabriel stated there were some very minor exceptions. For example, we are not going to be taking the storm sewers on three private roads. A few things that were brought to light during the process of attaching the exhibits, they are all now included. We are fully protected according to the Borough Engineer and to me.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$44,830.55 for work completed on the SHACOG Joint Municipal Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – Year 16 – Contract B (MH-MH Lining), subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 22, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous Borough engineering and consulting services in 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 22, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2023 related to the Clairton Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 22, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2023 related to the West Elizabeth Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 49-2022 granting preliminary plan approval to the Hidden Oaks Consolidation and Subdivision Plan designated as SP-9-2022, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 50-2022 granting preliminary and final plan approval to the Arnoldt Subdivision Plan designated as SP-15-2022, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated I would like to thank the Arnoldt family for letting us have access down their driveway in order to reach the pond. It was very much needed in order to address that situation with the pond off of Thomas Jefferson Road. With their help, we were able to complete the work of getting the retention pond up to the standards required by the conservatorship.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 51-2022 granting preliminary and final approval to the Nath Subdivision Plan of Lots designated as S-6-2021, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 52-2022 granting preliminary and final plan approval to the Sisco Plan of Lots no. 3 designated as SP-14-2022, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

#### BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

#### REPORTS

Fire Chief

Deputy Chief Withers stated we had a breakfast with Santa and with the police department. We want to thank all the people who supported us with donations. We turned over 144 toys to the Jefferson Hills police department. Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue absorbed the cost of the pancake breakfast. We want to give a check to the Chief for \$1,000 for the Toy Drive in the community.



Chief Dziezgowski thanked JHFR for their continued partnership in this venture. Without their partnership and the partnership of the community, this Council, the Mayor, we would not be successful.

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Not Present

Consulting Engineer

Not Present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing further to add to written report.

Public Works Director

Nothing further to add to written report.

Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski stated I would like to just recognize the entire JHP Department. They are this year's 2022 recipient of the AAA Community and Traffic Safety Platinum Award, which is the highest award AAA gives. This award is given to communities that have documented, new, perhaps innovative traffic safety programs, projects, or initiatives for the previous year. These communities have also demonstrated outstanding success with high scores in all scoring categories. I am proud of my officers for achieving for having innovative ways to help with traffic safety throughout the community.

Today is the last day for the JHPD Toy Drive, collection ends tonight. Distribution will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup>, which is Thursday. If you are a resident in need, please contact Clerk Tara Revis at 412-655-2222, extension 2499, or stop at the JHPD to complete a form. The JHPD in partnership with the JHFR, Mayor, Council, and the community, are trying to make sure that no family in need in Jefferson Hill should go without food or presents this holiday season.

Two things in November, I had mentioned at our last meeting that I was allowing our officers to go outside grooming standards, which is called No Shave November. I am happy to say that we collected a total of \$1,015, which went to support the family of DJ Taylor, who was a SHACOG medic, who passed away on 4-24-2022. This money is going to greatly help their family. I allowed the officers to continue into December with the grooming standards, relaxed grooming standards. We collected a total of \$970, which went to support our annual Toy Drive that helps the less fortunate families of our community.

I want to wish a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the JHPD. Thank you all for your support over the last year. May you and yours have a blessed holiday season.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey thanked everyone who participated in our Holiday in the Hills event. I would like to congratulate the police department on their Platinum award. Congratulations to Sergeant Haas. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Manager

Mr. Stinner congratulated Sergeant Haas on his promotion. I would also like to thank the Chief Dziezgowski and JHFR for their Toy Drive. It is turning out incredibly well and has been responded to by the community in a large way. I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday.

Solicitor

Solicitor Gabriel noted for the record, Council and the Mayor did not meet an executive session prior to this meeting. We will meet briefly in executive session afterwards for a litigation update. We will not return to the regular meeting, and we will not vote on any further matters.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

Mrs. Ruscitto stated congratulations again to Sergeant Haas on his promotion. I would like to commend Chief Dziezgowski for his efforts in creating such a solid force with our police department. It is appreciated. To all of our residents, I wish you warm and happy holidays with your families, and I hope that everybody gets to take time to enjoy it.

