

Borough of Jefferson Hills  
Regular Meeting of Council  
February 14, 2022

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

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road, I came to the last agenda meeting offering my help to work with Council in compiling a database that would give us data on the last eight years or so of response times for the Fire Department for 911 calls within the Borough. I knew it wouldn't go any further but wanted to offer my help. At that same meeting, there was a discussion about the new plan near Deer Park. During that discussion, Councilwoman Steffey made an important point. She stated anyone looking to purchase a home or property has a responsibility to do their due diligence. Research the area, look at the surrounding properties, see how they are owned etcetera. It's their responsibility before making such an important decision. Likewise. I feel it's Council's responsibility to do their due diligence before being involved in the purchase of land in order to build a new fire department. They should be doing the research to see if Gill Hall was able to provide a service to the Borough before being shut down and the response times have improved or fallen since they were shut down.

I've also asked repeatedly both here at meetings as well as through social media discussions with sitting Council members how much this new fire department is going to cost? Not one person has been able to answer that question. It most certainly won't be the \$250,000.00 we are being led to believe so I'd like to ask if it's possible for someone to write up an estimate on the complete cost of building and outfitting a new department. In case anybody wasn't aware, the President of JHFR has not only been involved in volunteer fire companies for quite some time, he's also a real estate agent, a developer and an engineer. I believe he has the skills and the resources to provide a proposal, including an estimate to Council and the residents of Jefferson Hills. Since they are asking the taxpayers of Pennsylvania to pay for this venture through state grants, I feel Council needs to do their due diligence to show the taxpayers whether Gill Hall was able to adequately service the Borough or not before continuing in this venture. If it is determined that Gill Hall was unable to perform the service and we have no choice but to build a new department, then we need to show the taxpayers the actual cost of the new department.

It's shocking to me that Council already approved to pay \$5,000.00 of our tax dollars on the down payment on a lot without any of this data. If it's determined that Gill Hall was able to adequately provide a service to the Borough prior to being shut down and the response times have suffered since then I believe they should be reopened. We can't continue with the talks and building a relationship between them and JHFR, but the residents should not be put at risk during these discussions by having Gill Hall closed. In all these years of discussions we've heard the recommendations that the Borough of our size needs 4-5 fire departments. We've heard the

recommendation of a merger. Karen and Melissa, you spoke last year of an event you attended where you spoke to, I don't know if it was our state fire chief, or it was somebody higher up in the fire services in the state who mentioned that his municipality was also going through this process of trying to merge their fire departments. In all of these reports and discussions, while we have heard of the benefits of merging, we've not once heard an expert state that they believe you should put your residence at risk by closing the fire department in order to force them into a merger.

Mrs. Steffey stated can I clarify one thing. He stated that the \$5,000.00 was a down payment on the parcel, which is not true. It's \$5,000.00 hand money which is being held into an escrow account. While in fact we do our due diligence and provide all of those reports and statistics that you are asking for and it's probably going to take a long time. So, this is not something that is going to happen overnight. But the \$5,000.00 was the first step to put down for the hand money to be held in escrow and go absolutely nowhere. It is not being taken from the residence. It is not being put down as a down payment on this property, it's being held in escrow. Once the due diligence is completed, then if the Council decides to move forward then that \$5,000.00, like any other real estate transaction does get put towards that transaction. If not and that the transaction is terminated, then the \$5,000.00 comes back to the Borough. I just wanted to clarify.

Mr. Reynolds asked can I just ask a question? Who of us up here made the decision for it to go to Bootay's firm? Because that's where the check was written out to.

Mr. Montgomery stated I think they're handling the property that's who's handling it for the family.

Mrs. Steffey stated they're the representative for the family.

Mr. Reynolds asked who chose that piece of property?

Mr. Montgomery stated I wasn't involved in that.