Mrs. Bucy stated my congratulations also to Sergeant Haas. A promotion to Sergeant is quite an accomplishment. I would like to thank the other members of the JHPD who also participated in the testing event. We had three candidates that tested and of course the top-ranking candidate was promoted. It is always nice to have numerous people applying for these positions.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a food bank disbursement at the Cloverleaf Ecumenical Food Bank for anybody that is having some issues with food insecurity. It will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday. I wish everybody has a happy, safe holiday season.

Mr. Montgomery congratulated John Haas on his promotion to Sergeant.

Mrs. Budd stated the library is having a CPR and AED certification class, Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Southeast Regional EMS will offer CPR and AED certification. This class is free. There is a \$5 charge if you would like your CPR certification card mailed to you. Please register at [jeffersonhillslibrary.org](http://jeffersonhillslibrary.org). I, too, would like to congratulate Sergeant Haas for his promotion. I believe it was very well deserved. I want to thank the police department for their donation to the family of DJ Taylor. No one would say a bad word about him. It was quite a loss, and I really hope that this donation helps his family out. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Lynch stated I would like to apologize to everyone here and our residence due to my absence, after a little hospital time, but I am feeling much better. I am happy to get across the finish line for this year and looking for a great year in 2023. I also want to congratulate Sergeant Haas.

Regarding our clerks who were here earlier this evening, I want to say I am thankful and excited to have you all with us and looking forward to continuing our partnership. As I learned with my short time on Council is that these clerks are more than just pushing paper and answering phone calls. It takes preparing official reports, receiving tax revenue collection, scheduling agendas, recording meeting minutes providing access to public records for the public as needed on request, collecting, managing, filings, acting as liaisons between public and our government officials, working with auditors, serving as human resource directors, providing expertise on their municipality and its government, issuing licenses, permits and payments while managing billing records and finances. It is something that takes a lot of experience and knowledge that cannot be taught quickly. This past year, we have had one clerk that retired, but we were very fortunate to have someone join the team in providing us these necessary skills which elevated our services to our residents. I look at these clerks as an important element to our day-to-day operations, just like our police officers and our public works employees. Without them, we fall. That is why I have always emphasized in having the best in this community, and we won't settle for anything less than the best. We certainly have the best.

I am also very excited with the passing of our new budget, as it better reflects our commitment to progress in our community. As we continue to see our community grow, especially with younger families and people from all walks of life joining us, we come at a time when we need to show our residents that we are investing in them and ourselves and living up to our standards as the number one community to raise a family in Pennsylvania. This includes expanding our parks and creating other initiatives to better serve our residents. One instance is expanding our funding contributions towards our library, which has transitioned from a place to check out books into a multipurpose organization. To build a strong community, there is not a better place to start than your library. A library that has become a place for childhood development, to fill out a job application, basic social services, music and art programs, and a place to address particular needs for senior citizens, immigrants, or refugees, and of course to those who hold dear to my heart, our local veterans. This is what I visioned with our library. I know Dana Farabaugh, along with the library board, will continue to do wonders and deliver the return on our investment as they have already done.

Reflecting back on my time with our Environmental Advisory Council, I look forward to contributing to expanding our role into a fully functional board that will include revamping our ordinance and mission of the EAC starting in 2023 and beyond. Throughout my service on the EAC, it came with some frustrations, especially with the little collaboration that we have with the Council. With the plethora of knowledge and intellect we possess on the board, we have untapped resources at a time when we should be consulting them, especially with the nearby well pad, and the mitigation efforts that we need to take once operations commence. As discussed with some of our EAC members in prioritizing our outline for 2023, if we are to continue to have this board, then I respectfully request Council to support the EAC's effort and their expanding collaboration and advisory role to help direct policy by making suggestions and recommendations to our Council and government managing.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Years and looking forward to seeing you all again starting in 2023.

Mr. Reynolds wished everybody a happy, and most importantly, a safe holiday season. See you next year.

Mrs. Steffey stated I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on a lot of items that have been accomplished for the year of 2022 in collaboration with our Council, our staff, our committees. I have asked the department heads and with the help of Borough Manager Stinner and Solicitor Gabriel, we have put together, through each department, items that we felt that the residents should be aware of. It is obviously taxpayer monies that have gone to support some of these projects.

To reflect on the accomplishments of the year of 2022, we will start off with public works. Capital equipment, purchases for equipment, \$180,000, including a new dump truck and utility truck. The total stormwater pond restoration that was completed in house over at Jefferson Estates plan. Over \$600,000 spent on road paving but that included both contracting out and in-house paving. Electrical upgrades at the 885 Park pavilions and stage area. Four employees from public works retired this year and five new employees were hired and are in the training stage currently.

Under our Department of Engineering, a \$172,500 GEDTF Grant Award for ADA improvements, renovations, to the main bathrooms at Andrew Riley Memorial Park. This will involve reworking the entire interior plumbing of the building to provide ADA-compliant toilets, stalls and sinks, and additions to electrical and lighting upgrades to be ADA compliant. The interior will get a facelift with new paint, new ADA accessible doors will be installed and the sidewalks around the exterior of the building will be removed and replaced to be ADA compliant. Thanks to Councilwoman Bucy for bringing this to everyone's attention and thank you to Mr. Glister and Mr. Stinner for working diligently on that grant. We truly appreciate it. Those bathrooms are in desperate need of an upgrade. Andrew Riley Phase 3 ADA upgrades added ADA-compliant sidewalk from the ADA spectator viewing area by the concession stand to a new ADA spectator viewing area situated between the outfields of the two main baseball fields at the park. Approximately, 60% of this cost of this project was covered by a CDBG Year 47 Grant. This upcoming bathroom project is on the heels of two prior ADA projects that were partially funded by CDBG Year 45 and 46 Grants, that added six ADA compliant parking spots to the park. Two ADA compliant parking spots and ADA compliant sidewalk were added to provide access to the amphitheater in the stage. One ADA compliant parking spot was added to the Lions Pavilion. Three ADA compliant spots and an ADA compliant spectator viewing area was added next to the existing concession stand. ADA-compliant sidewalk was also added in front of the concession stand to provide access. Approximately 73% of the costs of these projects were covered by CDBG Year 45 and 46 Grants. Tepe Park ADA upgrades added two ADA compliant parking spots, an ADA compliant sidewalk, and a new ADA compliant spectator viewing area to the baseball field. Approximately 60% of the cost of this project was covered by CDBG Year 47 Grant. For the Peters' Creek sanitary sewer relocation approximately 550 linear feet of sanitary sewer was relocated to remedy a section of sanitary sewer that was damaged by a slide at the creek in a section of the hillside that our sanitary sewer runs through. The sanitary sewer services, town hall estates, the Redcliffe development, and Jefferson place. The work was contracted out to Soli Construction and cost approximately \$90,000. The cost would have been greater if not for the assistance provided by the Department of Public Works. The hillside did move enough that it stretched a section of sanitary sewer until it separated and failed. Fixing it in place was not an option as it would just have kept stretching and