Mr. Reynolds stated okay I wasn't involved in it. Nicole, were you involved in it? No. Karen wasn't involved. You weren't involved melissa. Were you involved Joe you weren't involved because you weren't here, correct? Were you involved? Okay so we got everybody up here that wasn't involved. But yet we wrote a check out to accompany that nobody wants to take credit. I don't I don't understand how we could write a check of the taxpayer's money without anybody even deciding on who the check was getting written to.

Mr. Montgomery stated well that's who that's who handles the property.

Mr. Reynolds stated again, who picked that piece of property?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated we don't even know what property you're talking about. We have no idea about property.

Mr. Montgomery stated I believe it's next to the Gill Hall school.

Mr. Reynolds asked is it the one that's in Thatcher's family?

Mr. Montgomery stated no, Taucher's family.

Mr. Reynolds stated okay, who chose that piece of property?

Mr. Montgomery stated I don't know.

Mr. Reynolds stated do we not see what we're chasing our tail here? Nobody chose the piece of the property but yet a check was written out to somebody for that piece of property.

Mr. Montgomery stated it was probably JHFR that selected that property.

Mr. Reynolds stated so we're going to let JHFR select where they want a fire hall built and the piece of property? Wow!

Mrs. Ruscitto asked how much does something have to cost before we put it up to bid?

Solicitor Gabriel stated this particular matter there's not a signed contract, there's to my knowledge it's not progressed to that point. So, it would have to come to council before we signed a contract.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated we sent \$5,000.00 check out to a company.

Solicitor Gabriel stated I'm not aware if we sent it.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated it's on the bill list.

Mrs. Bucy asked Mr. Drager, did you want to address this?

Mr. Drager stated the procurement policy it would be \$5,000.00 on but it was voted in December by Council, item number 20.

Mr. Reynolds asked, John can I ask who came into the office and said write a check to that particular business?

Mr. Drager stated I just remember working with Mrs. Lewis and we cut the check for the for that particular agenda item.

Mr. Reynolds asked so, did Mrs. Lewis come in and ask the write the check to be written to Bootay's firm?

Mr. Drager stated she asked me about what account it should hit for that in early January is when we cut the check.

Mr. Reynolds stated so, you don't remember who actually requested the check being written to Bootay's firm?

Mr. Drager stated I remember Mrs. Lewis coming in but I don't remember what brought it up exactly, but someone requested the check to be picked up.

Mr. Doel stated so, Councilwoman Steffey, I appreciate that you guys are going to be doing the research and doing this study and all that. I guess my concern is that I've been coming here for close to two years asking for those studies to be done and asking for that information and this is the first time anybody said we are going to do that. So, we've been without fire protection for three years, and now you just said it's going to take a long time.

Mrs. Steffey stated let me clarify that the studies are going to be done on the new facility. Does not have anything to do with what you just said about doing studies on Gill Hall. That is not what I said.

Mr. Doel stated it's not just Gill Hall, it studies to see if the fire departments were able to adequately protect the Borough, and if those times have changed since they've been shut down it all ties together. I'm not I'm not looking to argue with you.

Mr. Reynolds asked do we have any updates for Mr. Doel? What government organizations did we submit for grants too? Anything that we can update him, or have we have we submitted for grants yet?

Mrs. Steffey stated I know I do know that both Floreffé and JHFR were both awarded grant money.

Mr. Reynolds stated that \$15,000 was not for this, even that it's going to cost more than \$30,000 to build a fire hall.

Mrs. Steffey asked you mean some bidding for this for the substation?

Mr. Reynolds stated I have follow-up questions; I was hoping somebody from the fire department was here tonight about those two grants that they received. But with that being said just to stay on topic here for Mr. Doel, have we even applied for any grant money? I mean because I think what Mr. Doel is also looking for, you know if we're putting hand money down on something and we keep saying there's a potential to have a fire hall there, I think what Mr. Doel wants to know is there a potential to have a fire hall there in six months, a year, two years, three years, five years. What's the plan?