separating. In fact, the Department of Public Works did make a few fixes to the sanitary sewer, but eventually it became obvious that this needed a permanent solution, which was our goal and completed. Following a successful financial recovery from the developer of Jefferson Estates, a tremendous amount of work went into this effort from everyone in the Borough for the Jefferson Estates acceptance; 2022 was the culmination of all of that work. Our Department of Public Works completed numerous stormwater sewer repairs throughout the plan in lieu of contracting the workout, which is of substantial savings to the Borough. We paved Woodwind and Harlin Drive through our annual paving program. Finally, we converted the existing stormwater detention facility from a sediment basin to the final long-term storm water detention facility required in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This conversion was a major effort that was completed by our Department of Public Works. Most communities do not have the resources to execute a construction project of this size and in-house. The savings to the Borough was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. All of this goes without saying that the work that was completed here is not normally completed by a municipality but is rather completed by the developer. In this case, the developer had skipped out on his final responsibilities and through a joint litigation effort within the Jefferson Estate HOA, we were able to cover the cost of the Borough completing this work. Woodwind and Harlin Drive, along with associated storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and stormwater detention facility will officially be accepted by the Borough. Although this is an annual project, the 2022 Paving Program, it is still worth mentioning. We contracted out the milling and paving of approximately seven streets as part of the 2022 Paving Program. Streets included Woodwind Drive, Harlin Drive, St. James Court, Chapelridge Drive, the back half of Thomas Jefferson Drive, and the lower portion of Stilley Road, from Snee to the tunnel. Century Drive and the lower portion of the Wray Large Road were also milled under the paving program and then were paved in-house by Department of Public Works. Our bioxide drip system was installed. For many years now, our neighbor residents in West Elizabeth had been dealing with an off and on odor and the source had not been researched nor discovered. After multiple WESA meetings and the collaborations with engineers, we installed the bioxide drip system in the 837 pump station after the source of the odor had been identified as coming from that particular pump station.

The Jefferson Hills Public Library received a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association to fund humanities programming. The library was one of 17 libraries in Pennsylvania and 200 in the United States that received the grant. The Pennsylvania Library Association awarded the library with a best practices award for its baby bookworms' program. The program gives books, early literacy activities, and library information to people who give birth at AHN in Jefferson. The program was funded by a grant from the Jefferson Regional Foundation. The Jefferson Hills and Pleasant Hills libraries partnered to register every Thomas Jefferson high school student for a digital library card. The digital card gives them access to research databases, live online tutoring, eBooks and more. Nearly 800 new people signed up for the library cards this year. We have had over 2000 more people attend programs compared to 2021. Our computer and WIFI usage have doubled, and we've had over 17,000 people visit the library so far this year.

Our police department had security upgrades, surveillance cameras, and electronic access control for the restrooms installed at Andrew Riley Park, 885 Park, Beedle Park, and Gill Hall Park and the GBU. JHPD hired a total of four officers in 2022, which brought the department to its budgeted full strength of 21 active officers, which provides proper staffing, 24/7 for the Borough. JHPD developed a dedicated investigation division. One officer is assigned as a full-time detective to handle the more serious or involved cases, which allows patrol officers the ability to handle day to day calls for service. In 2023,

JHPD will add an additional detective and one dedicated traffic officer. JHPD streamlined its evidence protocols and moved from paper records to electronic records. This is best practices for the industry and assists with inventory and audit trails, which reduces potential liability to the department and the Borough. JHPD purchased cloud-based software that is accessible from the Borough and police website. This software allows residents and citizens the ability to complement officers, report misconduct, request vacation watch for their residents, and report any safety issues within the Borough. Residents also can document their pets or report them lost or stolen. Parents, guardians, caregivers can provide sensitive information regarding at risk residents who they care for, which police can access from a secure database to properly respond and handle the situation. Residents and business owners can provide emergency contact and keyholder information in the event police, fire, EMS need to contact them in an emergency. The name of this helpful program is called Frontline, and we urge our residents to please take some time and familiarize yourself with this useful tool.

For our code enforcement officers, we implemented a new, more comprehensive zoning ordinance that addresses many of the shortfalls of our previous ordinance, including things like allowances for having chickens, bees, or food trucks. We issued roughly 200 residential and commercial building permits for a wide range of projects throughout our community, started the monitoring and removal of any nonpermitted signage throughout the Borough, adopted the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code to strengthen our ability to address code enforcement matters in the community. This new code is a much more comprehensive code and is recognized as a gold standard for help with mitigating property maintenance issues. We maintain active membership in organizations such as Commonwealth Building Officials, Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference, and Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy to stay abreast with the latest code changes and updates. Projects we oversee are completed to the most current and highest standards.