Mr. Doel stated it's been three years since Gill Hall was shut down and I know you guys talked for a while about this abandoned bus garage, but it took so long to move on that that was torn down, and we lost that opportunity. So, I'm just curious if we're going to, like you said, this was the study is going to take a long time so that's going to be is that a year before we could even start to build? I know you were talking about this lot, and you think of as JHFR who secured this lot so if that's the case and this is going to be something that JHFR owns. I guess my question is why our taxpayer dollars paying for the hand money on the lot. I mean it's a little confusing because on one hand it sounds like the Borough is taking over, on the other hand, it sounds like JHFR. So, I'm just curious.

Mrs. Steffey stated that was an agenda item that we all voted on.

Mr. Doel stated I understand that it's confusing, who's going to own that substation? Is the Borough going to own it or is JHFR? And if it's JHFR, why our tax dollars going towards down payments on lots.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I believe we voted to explore options of substations. I don't necessarily think that we voted to put that money straight towards something or someone.

Mrs. Steffey stated it was both, it was exploring options and then there was the agenda item of the \$5,000.00.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I don't recall the second part.

Mr. Reynolds stated I don't think in no time was it ever, to Bootay's firm or for this piece of property. It was just, you know, there's \$5,000.00 bucks out there that we can allocate towards this, but not for this firm or this piece of property.

Mr. Montgomery stated that might that firm represents that property.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated my question essentially is and this has nothing to do with the Fire department, we agreed as a Council years ago that anything that was over \$1,000.00, we would discuss. This wasn't discussed with us and that's my issue about following protocol.

Mr. Reynolds stated I mean Pete this is just nothing more than my opinion. In terms of, , not only am I a resident of Jefferson Hills, but I'm also a resident of the state of Pennsylvania. If you look at our community, we do in fact have four fire departments here currently. The fact that they're going to give us money to build a 5th fire department when all the surrounding communities have one and on a shoestring budget, I'm a little skeptical too. I hope for the resident's safety over there that the money does come this way, but just because we have shown, a failure to manage our resources correctly, I'm a little skeptical of the grant money actually coming when we actually have four fire halls in existence in our community right now, when others only have one. So, I think at that point somebody should be question.

Mr. Montgomery stated we only have three at the most.

Mr. Reynolds stated is Large not a fire hall?

Mr. Montgomery stated it's not functioning, it's an empty building.

Mr. Reynolds stated are they still listed as a fire hall or are they paying taxes on it because they rented out to a for profit company? They're still getting the advantages of being, just the fact that they've mothballed, it doesn't mean that we don't have a fire hall. They choose not to use that. We choose not to have Gill Hall active. There are in fact still four Fire Hall structures here that we have access to. The fact that we choose not to use them is on us.

Mr. Doel stated the one thing that I'm concerned with it, it's been three years that we've been waiting for a fire department, and it took three years for me to hear from somebody up there to say we are going to do our due diligence to study and see what we need to do. So how much longer is it going to take until we have an actual working solution?

Mrs. Steffey stated in the agenda meeting for December item number 29, discussion to approve resolution number 41-2021 authorizing Borough staff to investigate application for financial assistance in the design acquisition and construction of a fire and emergency services facility in the Borough of Jefferson Hills and authorized payment up to \$5,000.00 to secure an option on potential sites for said facility. That was a discussion meeting so I would have to go back to the live and see who if did anyone discuss. That was our opportunity to discuss in the agenda item, correct?

Mr. Reynolds stated I understand that I'm not disagreeing with you that it wasn't on there, I know that it was on there. But I'm just questioning that at no point was this particular piece of property brought up at, no point was this firm brought up. The fact that we that more or less just says, hey, you know, we can use up to \$5,000.00 for this, but nothing was.

Mrs. Steffey stated but it does say secure an option on potential sites.

Mr. Reynolds stated I would think that, as elected officials, I would think that something would be run past Council to say, do you believe this is a viable option for our residents, our taxpayers and that was not done.

Mayor McCaffrey asked is this hand money something that comes back if we don't use it? So, it's not that we don't necessarily know, it hasn't been brought to our attention yet. The check has been paid. Whoever worked with it in the staff has just not brought it here. But nothing is being done with that money. And if we choose to not use it, that check will come back, correct?

Mr. Montgomery stated correct.

Mr. Doel stated but if you do choose to use it, then it does not come back so that is taxpayer money.

Mrs. Steffey stated correct, but that choice won't be made until everything is out in the open and the studies are completed. The studies on the facility, let me be clear.

Mayor McCaffrey stated so that's something that will have to be voted on.

Mr. Doel stated but so the studies you're talking about on the facility, you're still not willing to do a study to see if Gill Hall has the potential to be our fire department and if they were adequately servicing the Borough. So, you're so we're going to ask the taxpayers of Pennsylvania to probably spend millions of dollars to buy us a fire department without doing the work to tell them that we had to do this because we had no other choice. We have another choice but we're ignoring it.

Mr. Reynolds stated my concern would also be listening to that motion there, it said Borough staff, correct? What staff have we assigned that task to and is there a list of other properties that were considered? I'm sure I'm sure the residents would not be comfortable with us only looking and choosing one piece of property without looking at any other options. I mean who's in charge of it for us?

Mayor McCaffrey stated I would imagine that Mr. Stinner would know all of this information. So once he is back on the job, I think we would be able to get the rest of that information.

Mr. Reynolds stated he's still technically on the job.

Mayor McCaffrey stated he's back in on the 19th.

Mr. Reynolds stated he's working from home.

Mr. Montgomery stated not until the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Doel stated so, let to clarify we'll be able to get the information on who authorized where the check was going to go and all that, but we still don't have any information of whether Gill Hall was able to, whether they could still be able to, how much it's going to cost to build this new department and how long it's going to take. So those are all answers that's Stinner is not going to be able to answer. These are all questions we've been asking for three years and still don't have answers to.

Mr. Reynolds stated, Pete, just a recommendation for you, if I were you, I'd probably get ahead of the game and fill out a Right-To-Know, so that there's a record of your requests coming in for it.

Mrs. Steffey stated I would also think that since we've reorganized, and everything started over we have new people on the new committees that that's something the fire liaisons would assist with I would say as well.

Mrs. Bucy stated I would also I think you brought up a lot of valid points there, Mr. Doel. I'd also like to have an assessment on Gill Hall and see if they need to have any kind of updates, they need to have any kind of remodeling, I'd like to have something about that too so that we know how much everything is going to cost.

Mrs. Steffey stated are you saying have that from Gill Hall or is that something that we should do?

Mrs. Bucy stated if that's a viable fire hall, I'd like to know. It's been quite some time, do they need anything that's structurally needs to be taken care of over there.

Mr. Doel stated I can't speak for them completely, but I will say that we just recently had a birthday party there for our foster child two Saturdays ago and so I know that they have a church who works out of there who rents out their fire department. So, it's not like it's an abandoned

building. This is a building that is being used by the community. They have community events there, they have fundraisers for the community. I know they had a blood drive at one time. It is functional and is open. It's a great venue. It's in, from what I've seen of it, it's in great condition. I understand what you're saying, and I'd probably be more concerned with the trucks and making sure the trucks are ready and all of that. But again, we've been asking this for years for Council to give them a chance or to do a study to see. I know a lot of people have come here and complain and say, well there was a fire here and it took this long, but nobody has taken the time to go through all of the fire calls and see what the actual response times were, what the averages were, where there might be shortcomings and what we could do to help correct that and give anybody the support they need to make things better.