For our Finance Department, we managed another budget year successfully. We will be underbudget significantly with revenues exceeding expenses by \$200,000.00 plus in the general fund, \$600,000.00 plus in the sewer fund, and also received \$582,000.00 in additional ARPA funding. We designed the Jefferson Hills first financial dashboards as well as created a pension board to better manage our police pension. We created our new recreation website for online permit and facility applications and reservations. Our residents will now be able to go online to view availability as well as submit requests for facilities and permits. Once approved by Borough staff, then they will be allowed to pay online. Once we get an upgrade or an overhaul on our website, we will also be getting an onsite pay by card machine for residents who need to pay for the items, electronically. We upgraded our bank accounts, adding additional security measures and new accounts for our investments, continued reducing costs where needed, and will earn about \$80,000.00 in interest for 2022, with the hope that this number will then also double for 2023.

The clerks and staff stepped up and prepared, trained, and continued to assist with new staff and development of better workplace practices. The required effort to get procedures and complete new processes is very time consuming. This includes constant scanning of bills, files, contracts, et cetera, and cataloging all of these documents. This will help improve organization as well as transparency for future right to know and information gathering. This year, we also backed up all of our files that we saved on our network. We frequently do manual backups to ensure if anything were to happen to our network, we will quickly be able to gain our files back and maintain continuity.

Finally, for our Borough Manager, the following items are collaboration of Council, staff, committees, and our Borough planner. The Borough Manager completed all necessary paperwork and projects with the United States Treasury Department and Federal Emergency Management Agency, otherwise known as FEMA, for COVID-19 pandemic grant dollars, and reimbursements. The total money received by the Borough was \$1,345,267.64. Included in this total are Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Securities, otherwise known as CARES money. American Rescue Plan, otherwise known as ARPA money, and FEMA reimbursements for personal protective equipment, otherwise known as PPE, communications, and other COVID-19 related costs. None of this money would have been received without the constant proactive pursuit by our management and staff. Political outreach and advocacy with members of the Pennsylvania State House and Senate was conducted to address two critical issues facing the Borough that were brought to light by our two council members. Landslide abatement and first responders being charged to access the Pennsylvania Turnpike when dispatched. Representatives Valerie Gaydos and Emily Kinkead introduced legislation to create a new insurance program for homeowners living in landslide prone areas, as well as assistance to local governments that wish to mitigate the risk of landslides within their communities. The status of the first responder access to the Turnpike is ongoing work with Senator Robinson's office. We facilitated advancement of the comprehensive plan by organizing the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, promoting the Comprehensive Plan Community Survey through social media, community events, the IN-Community magazine, and planning and hosting community engagement forums with Borough municipal planner Jenni Easton. We established terms with Hercules Incorporated to remove and reroute the Borough of Jefferson Hills sewer line that was damaged during a landslide. After multiple years of negotiations, a pump station will be constructed to keep the rerouted sewer line out of the superfund site. Hercules will contribute \$150,000.00 to the pump station project, as well as pay for grouting approximately 1950 feet of an 8-inch Borough sewer line that traverses the slope of the PICCO landfill. Cost of grouting the line is estimated to be \$42,900.00, all coming from Hercules. The Borough Manager worked with Borough Council President to establish the Public Safety Committee, whose purpose is to better prepare for Borough-wide emergencies involving multiple agencies and to address shared challenges potentially impeding emergency service delivery. Major accomplishments include establishing and equipping each of the Borough's emergency management agencies, including police, fire, EMS, and Borough public works, with a new radio repeater to provide a universal emergency management channel. Installing new radios to receive universal emergency channel coordination, and an overhaul and rewriting of the Borough's emergency management plan. Over two years ago, a committee was formed in order to shed light on our issue of overcrowding in a few of our districts during election time. Many volunteer hours were spent by the Committee making headway to resolve this. As of recently, the Committee has made strides in working with Allegheny County elections division in order for us to add an additional polling place and potentially add additional district to reduce the wait time for our residents during voting.

In a lot of these items that I went over, I think the common goal here for this past year was to certainly progress this Borough forward and come to light with a lot of more of an upgraded system here in our Borough building and make things a little bit easier for our residents to access. That seems to be the goal, the overwhelming goal that we have definitely achieved, along with many other projects that our incredible staff and our incredible Council had worked together upon. I would'd like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Budd, 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.*