Mr. Reynolds stated another thing I would say Pete, is what Karen was asking to say, how much money would it take to get Gill Hall operational. Getting that information from them so that there is a comparison to say, zero to building a new place. You might want to for the sake of your arguments as you come up here, you might want to get that from Gill Hall to show how little we would actually have to reinvest in them to get them operational. Because let's face it, an expense, we're not even sitting here talking about right now is if we build something over there, they're not magically going to have firefighters to staff that. Its logic would say if there's two shift crew for close to a quarter of a million dollars over at 885, two shift crew close to a quarter of a million dollars at Floreffe, there's going to be two shift crew at this new facility at that point because they won't have volunteers. That's going to be another, \$2.5 million then my concern would be even larger than that. The expense would be that we become 100% reliant on the shift crew. We would be subject to at that point in time them unionizing. Maybe lead it as an unofficial task force of seeing what it would take.

Mr. Montgomery stated we will have a fire liaison look into this and give him the answers that you need.

Dave McGuirk, 115 Providence Drive, I'd like to say this tonight and normally in a situation like this, it's a tradition to honor people during a burial event or a retirement event. But I'd like to change that tonight and I'd like to honor Dave Montgomery. Keith Reynolds and I played baseball together, we coached together. I think Keith will agree that the one key thing needed for success in baseball is good pitching. When you have good pitching, you have success. David's been with the Borough 40 years, and he's been their pitcher and it's brought success. Think about those 40 years. He's got more combined service four times over than everybody else sitting up here. It's just tremendous. In last year Dave's become the GM of the Jefferson Borough. I mean, this guy takes phone calls, takes meetings with staff and personnel at the Borough, meets with other outside Borough people, takes phone calls close to 30 hours a week. It's just unheard of for someone like this to do this 30 hours a week. Dave chairs the Planning Commission. He's a member of the Financial Committee. He's a representative of SHACOG, the South Hills Area Council of Governments. There may be other committees, I'm not sure. David bleeds Jefferson Hills. He doesn't bleed blue as a democrat, he doesn't bleed red as a republican. If he's needed, he's there. Whether it's a phone call at midnight or meeting all of a sudden with the Police Department, Chief, you know that. With the public safety people, it's so impressive. When Councilwoman Bucy was elected President and she reached out to David for his experience and partnership, he didn't refuse or say, well, you're a democrat you're on your own. He was right there with her every step of the way he and her work together. Councilman, you're a blessing to the Borough, thank you.

To give you an example of how David bleeds Jefferson Borough. He retired from Enter Fab. You got a nice pension. You get Social Security; you don't need the money. But he took a crossing guard position. Now, why do you take the crossing guard position? You've got to get up early. You got to be there in the afternoon, and in inclement weather. He did it as the Chief knows because he wanted not to waste the policemen at that cross-guard position. He wanted the police to work the street. So, for whatever the salary is, instead of putting a policeman here, which was there, he did it on his own and took that job bleeding Jefferson Borough. Virtues for David, I've known David for 40 years since the nineties. I've never seen an individual like this in my life except for my father. But you talk about honesty, integrity, friendship, a heart of gold, dedication to being the best hardworking, so many you could wrap them all up. And the final one is his Trust in God. His foundation in the Lord that you treat people as you want to be treated, that you love your neighbor as you love the Lord. In closing David, I thank you for your service to the Borough, for our friendship and hopefully it continues forever.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve the monthly bills, 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:

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

Mrs. Steffey moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve minutes of reorganization meeting January 2, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting January 5, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to minutes of regular meeting January 10, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise position of the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission to complete the term for Keith Polick – Term Ending 12/31/2022, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved adopt Resolution No. 05-2022 amending the salaries, compensation and wages for Borough employees for the year 2022 fixing the salary for the tax collector as voted upon at the December 14, 2020, Council meeting, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to promote Ernie Stevens from Laborer to Equipment Operator as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborer's Local Union No. 1058, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to promote Cody Estok from Laborer to Equipment Operator as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborer's Local Union No. 1058, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to promote Matt Cidboy from Laborer to Special Laborer as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborer's Local Union No. 1058, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to promote Les Nolder from Parks Laborer to Laborer as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborer's Local Union No. 1058, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated I just wanted the residents to know that for items 12, 13, 14, and 15, we have conferred with our Public Works Director, and many of these individuals have already been moved up on these pay scales. Due to the fact that previous specialized jobs needed to be done. We are basically memorializing this, correct Mr. Volpe?

Mr. Volpe replied correct. They've been paid to rate according to the contract for the last two years.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to open and advertise the position of mechanic in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to open and advertise the position of park laborer in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to open and advertise the position of laborer in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey moved to advertise position of the Borough of Jefferson Hills vacancy board term ending 12/31/24, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to Accept the Voluntary Resignation of probationary Police Officer 2441, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to extend a conditional offer of employment to Jacob B. Moldovan as a probationary police officer following successful completion of all Civil Service regulations. Official appointment is contingent upon the successful completion of physical and psychological evaluations, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to authorize the advertising and amendment of Ordinance §5-514.4 - Noxious Weeds, to include the following language "Shrubs should be maintained and pruned to a

reasonable height and not be allowed to restrict access to a structure” and “Trees, shrubs, or other vegetation whose limbs or parts thereof project into a public right-of-way, thereby interfering with the normal use of said right-of-way”, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 06-2022 for final approval for a subdivision known as S-1-2022, Pleasant Grove Plan of Lots, conditional to update on the status of the sewage planning module; disclosure statement regarding the findings of a geotechnical or soils report; evidence of application to Allegheny County conservation District for an erosion and sedimentation control plan and a NPDES permit, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 07-2022 for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the subdivision plan known as S-1-2022, Pleasant Grove Plan of Lots, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously

Mr. Lynch moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-2022 for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the subdivision plan known as S-1-2021, Deer Hollow Plan of Lots, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 and Final from Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$25,261.33 for work completed on the 2021 Road Program subject to the receipt of the maintenance bond for 50% of the final contract amount for a duration of two-years and approval of the maintenance bond by the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve the Work Authorization dated February 2, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with preparation of the specifications and bid package for the 2022 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the Work Authorization dated February 2, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to provide the Borough with general Operations and Maintenance support for all 2022 Operation and Maintenance Projects in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously

Mrs. Steffey moved to approve SHACOG to award the bid of the CD 47 7.5 Andrew Reilly Park ADA Upgrades Phase 3 project to Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$28,350.00, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously

Mrs. Steffey moved to approve SHACOG to award the bid of the CD 47 7.5 Tepe Park ADA Upgrades Phase 1 project to Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$33,600.00, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously

Mrs. Bucy moved to reorganize Council, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Solicitor Gabriel stated the Borough Code indicates that the officers of the Borough may be appointed as deemed necessary. We have the President of Council, Vice President of Council

and President Pro Tempore that's currently in effect, I would suggest doing separate motions for all three.

Mrs. Bucy stated it is with great regret and sorrow that we have to refill these positions. Unfortunately, we had a very tragic accident that took the life of our President Keith Polick. As a result of that, we are now in a position where we will now be reorganizing again. Anybody that steps forth and wants to do one of these positions, we recognize the importance of having an election and proceeding in that manner. So, on that note, I have been approached by Councilwoman Ruscitto, and she asked me to nominate her for the President of Council. I am now putting that motion on the floor.

Mrs. Bucy made motion to nominate Mrs. Ruscitto as President of Council, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. 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:

Mr. Montgomery	ABSTAINED
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	NO
Mr. Lynch	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	NO
Mayor McCaffrey	NO to break the tie

Mr. Reynolds nominated Mrs. Steffey as President of Council, seconded by Mrs. Budd, third by Mrs. Ruscitto. The vote was unanimous but 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:

Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	ABSTAINED

Mrs. Steffey stated I believe I have to abstain because the President's position is a higher pay scale and if I were to accept it that would be a financial conflict of interest for voting for myself.

Mr. Reynolds nominated Mrs. Ruscitto as Vice-President of Council, 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:

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

Mr. Lynch nominated Mrs. Budd as Vice-President of Council, seconded by Mrs. Steffey. 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:

Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds nominated Mrs. Ruscitto as President Pro Tempore of Council, seconded by Mrs. Steffey. The vote was 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:

Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

REPORTS:

Fire Chief

Nothing further

EMS

Not present

Engineer

Nothing further

Consulting Engineer

Not present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing further

Public Works Director

Nothing further

Chief Dziezgowski

Nothing further

Mayor McCaffrey

I would just like to thank Mr. Volpe and Public Works for all their hard work during our last snowstorm. Also, thank you to all who took part in putting a plan of action in place in the event the snowstorm caused power outages.

March 21, 2022, begins the Great American Cleanup and that continues through June 22, 2022. Information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks on the Borough website and Facebook page as to the events we will be planning, which will include the dedication of the portion of Peters Creek Road to Boy Scout Troop # 210.

Manager

Not present

Solicitor

Council did meet in executive session prior to voting meeting to discuss a personnel matter and also legal matter surrounding the emergency services issue on Walton Road.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery:

Nothing further

Mrs. Bucy:

I would just like to mention that there was a blood drive across from the library today from 12:30 to 6:30. There was supposed to be an estimated 21 blood donations, but actually they went above that and got 33 pints of blood. I did participate in that and that's how I know those numbers.

I would like to thank all the people of Jefferson Hills. I met numerous people in the waiting room area that came up and donated their blood because it's in dire need at this time in the city of Pittsburgh.

I also would like to make note the fact that I know this shift crew is a cost expenditure for the Borough. However, our Borough has four Fire Fighters 1's on staff, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Firefighter 1 firemen that are stationed and ready to be deployed in a moment's notice at both station 885 and Florefffe. Recently this past week, I did see on the news that South Strabane had an issue with not having paid fire department personnel on one shift. They're actually going to try to work that into their budget also. I also have had many people in Jefferson Hills tell me that they like the fact that they have shift crews available and ready to be dispersed. I think the times that they are leaving those fire departments is within one minute. I just want the residents of Jefferson Hills to know that we do have those two Fire Fighter 1 shift crews on duty for their protection 24/7.

Mrs. Ruscitto:

I'd just like to congratulate Officer Moldovan and I wish him well. I hope his probationary period goes by with ease.

Thank you both for stepping up and accepting to do this this job.

Mrs. Budd:

I want to thank Councilman Montgomery and Councilwoman Bucy for their efforts over the past month. The Borough as handed a sudden and tragic circumstance. This was handled with aplomb by them and various members of Borough staff and volunteers. The Borough has had its fair share of grief over the past year and I'm hopeful for healing as we move forward.

I also want to echo what Councilwoman Ruscitto said for Officer Moldovan and that he has a successful and safe probationary period and hopefully the same for his career. Thank you.

Mr. Lynch:

I would like to piggyback everybody else for Office holders, I really wish you all the best as we begin this new journey and hopefully, we'll have some smooth waters ahead. I can't wait to hear new ideas and I know I'm looking forward to working with you all.

In addition, I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Montgomery and Mrs. Bucy for everything you both brought while serving as our interim, especially during a very tragic and unforeseen time in our community. A lot of people don't realize what goes on behind the scenes when we're away from the Council chambers. With the services of Keith Polick, which was a great service by the way, Mr. Montgomery, you did an excellent job planning that out. In addition, with the rough weather we had and everyday demands that it takes to keep this government functioning. It really takes a lot of perseverance and knowledge, and I don't believe we would have not been able to get through this without Dave and Karen. I continue to look forward to working and learning from both of you. This community is very fortunate to have you both on this Council.

Mr. Reynolds:

Chief Chalfant can we talk about grants you just got. Could you maybe elaborate on them a little bit to Council?

Chief Chalfant asked what grants would you be talking about?

Mr. Reynolds stated the one that was for \$15,000.00 each from, I believe the Republican Committee had him posted as thanking Representative Puskaric for getting you guys the \$15,000.00.

Chief Chalfant stated those are grants that every fire department in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can apply for. We applied for him like everybody else does and were awarded the maximum amount because of the trained people that we have on staff and as volunteers.

Mr. Reynolds stated my biggest concern though is I seen that 885 got one and Floreffe got one, correct? Okay. we've been talking here for well over a year that there is no longer a Floreffe and there is no longer an 885. It's a merged fire hall, JHFR station one and station two, correct?

Chief Chalfant stated we're functioning as an operational merger right now.

Mr. Reynolds stated so there's no actual merger?

Chief Chalfant stated there's no actual merger as of right now. It's been the same thing for the last 2.5 years, and you've been sitting up there as Council so you should know that. You continuously question so no; we have not completely merged yet. We are waiting to this whole Gill Hall mess is done and whatever the decision is made. Then we'll go ahead and merge or not merge. It's the same statement I've been saying for the last two years.

Mr. Reynolds stated okay, so, the statement is that if Gill Hall comes back in and merges, you'll merge. If Gill Hall doesn't come back in and merge, you two are going to stay separate as two separate entities. Is that what you're saying?

Chief Chalfant stated no, actually, Gill Hall is welcome to merge with us anytime they want. But the problem here is Mr. Reynolds, and I'll state your words that if Floreffe and 885 merge and Gill Hall is opened back up by Council, it now becomes two fire departments that will split the funds 50/50 when we're covering 71% of the Borough.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm only one voice in that. I can sit here and say, you know,

Chief Chalfant stated I'm using your words.

Mr. Reynolds stated my words are only one of seven. So, I wouldn't base a whole merger just off of my word.

Chief Chalfant stated we're waiting, we're waiting.

Mr. Reynolds stated so, even though JHFR has said that it is beneficial for our community to merge into one company, correct?

Chief Chalfant stated yes, sir, we're functioning as one right now.

Mr. Reynolds stated but you guys will not do that.

Chief Chalfant stated we're functioning as one right now. We already merged the Relief Associations.

Mr. Reynolds stated but you're not merged.

Chief Chalfant stated yeah, we haven't finished the paperwork yet.

Mrs. Steffey stated it's an operational merger.

Chief Chalfant stated we're holding off on the paperwork. What's wrong with that? And by the way, even if we did merge for the next 10 years, we're still eligible for \$30,000 for the combination of both departments. So, we'll just clarify that now too

Mr. Reynolds stated Brian, all I'm worried about is, the reason why I wanted to ask questions is because the way I'm looking at it is if there is no longer a Floreffe and if there is no longer an 885 if you accepted public funds for it and cash a check for it and those organizations no longer exist, I was going to ask for the solicitor to check the legality of it.

Chief Chalfant stated go ahead, it's on the up and up. We have attorneys that follow everything that we do.

Mr. Reynolds stated that's all I was asking. I just wanted to make sure that if you accepted that money it wasn't for a fire department that was closed.

Mrs. Steffey stated ok, we have established that, anything else Mr. Reynolds? No

Mrs. Steffey:

I just want to certainly express my gratitude to the Presidents and Vice Presidents before this reorganization meeting this evening. President Keith Polick, President Montgomery, Vice President and President Bucy have been an integral part of this community over the past two plus years that I've been sitting up here. Not necessarily saying that this is a fresh start, but you know it's definitely something that we're going to have a new outlook on things and we're going to certainly work together unified in order to move forward progressively with Jefferson Hills and get some things done for this Borough and this community. I have pretty much an open door policy. My cellphone is plastered on billboards and on websites as it needs to be for work. I'm available at any time as most of my colleagues up here have stated before that they're available via email as well. I look forward to making a lot of things happen in Jefferson Hills with my friends up here as well in the next a couple of months.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager